

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 23, 2013
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Francis Cavaco, Gary Sagar, David Parker, Nelson Almeida

Absent: Robert McLintock

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Cavaco opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, he announced that anybody taping must notify the Chair. Board of Selectmen meetings are recorded via audio and video and broadcast on Seekonk Channel 15.

Jonathan Friedman of The Patch was taping audio.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider and Vote for New Police Chief

Mrs. Nolan recommended that the Board appoint Capt. Craig Mace as Chief of Police. She has worked with him for the 1 ½ years she has been in Seekonk. He has been a captain for 7 years, a lieutenant for 4 years and a sergeant for 7 years. He has a total of 27 years on the police force. She interviewed Capt. Mace and she reviewed his personnel file. She is putting all her faith in him. She felt he would do this Town proud.

She said that rarely has she been with a town that has not had problems in the Police Department. This is a good department with good people. She thanked Chief Charron for that. She has confidence that Capt. Mace will continue in the same way. This is a seamless transition.

According to Charter, Mr. Sagar said the Board's action is not necessary unless they reject it. In 15 days it becomes automatic. It would be a disservice to the whole process.

Mr. Sagar enthusiastically motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To affirm the appointment of Craig Mace as Chief of Police,
effective March 16, 2013.

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In discussion prior to the vote, Chief Charron deferred to Lt. Frank John and FOP President Andrew Amaral.

Lt. John confirmed what Mrs. Nolan said. She summed up what he was going to say. The Police Department totally supports and congratulates Capt. Mace. He thanked the Board, Mrs. Nolan and Chief Charron for a smooth transition. He has worked with Capt. Mace for 25 years. Everybody likes him and supports him.

Chief Charron noted that officers are in attendance to support Capt. Mace.

Mr. Parker said that Capt. Mace is a good person and a good citizen and he would be a good chief. He started the Honor Guard. He is a concerned citizen. It was his pleasure to second the motion and he wholeheartedly endorsed it.

Chairman Cavaco said that the words from Mrs. Nolan and Chief Charron are priceless. The Town could not get a better man than Capt. Mace as chief.

Capt. Mace expressed his appreciation for the opportunity and overall support of the Police Department. He said a great bunch of people work next door. Others will benefit by his advancement. It gives the younger people something to look forward to.

He thanked Mrs. Nolan for her recommendation. He is looking forward to working with her.

Capt. Mace recognized Chief Charron for 34+ years; 7 years as the leader of the Seekonk Police Department. He has been a great administrator. He has been caring. As a department, they are sorry to see him leave but happy for him. He has earned his retirement. He told Chief Charron that it was his pleasure and honor to work with him over the years.

He thanked the Board and said he is looking forward to working with Board members and other departments.

Chairman Cavaco thanked all the officers for coming in on behalf of Capt. Mace and for their dedication to the Seekonk Police Department.

Consider and Approve Installation Ceremony for Chief of Police

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To instruct the Town Administrator to begin to plan for the installation ceremony for Chief of Police on Sunday, March 17, 2013.

It will be paid for by the Town and open to the public.

Save-A-Pet Yearly Acceptance of Donations

Mrs. Patricia Cloutier, President of Save-A-Pet, requested authorization to accept monetary and tangible gift donations on behalf of the animal shelter.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Save-A-Pet to accept donations on behalf of the animal shelter; to expire on June 30, 2014.

Chairman Cavaco noted that all organizations would be done at that time (Save-A-Pet, Human Services, Veterans, and Tax Work Off).

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To update the letter of support for Save-A-Pet.

Mrs. Cloutier advised that plans for the building are coming along. It is within budget. The next step will be a RFP for construction. She noted that Save-A-Pet had donated an additional \$25,000.

The Save-A-Pet Auction is scheduled for March 12, 13, and 14 at Johnson & Wales from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. and televised on TV 9. Volunteers are needed.

Consider and Approve Draft Warrant for the Special Town Meeting – February 25, 2013

A revised draft warrant was distributed.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 1 Memorial Day Parade.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 2 Move the Senior Citizens Center to temporary location.

Mr. Sagar advised that the ZBA approved the move at its meeting the previous night.

The amount on Article 3 was changed to \$680,555.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 3 Banna Fire Station, as amended.

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A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 4 Security Upgrades for Seekonk Schools.

Health Agent Beth Hallal explained that Article 5 has to do with the purchase of containers for proper disposal of sharp items. It will satisfy the law.

Mr. Sagar asked to see the law.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 5 Board of Health Revolving Fund, not to exceed \$5,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 6 Fees for Weights and Measures.

Building Commissioner Mary McNeil explained that Article 7 is for enforcement of Article 6 (fee schedules).

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Article 7 Enforcement for Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Mr. Sagar noted that the Board had voted on December 19, 2012 to include an article on the warrant to change the posting time from 21 to 14 days. Category 1 in the Bylaws conflicts with the Charter. He recommended that they reopen the warrant to include the article.

Mr. Parker felt that were complaints that two weeks wasn't enough time for review.

Chairman Cavaco noted that it was not an agenda item, but could be taken under the 48 hour rule.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To amend the Bylaw to read 14 days to match the Charter and insert the words "and posted on the Town's website."

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reopen the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to include the above amendment.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

Consider First Draft of Revenue Projections for FY 2014 Budget

Finance Director Bruce Alexander explained that the numbers are extremely preliminary. The debt exclusion number has changed. The total amount is \$33,308,343. As for expenses, he is carrying abatements and exemptions and county charges. He cannot change any numbers right now. Fixed costs include insurance, unemployment, workers compensation insurance, etc.

He noted that numbers are soft because state aid could change.

Consider Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc. Request for Re-Test – Lake Street

Ms. Marylou Armstrong, LSP, Principal for Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc., stated that one of the wells had gasoline-based contaminants in the ground water. Although below DEP standards, they were higher than the last time tested. The previous environmental consultant was contacted, but did not respond. She is ready to issue findings of the audit. She was leaning toward issuing a notice of non-compliance. The wells would have to be retested. If lower, they would be able to get regulatory closure and it would close the audit process.

Mr. Sagar noted this has been going on for 20 years.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc. to conduct the retest of the existing well set of MW-8S and MW-8D (Lake Street) at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.

Mrs. Nolan advised the money would come from the engineering part of the budget.

Mr. Sagar noted that Weston & Sampson submitted additional invoices after it was terminated. He wanted to make sure Weston & Sampson could not come back to the Town for payment.

Board of Selectmen Goals and Objectives

Board members outlined their individual goals.

Chairman Cavaco – regionalization and repairs of fire, police, and DPW vehicles; intensify economic development in Seekonk and pursue a committee and part time position; promotion of Seekonk to attract hotel/convention center. He noted that the Town now has 12 additional liquor licenses.

Chairman Cavaco continued with review and redevelopment of the industrial park; \$150,000 per year to stabilization fund; continue to lobby for more Chapter 90 money; and work together to lobby and change distribution of lottery money to cities and towns.

Mr. Almeida – completion of the senior center; location for south end fire station; work with business owners to fill vacant buildings; completion of the animal shelter; more business friendly sign by-law; multicultural festival to give back to the community; completion of the Veterans Memorial Garden; review budgets and contracts and award contracts to local businesses, if possible; good relationship between Board members and with the Town Administrator; meetings with residents; and completion of the Banna Fire Station.

Mr. Parker – Banna Fire Station; relocation of senior center; reallocate the space at town hall for better services, animal shelter, yearly capital expense funding; disposal of vacant town buildings; and south end fire station.

Mr. Sagar – appropriate assistance on all capital projects for completion; location for south end fire station; consolidate regionalization of services; review equipment at DPW; fire, police, and town hall; listing of all vehicles registered and insured; establish a standard policy for allocation of meals tax and other revenue; create a municipal building committee and promote and establish a Charter review.

Chairman Cavaco thanked his colleagues for their goals. Mr. McLintock should present his goals when he returns.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of December 19, 2012

Mr. Sagar had a correction, as follows – at the bottom of page 7, change the word “stability” to “civility”.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of December 19, 2012, as amended.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan advised that anyone interested in filling a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission should complete a talent bank form.

The Attorney General’s office has approved the Zoning and Bylaw changes made at the November 13, 2012 Annual Town Meeting (Articles 20, 24 and 29 Zoning and 25 and 27 General).

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Mrs. Nolan announced the rabies clinic scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the DPW building.

The Annual Taste of the Town is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2013, at Johnson & Wales (snow date February 6). Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased from Jan Parker or Beverly Hart.

Mrs. Nolan distributed copies of the Town's Equal Employment Opportunity and Harassment Policy for Board members to sign and return to her.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Chairman Cavaco noted the warrants are in order. He will not sign the pay order because he is getting a reimbursement.

Mr. Almeida advised that Parks & Recreation will sponsor an activity for children on Saturday, January 26, and Saturday, February 9, at the Hurley School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

They will also offer a babysitting course during the school vacation. Deadline for registration is January 25.

Mr. Sagar expressed his disappointment in comments made in the press by the Chairman of the Finance Committee that the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen had mishandled the senior center move. He noted that the Town Administrator had worked very hard on that project. He suggested the Finance Committee Chair share any information he might have with the Board.

Mr. Sagar said that he met with Chief Jack, Sen. Timilty and the Lt. Governor re: the salt shed location for the south end fire station. He would like to talk about that in executive session on February 20, 2013.

He inquired about the status of the old town hall.

Mrs. Nolan said that the lease is written. An RFP is out to remove the hazardous materials. Proposals are due on February 28.

Mr. Sagar advised that the ZBA approved the Knights of Columbus as a temporary location for the senior center.

He suggested June 10, 2013 as the date for the Spring Town Meeting.

With regard to comments from the Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. Parker noted that the Finance Committee felt the Board of Selectmen did not follow the normal procedure to go before them. They had no financial advisory sent to them prior to that night. They did not turn down the center. It is still under consideration.

Mrs. Nolan said it was executive session material.

Chairman Cavaco advised that Mrs. Nolan and he would attend the MMA Convention on Friday. Legislators will be in attendance; and, hopefully, they could make some connections.

He noted that small business owners have asked to come before the Board to discuss the tax rate.

Mr. Parker said the tax rate is set in November, but the Board could hear what they have to say.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Donald Kinniburgh referred to retired debt. He felt there should be a reduction in taxes.

Mrs. Nolan said there is nothing to turn back.

Mr. Kinniburgh wanted to hear from the Finance Director.

He announced there would be a spaghetti supper fundraiser in March to benefit the Veterans Memorial Garden.

Mr. Robert Blanchard asked how the lottery money is allocated.

Chairman Cavaco said he is waiting for documents from Sen. Timilty.

Mr. Parker felt it is based on median income, property value, etc. None of the items has to do with contributions.

Mr. Blanchard asked if the Town's liability insurance would cover any law suit re: the wells on Lake Street.

Mrs. Nolan said the Town has insurance.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Rental Property, Wills vs. Town of Seekonk, and Consider Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of December 19, 2012; not to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Chairman Cavaco - Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary S. Sagar, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary