

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 16, 2013
REGULAR SESSION

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

Acting Town Administrator: Bruce Alexander

Executive Assistant: Anne Rogers

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion with Senator Timilty and/or Representative Howitt and Town Engineer on State Funding for the Traffic Light and Opticom System at the Entrance to the Public Safety Complex and at the Grist Mill Intersection

Mr. Sagar advised that Rep. Howitt was still in session in Boston.

Town Engineer David Cabral advised that they were looking for an Opticom system at Arcade Avenue and Route 44. GPI submitted an estimate for the traffic light at the public safety complex. He has been advocating for the Opticom at this location. It would be ideal for emergency vehicles.

The Grist Mill project will have the Opticom.

SRPEDD did a study and a lot of it develops into traffic improvements. There are needs for improvements at 44 and Arcade Avenue. If upgrades are made, it will automatically trigger Opticom at that location.

Mr. Sagar said that he had requested a \$110,000 warrant article for the light and Opticom at 44 and Arcade Avenue. The senator and current and former representatives are aware of it. The question is whether the State will come forward with the funding as promised over the years.

Sen. Timilty said that he fundamentally agreed that 44 is a state highway. There is nothing in the Governor's transportation plan for improvements in this area. He felt the money is moving toward the South Coast Rail as opposed to where it is absolutely needed.

Sen. Timilty said there is no doubt what Seekonk does in lottery and taxes. Seekonk does not get the dollars deserved.

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Mr. McLintock expressed disappointment. The State should stand by its commitment.

Sen. Timilty said it should have been done in 2002.

Mr. Sagar felt they owe it to public safety professionals and they should go forward with the \$110,000 request at Town Meeting.

Mr. Brady asked if it went through the Capital Improvement Committee.

Mr. Cabral responded that the information was shared with the CIC.

Mr. Sagar clarified that he was looking for the funding to be free cash.

Mr. McLintock said it is a state highway.

Mr. Sagar responded that it won't happen unless the Town does it.

Mr. Brady thanked Sen. Timilty for his efforts on behalf of the Town.

He said that on the night of his retirement party. Rep. Phil Travis told him that Gov. Romney had signed the bill for the project but somewhere along the line it never made it. When it becomes the responsibility of the Town, the state and federal governments should let the Town do it.

Sen. Timilty assured that Rep. Howitt and he will continue to work on behalf of the Town.

Sign Employment Agreement Amendment for the Director of Finance

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the employment agreement amendment with the Director of Finance.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Parker expressed concern about the language "in the absence of the Town Administrator in excess twenty-four hours." He felt the assistants are already being paid to step up.

Mr. Brady noted that the responsibilities of the "Acting" are different from "Assistant Town Administrator." He suggested the language be changed.

Mr. McLintock pointed out that the Town could not get a person to fill in for \$50 per day. He suggested they sign the amendment.

Discussion and Vote on Procedures for Hiring an Interim Town Administrator and Permanent Town Administrator

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

VOTED: To table discussion on hiring an Interim Town Administrator and Permanent Town Administrator until the October 23, 2013 meeting.

Continued Discussion on Draft Warrant for November 18, 2013 Town Meeting

Mr. Sagar wanted to put an article for the \$110,000 for the traffic light.

He said they have never done road or traffic improvements through the MCIC and it should not be done. It should come out of free cash.

Mr. McLintock reiterated that the State should be responsible. The Opticom system is for safety reasons.

In response to Mr. Brady's question, Mr. Lamoureux advised the road program would be impacted if Chapter 90 money is used. He noted that the supplemental project did not get approved because there wasn't enough money. The Board would have to make that decision.

Mr. Brady felt the potential to get money back from the State might be higher if Chapter 90 money is used rather than the reserve fund.

Mr. Lamoureux said that Chapter 90 was reduced from \$200M to \$150M which restricted the road projects.

Mr. Parker suggested going to Town Meeting. The fact is there hasn't been an accident there for eight years.

Mr. Lamoureux said that he realized how important the light is but he also has to think about the road program, which costs \$2.5M.

Mr. McLintock asked how much money budgeted for Luther's Corner.

Mr. Lamoureux said the Board approved an expenditure of \$63,000 but they are also using an additional \$51,000 for the engineering design, which has been approved by the State. The \$51,000 is money from Lowe's.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To approve the warrant and re-add the article that was previously #17 and renumber the articles accordingly.

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

Mr. McLintock wanted to know about the \$125,000 for Luther's Corner.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (FIRST SESSION)

Mr. Lamoureux stated that engineering costs at Luther's Corner are \$125,000. The preliminary design will include dedicated left hand turns, new sidewalks and crosswalks.

Mr. McLintock said it is a state road. He felt there is too much land taking.

Mr. Sagar noted that Mrs. Nolan had indicated the State would not spend any more money on that.

Mr. Lamoureux explained that the right of way is wide enough to accommodate the project without land taking.

Mr. McLintock asked if that was more important than Route 44.

Mr. Vincent DiIorio talked about the redundancy for the generator at public safety. It provides for emergency system for public safety and back up for Town Hall.

He said the existing generator at public safety has capacity that is not being utilized right now. It becomes cost prohibitive to introduce emergency power at Town Hall, the senior center and the animal shelter.

The Board will hold the plans from Mr. DiIorio and asked him to come at a future meeting to continue discussion.

Rep. Steven Howitt arrived. He provided updates on several items including the \$125,000 that Sen. Timilty spoke about, the pothole situation, and the fire pit.

He said the district has not received a permit application for the preemption signal. The district did receive a letter requesting financial assistance with the installation. The Town is not entitled to the \$50,000.

Mr. Sagar asked about the supplemental budget.

Rep. Howitt advised the governor had not released the \$100M appropriated for Chapter 90. Most of the money went into the rainy day fund.

He noted that he tries to keep the Town Administrator updated.

Mr. Lamoureux said that he talked to the contractor for disposal. He had gone out to bid for new contract and found it would be beneficial to extend the current contract, which expires on June 2014. There has been talk about going to an automated collection where the residents would be provided with toters for recyclables and trash. Recyclables would be collected every other week. They would have to make sure people are still using the blue bags. The bags pay for the disposal costs.

The contractor would like to know what direction the Town intends to go.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept, with Regret, a Letter of Resignation from Jason Parks, Truck Driver/Laborer for DPW

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

VOTED: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Jason Parks as truck driver/laborer for DPW.

Consider Request to Hire Second Highest Rated Candidate for Truck Driver/Laborer Position

Mr. Alexander said he did not participate in the interviews; he deferred to the recommendation of Mrs. Nolan, Mr. Lamoureux and Mr. Cabral.

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

VOT ED: To direct the Acting Town Administrator and DPW Commissioner to hire Jose Albuquerque as truck driver/laborer, effective October 17, 2013.

Discuss and Accept Exemption of Building Permit Fees for the Banna Fire Station Building Project

Mr. Sagar advised that the Board had previously voted to exempt the fees for the Banna Fire Station and the senior center. The Building Commissioner is looking for documentation.

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

VOTED: To reaffirm the vote to exempt building permit fees for the Banna Fire Station.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of August 7, 2013 and September 25, 2013

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

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VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of September 25, 2013 and 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; to accept the Regular Session minutes of August 7, 2013.

Mr. Brady abstained on the minutes of August 7, 2013.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Alexander advised that Melissa Murphy had resigned from her position at the DPW. It will be on the next agenda to accept and to post the position internally.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Sagar suggested that the Acting Town Administrator allow Ms. Anne Rogers to attend a course offered by the Inspector General's office on bidding basics and that the Board appoint Ms. Rogers as the Interim Procurement Officer.

Mr. Brady felt the Board should reach out to the School Department to utilize that staff person for purchases.

Mr. Sagar noted that Ms. Rogers gets a lot of calls on the various projects.

Ms. Rogers indicated she would be willing to take the course. She has issues, some of which are scheduled for executive session. There are quite a few questions on all three projects.

Mr. Sagar stated that all documents should be generated from Town Hall.

Mr. Brady advised that Mr. McLintock and he met with a member of the Veterans Memorial Committee in an effort to set up a meeting with members of the Board of Trustees to try to resolve the issue with the memorial park. If, for some reason, the library property does not work out, it will be up to the Board of Selectmen and the Veterans Memorial Committee to find an alternate site. They would like to resolve this issue prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Parker noted that Town Hall usually closes at 5:30 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Board members agreed to allow the Acting Town Administrator to make that decision.

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Chairman Almeida announced the "Food for Fuel" fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2013, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Seekonk High School. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Town Hall.

He said that parents called him with a concern about a potential abduction in Seekonk which took place on Tuesday and parents were notified on Friday. He asked why it took three days to alert parents.

Mr. Alexander will check with Chief Mace.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (SECOND SESSION)

Mrs. Christine Allen suggested that the Reverse 911 should be used to alert parents if such an incident occurs again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation regarding the RFP with the Animal Shelter Building Committee and the Executive Assistant and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of August 7, 2013 and September 25, 2013; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary