

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 20, 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 moment of silence.

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

TOWN CLERK TO PULL BALLOT POSITIONS FOR APRIL ELECTION

Town Clerk Janet Parker stated that nobody took out papers for two vacant positions on the Housing Authority. There can be write ins on election day. There is a five-year seat and a two-year seat.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (1 position)

Francis Cavaco
Michael Brady
Paul Buckley

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3 positions)

Richard Perry
Michael Durkay
Ann Caldwell

School Committee (2 positions)

Kyle Rose
Robert Richardson
Shane Halajko
William Woods
Evan Berwick
Donald Kinniburgh
Jeffrey Starr Maarian

Water Commissioners (1 position)

Lawrence Havrylik
Christine Allen

Absentee ballots should be available by the first week in March.

Update on Guinness Book of World's Record Challenge from Bridget Garrity

Recreation Director Bridget Garrity presented a certificate to Mrs. Nolan. In October 2012, participants broke the world record of the most people running 100 meters in 24 hours in the Run for the Planet sponsored by National Geographic Kids. There were 305 participants.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion with School Committee, Board of Health, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Team on the Provisions for the Emergency Shelter at Hurley Middle School

In attendance: Chief Ronald Charron, Chief Alan Jack, Capt. Craig Mace, Capt. Michael Healy, School Committee Chairman Mitch Vieira, John Robidoux, Interim Supt. Arlene Bosco, Barbara Hamel, James Roy, Health Agent Beth Hallal, Board of Health Chairman Ray Grant, Bernadette Huck and Adriana DosSantos.

Mrs. Nolan asked for comments on the warming shelter and what can be done the next time.

Capt. Healy explained that calls started coming in at 10 a.m. on Saturday from people seeking shelter. One of the officers reached out to the Health Agent. She made it very clear that it was a warming shelter – no food or bedding. People were advised to bring their own blankets, food, etc. He reached out to DPW to remove the snow from the school. People started arriving around 2:30 P.M. on Saturday. The Police Department assisted in getting people there.

Mrs. Hallal said that the set up of a shelter is not under the Board of Health, and she is not even mandated to inspect it. It is under emergency management, which would be the responsibility of Chief Jack. It became the responsibility of Capt. Healy because Chief Jack was away.

She said the only requirement is that it has to be a building that has a certificate of occupancy.

If requested, she has medical reserve volunteers that are trained for emergency dispensing.

She said a warming shelter or a cooling shelter is somewhere to warm up or cool. It is temporary. An emergency shelter is where people would sleep.

Mrs. Nolan said there were complaints that the temperature was 68 degrees and it could not be changed.

Mr. Roy said he did some research and there is room in the generator to hook up the blower for the library and he could control the temperature.

As far as the complaints about no outlets, he might be able to put a couple of feeds for coffee pots, etc. It is limited as far as cooking – there is some gas but no fans or vents.

He noted the school was running on emergency generator the entire time the shelter was open.

Mr. Sagar said an electrical engineer is working on tying in the generator at the Public Safety Building with Town Hall.

Mrs. Nolan felt the Board should decide now during the building process whether the new senior center would become a shelter.

Mr. Vieira said the School Department is willing to do whatever possible.

Mr. Roy said the septic system at the Hurley School is an issue.

Mr. Parker asked about the Red Cross.

Mrs. Nolan said she called and asked for cots and food.

Mr. Parker said that he was not comfortable spending money to provide food and cots, etc. since other organizations do that, such as the Red Cross.

Mrs. Nolan asked if it would be possible to get residents to Attleboro.

Chief Jack said he was out of town during the storm. The Attleboro shelter was open to people of Seekonk. He said the condition of the roadways would create issues. They had to reach out to DPW to plow roads during the evacuation of some people.

He noted that some people do not want to leave their homes. Mrs. Huck was asked to reach out to Bristol Elder Services to see if they could improve communications.

Mr. Sagar said he reached out to a friend about surplus property.

Mr. Vieira said the School Department could try to store cots if there were some available.

Mrs. Huck said she called around to other Councils on Aging.

February 20, 2013

-4-

Westport, MA got a container from the Red Cross which contained cots, blankets, candles, and canned goods.

She said that seniors from Seekonk Common were cold and needed to go to the shelter. They were confused and need to be educated on what to bring to the shelter. She felt the Town has to be better prepared.

Capt. Mace said that information has to go out over the radio. The key is to get out to the media.

He said the 911 system stayed on. People with cell phones could call 911 even without a service plan.

Mr. Sagar felt that either one of the chiefs or dispatch should have access to the website. He noted that Mr. Alexander has his laptop at home, but they need back up.

Capt. Mace said that nee of the officers was putting information out on twitter.

Interim Supt. of Schools Arlene Bosco offered the assistance of the School Department.

Chairman Cavaco thanked them for attending the meeting.

Chief Jack said they are preparing damage assessments, including snow plowing operations, in case the State is declared an emergency as far as finances. He will also reach out to the School Department.

Continued Discussion and Vote on Setting Date of June 10, 2013 for the Annual Town Meeting

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

VOTED: To set June 10, 2013 as the date for the Annual Town Meeting.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of December 5, 2012

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

VOTED: To amend the minutes of December 5 as follows: On page 2, change to Banna Fire Station.

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of December 5, 2012, as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Proposal for Analytical Analysis of Hazardous Waste in Police Association Building Located Behind Library and Discuss Future Use of Building

Mrs. Nolan said that the proposal with R. I. Analytical is for an analysis of the mold and lead in the building. The cost is \$1,945.

Mr. Sagar said that a member of the Arts Council wanted to know if the building could be used to display art work. The building is 50 years old and built by members of the special police department. It was used as a firing range.

Police Chief Ronald Charron said the building was built in the 1960s by Association members at no cost to the town. They were supposed to build a hall above it but that didn't happen. It was vacant for a couple of years and then a few officers worked on it and turned it into a meeting hall and training room. It was used for multi purposes. The building was turned over to the town when the police department moved into the public safety facility. There was mold but the lead has always been there. He felt the building has potential but it will take investment, time and effort.

Mr. Parker asked where the money would come from.

Mrs. Nolan said the engineering budget of the DPW.

Chairman Cavaco suggested that in the future accounts be identified.

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

VOTED: To approve the proposal for analytical analysis of hazardous waste in the Police Association Building in the amount of \$1,945.

Approve and Sign Contract with GPI for DPW/Lake Street Audit

Mrs. Nolan said the original contract was for \$4,000. This is for an additional \$3,500.

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the contract with GPI for DPW Lake Street Audit.

Review of GPI Projects

Mrs. Nolan said that Mr. Lamoureux and Skip looked at the cemetery. The cemetery was not full of graves. There might be about 40 or 50 spaces and another area for graves by eliminating a road. There is no need to have GPI proceed in the search for another cemetery.

GPI was assigned to dig up the wells on Lake Street.

She has reports in her office from GPI regarding the landfill.

There should be discussion on Burrs Pond Dam. The dam expert from GPI would like to talk to the Board about this. There is \$8.5M of federal money available throughout the country for dam work. She talked to Mr. Noyes. He felt that money would not go too far. This is a low hazard dam.

Mr. Sagar said state money is also available. He wanted to make sure that Mr. DelRosso is included in discussions.

The drains at the public safety building are not large enough to prevent any kind of overflow or flooding. Looking to use funds left over from the construction. GPI will design plans to go out to bid for repairs to the drainage.

The pit is closed at the Banna Fire Station. She received the certificate.

There should be discussions about the signal light at the entrance to the public safety building. GPI has estimated the cost at \$90,000.

Chairman Cavaco said that he was able to get \$50,000 Chapter 90 money and \$50,000 from the transportation bond. They would need assistance from Rep. Howitt as to how to get the bond money. He will continue to look for additional bonds for other projects in town.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan advised that the Town had received a \$75,000 grant from SRPEDD to put in a system to allow the Building and Health Departments to offer permits on line.

Mr. Alexander will report to the Board at the next meeting.

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Chairman Cavaco advised the warrant is in order.

Mr. Parker said that he contacted Rep. Howitt regarding information on passports. Rep. Howitt will get back to him.

Mr. Sagar volunteered to do Warrant Articles 2 and 3.

Mr. Parker noted the Board would have to vote on the debt exclusion question.

Mrs. Nolan said it has to pass Town Meeting and then the Board will need to vote.

Mr. Sagar asked how much the Town has spent on litigation with the call firefighters since the vote in 2010 to dissolve.

He personally supported Town Meeting action on the Banna Fire Station.

Chairman Cavaco suggested that Mr. Parker and he attend a meeting at the passport office in Boston.

Mr. Parker said that Rep. Howitt is getting information on a contact person.

Chairman Cavaco noted that one of his objectives was to make the industrial parks more attractive to bring businesses into town. One of the obstacles is that the town does not have sewers.

He would like to speak to a representative from the Mass. Office of Business Development.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Donald Kinniburgh announced the Pasta Night at the American Legion on Saturday, March 15, 2013, from 5 to 7 p.m. to benefit the Veterans Memorial Park.

February 20, 2013

-8-

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:36 p.m. Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session for update on pending MCAD case, discussion on police and fire negotiation proposals, and consider approval of Executive Session minutes of December 5, 2012; not to return to Open Session.

Mr. Parker would not participate in negotiations.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gary S. Sagar, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary