

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 21, 2013
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady, David Parker

Robert McLintock arrived late.

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

Chairman Almeida opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He stated that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chair.

LICENSE HEARING

Seekonk Save-A-Pet Request for a Public Amusement License to Hold a Craft Fair with a Disc Jockey at Hurley Middle School on Saturday, September 14, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain Date of September 21, 2013), Hilary Lundgren, Applicant

Executive Assistant Anne Rogers advised that they do not need an entertainment license because there is no admission in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 181.

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

VOTED: To indefinitely table the Safe-A-Pet request re: Craft Fair.

Request Support from “Ride 2 Recovery” Road Charity Race from Waltham, MA through Seekonk, Continuing to Providence on Sunday, September 8, 2013 to Support Injured Veterans

Chief Craig Mace advised it will be a short ride through Seekonk.

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

VOTED: To support the request from “Ride 2 Recovery” road charity race on Sunday, September 8, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Police Building Behind Library with Conservation Commission Chairman Richard Wallace

Mr. Wallace advised that the Conservation Commission does endorse the land swap on the condition that it is for memorial purposes only or additional parking. The Commission would remove the building. The cost to rehabilitate the building is about \$100,000 to \$150,000.

He said the Commission would have to vote on the proposal. It would have to be approved at Town Meeting and then to the DCR for approval. It would then go to the legislature and the governor for signature.

Mrs. Nolan said that demolition would need three quotes.

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

VOTED: To request the Conservation Commission begin the process to proceed with the land swap.

Discussion and Vote on Unused Town Buildings

Mr. Parker had questions about the County Street fire station.

Capt. Michael Healy advised that reserve pieces are stored in that building. Only two pieces of equipment will fit in the north end fire station. The County Street building is just used for storage. A ladder truck could not fit in there. He suggested the building should be razed if that location will be used as a south end fire station. Minor repairs have been made.

He felt there should be a study done to determine if there is a need to reopen a south end station. His recommendation would be School Street.

Mr. Brady agreed with Capt. Healy. Once Banna is completed, they need to have a study to determine whether two stations can provide adequate coverage for the Town.

Mr. Parker agreed.

Board members concurred that they need to keep School Street.

Mr. Parker wanted to put this on the warrant for Town Meeting.

Mr. Sagar wanted to discuss the School Street property in executive session; however, Mrs. Nolan said it is not a topic for executive session.

Mrs. Nolan advised that the lease for the old police station/town hall has been in negotiations with the Wampanoag tribe for years.

Mr. Parker recalled that years ago Mr. Brady had told the tribe the Town was not going to spend any money on that building.

Mrs. Nolan said that asbestos was removed using \$50,000 from CPC money. Electrical and plumbing has to be restored.

The tribe would have to put in handicapped bathrooms before they get a certificate of occupancy.

Mr. Sagar said a couple of CPC members felt the money should not be used for electrical and plumbing.

Mr. Brady noted that the tribe wants to apply for funding but they need a lease.

Board members felt there should be a work session for further discussion.

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

VOTED: To include an article on the warrant for Town Meeting for demolition of the old police association building.

Consider Approval and Sign, or not, Contract with GPI for Landfill Monitoring

Mr. Matt Alger from Nover-Armstrong was in attendance. Nover-Armstrong is working with GPI on monitoring.

Mr. Sagar asked why a 20% increase. Some of that is for mileage.

Mr. Alger explained that they had an additional person who collected samples and delivered to the labs. That wasn't accounted for.

Mr. Sagar noted that GPI is a New York corporation. If an issue should arise, he asked if it would have to be litigated in New York.

Mr. Brady noted GPI is licensed in Mass. There is diversity because there are two parties from two separate states. This contract is under \$75,000 and it would get kicked out because it does not meet the requirements for diversity. He felt the contract indicates it will be interpreted under the laws of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Alger advised that they will be requesting to reduce the frequency of air sampling at Newman Avenue, thereby reducing the cost by \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year.

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In response to Mr. Sagar's question, Mr. Alger advised that Mary Lou Armstrong has been working on Lake Street. She is still waiting to hear from DEP on the audit.

Mrs. Nolan said that DEP has no information.

Mr. Brady suggested contacting Rep. Howitt or Sen. Timilty.

Town Engineer David Cabral responded to a question from Mr. Brady that funds are from engineering services; not the Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Sagar disagreed.

Mr. Parker said it might be specific to Newman Avenue.

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the contract with GPI for landfill monitoring, effective August 1, 2013 through the May 2014 monitoring period at \$51,100.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (First Session)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorization of Conditional Offer of Employment for Police Officer to Steven M. Fundakowski

Police Chief Craig Mace respectfully requested the conditional offer of employment to Steven M. Fundakowski. Officer Fundakowski has 4 ½ years experience in Enfield, CT. He was a field training officer. He would be eligible for an academy exemption.

Mrs. Nolan highly recommended the appointment.

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

VOT ED: To authorize the conditional offer of employment as police officer to Steven M. Fundakowski.

Chief Mace advised that the training committee granted exemption to officer candidate McHugh. She will go through the prerequisite physical exam and agility test. Capt. John will go to Washington, D.C. for a background check.

Discussion and Action on Maintenance of Seekonk Cemetery

Town Clerk Janet Parker and Town Engineer David Cabral were in attendance.

Mr. Sagar said that he asked this be on the agenda. His stepfather was buried there in July 2012. It is the family's opinion that his grave has been disrespected on several occasions.

The DPW has been cutting the grass. They do not have the proper equipment. Skip Borrelli has been involved in the maintenance of the cemetery for the last twenty years. He can do it at a much more affordable price than DPW.

Mr. Sagar said he talked to Mrs. Parker. He felt that Mr. Borrelli should go back and perform the grass functions.

Mr. Cabral said that DPW was asked to take over the grass cutting about three years ago. They cut the grass, empty the trash and plow.

Mr. Parker asked how much of an inconvenience has it been for DPW to take this on.

Mr. Cabral responded that it is not that much of a burden. It is done every two weeks.

Mr. Parker asked if it was reported to the Town Clerk.

Mr. Sagar said his mother reported it and he spoke to a DPW employee who was at the cemetery.

He said that Mr. Borrelli's son-in-law was in there doing weed whacking.

Mrs. Parker stated that Mr. Borrelli requested \$650 to mow and weed whack and \$350 for trimming.

She said they tried to save money because they will be looking to expand the cemetery.

She noted that she gets a call whenever there is a problem and Mr. Borrelli takes care of it.

She did not like the term disrespected. Over the last eight years, they have done a lot of work at the cemetery. She felt it generally looks good.

Mrs. Parker advised that graves are \$600 for Seekonk residents of which \$200 goes into perpetual care that cannot be expended.

Mr. McLintock asked if a cost estimate was done when DPW took over.

He noted that he drove through the cemetery on three separate occasions and it does need work.

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Mr. Brady felt if the individual is willing to do it and the Town can afford it, let that person do it.

Chairman Almeida said he also took a ride through the cemetery.

Mr. Parker said he would support it if the Town has the finances and it would lessen the burden on DPW. The problem is getting the equipment between the graves.

Public Works has had less than five complaints and the Town Clerk has less than that.

He said that members of this Board have come up with multiple complaints and not allowing the opportunity to fix it is blindsiding.

Mr. Sagar took exception to that comment. He noted that he spoke to the Town Clerk and asked for her consensus to put it on the agenda.

Mr. Parker apologized.

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

VOTED: To instruct the Town Clerk to bring back Mr. Borrelli and relieve DPW of that responsibility.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 HOURS before the Meeting

Mrs. Nolan has something for executive session.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan reported on Recreation activities. There are spots available for Al Forno cooking class on Saturday, October 5, 2013, from 12 to 3 P.M. The cost is \$75 per person. Deadline is September 13, 2013.

The American Heart Association will conduct a CPR/AED class on Thursday, September 19, 2013, from 6 to 9 pm. at Town Hall. The cost is \$40 for a two-year certification.

Anyone interested should contact Bridget Garrity, Recreation Director.

Mrs. Nolan advised that the Mass. Municipal Association will hold the Fall Breakfast on September 20, 27 and October 4, 2013. The focus will be on local aid and key fiscal issue. They will talk about Chapter 90 funding and federal funding that could impact Massachusetts.

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The DPW has rain barrels on sale - \$43.50 for wooden barrel and \$37 for plastic barrel.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Sagar cautioned residents to protect themselves against EEE and West Nile virus.

He would like to talk to people at Cable 9 about expanding the coverage of town activities. Right now the only coverage is in the Attleboro Sun Chronicle.

He advised that he asked Sen. Timilty to contact the Atty. General's office about the Banna Fire Station bid document. The Town Administrator will reach out to the person she had been dealing with.

He distributed information about snowplowing for discussion the next meeting.

Chairman Almeida noted the Quad Board Meeting is on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the high school.

Mr. Brady asked for an update on the Town Hall sign and the three construction projects.

Mrs. Nolan said there was a briefing today for all potential submitters on the senior center. The architect and OPM were in attendance as well as Mr. Miller, Mr. Bowden and Mr. McLintock. Nine companies attended.

She is waiting for the engineer to give her the list of sub-bidders on the animal shelter.

She is trying to set up a meeting with the Atty. General's office on the Banna Fire Station.

Mr. Brady felt they need to petition the State for more latitude on projects that are not funded with state assistance.

Mrs. Nolan said the Town is so fortunate to have Mr. Carpenter on the Banna Building Committee.

Mr. Parker read a citation from Sen. Timilty for Jacob Hill Inn.

Chairman Almeida thanked DPW for cleaning up the area around the County Street station and also a resident's property.

He asked how it happened that several department heads were all on vacation last Friday.

Mrs. Nolan said that she spoke to the DPW Superintendent and Town Engineer. It will not happen again; although, she understood why it did. Mr. Alexander filled in as DPW Superintendent with no problem.

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She noted that the Health Agent and Conservation Agent were at work. There is a chain of command at Police and Fire. Also, anyone of them could be reached by telephone.

Mr. Sagar and Mr. Brady felt there should be a chain of command. Mr. Brady felt the Board needs to designate a third person in charge; maybe the Chairman of the Board or a Board member.

Mr. Sagar said it cannot happen again.

Mrs. Nolan said she would mention it at the next department head meeting. She suggested the Board develop an Administrative Policy.

Mr. Sagar requested that Administrative Policies are put on the Town's website.

Mr. McLintock said that he had attended the meeting of the Veterans Memorial Committee and the Library Board of Trustees. He felt there was progress.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (Second Session)

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8 p.m. Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Sagar, to go into Executive Session to consider approval of employment contracts for DPW Superintendent and Town Engineer, to consider approval of MOA and contract for Special Police, and to hear possible criminal investigation; to possibly return to Open Session.

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

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the contract with DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux, as amended, to expire on June 30, 2016.

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Mr. Parker was not in attendance.

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

VOTED: To approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the
Seekonk Special Police Officers.

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Mr. Parker was not in attendance.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary