

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 30, 2013
REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: Robert McLintock

Acting Town Administrator: Bruce Alexander

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

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

SIGN THE NOTES FOR THE BANNA FIRE STATION TO ALLOW TREASURER TO BORROW \$1,197,500 AT 0.50%

Treasurer Christine DeFontes advised that Century Bank won the bid at 0.50%.

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the notes authorizing the Treasurer to borrow \$1,197,500 at 0.50% for the Banna Fire Station.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Accept Exemption of Building Permit Fees for the Animal Shelter Expansion Project and the Senior Center Building Project

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

VOTED: To approve the exemption of building permit fees for the Animal Shelter Expansion Project and the Senior Center Building Project.

Continued Discussion and Sign Contract for Interim Town Administrator Services and Town Administrator Search Process

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the contracts with Alan S. Gould of Municipal Resources for an Interim Town Administrator services and Town Administrator search.

Mr. Brady advised that the Interim Town Administrator contract is with Gary Stenhouse for \$100 per hour for 24 hours per week, inclusive of meals, mileage, accommodations and travel time. The search process is \$14,000.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (FIRST SESSION)

Mr. David Saad provided the Board with a form which could be used at Town Meeting to get e-mail addresses from residents. This would allow the Town to communicate with the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider and Accept Gift from Private Citizen for Runs at the Animal Shelter Presented by Paul Lemont

Mr. Lemont advised the donors want to remain anonymous until the project is completed. They have a love for animals and know the condition of the animal shelter. They agreed to donate \$12,000 toward the cost of the runs. The total cost of the complete project is within that range.

Mr. Lemont asked that the Board affirmatively accept the \$12,000. He suggested that at the completion of the project there could be a plaque and a ribbon cutting to thank these people. He will have the check on Friday of this week.

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux advised that some of the work at the animal shelter had been completed. This project will not interfere with the addition.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$12,000 donation to be used for the runs at the animal shelter with extreme gratitude for the generosity and that a plaque will be placed in honor of the donors at the completion of the project.

Accept, with regret, a Letter of Resignation from Melissa Murphy, DPW Secretary

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

VOTED: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Melissa Murphy as DPW secretary.

Mr. Lamoureux stated that Ms. Murphy has been an exemplary employee and an asset to the Department of Public Works and to the Town. He said the responsibility of the position is not properly compensated.

Mr. Sagar asked about a replacement.

Mr. Alexander advised the position was advertised in house.

Mr. Lamoureux said a DPW employee has been training for the position.

Discussion on Information for Online Meeting Calendar with Lauren Walsh

Ms. Walsh stated the CIC meetings are not included on the online meeting schedule. She distributed the Seekonk website calendar. She felt it is imperative to get information out to the public as quickly as possible.

She asked the Board to schedule this matter for a future meeting and have the newly-hired IT director provide specifics regarding the functionality of the calendar. She would like to see the Board make a strong positive statement to commit to the utilization of the calendar.

Mr. Parker said the Board needs to understand how the website works.

Mr. Alexander said the Town Clerk and Selectmen's office get notifications.

Mr. Parker suggested that Mr. Alexander meet with the IT director and bring a plan back to the Board.

Discussion on Solid Waste Operations in the Future and Alternatives

Mr. Lamoureux noted that he had previously informed the Board about a meeting with ABC and the possibility of extending the contract. He asked for direction as to how to proceed with trash collection in the future. ABC has had the contract for about eight years. The current contract expires on June 30, 2014.

Mr. Sagar suggested a Request for Proposals.

Mr. Lamoureux noted that the advantage with the current contract is that he does not have to pay prevailing wage. He went out to bid five years ago and found it was more costly.

Mr. Brady liked the change from the current system to roll out bins.

Chairman Almeida asked about eliminating the blue trash bags.

Mr. Lamoureux noted it offsets the cost of disposal.

He recommended that they ask ABC to provide a proposal to do recycling with totes every other week and trash collection every week. Board members agreed.

Mr. Alexander said it could affect the annual trash fee and the price of bags.

Discuss and Award Bid for Roof Drainage Repairs for the Seekonk Library with Recommendation from Russo Barr

Mr. Lamoureux advised the bid opened on October 24, 2013 in the amount of \$23,500.

Mr. Sagar noted this puts the total project at under \$30,000. Town Meeting had appropriated \$161,000. Russo Barr had designed the roof.

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Gibson Roof, Inc. in the amount of \$23,500 for roof drainage repairs at the Seekonk Library and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Chairman Almeida asked about a warranty.

Mr. Brady noted it was not spelled out; but, it is usually one year on labor and five years on materials.

Mr. Alexander advised he had not seen the contract.

Mr. Brady thanked Mr. Sagar and Mr. Lamoureux for their efforts in saving the Town money.

Approve Request from DPW Superintendent to Declare a 1997 Elgin Sweeper, a Ford Backhoe Bucket and a Pickup Truck Rear Window Guard as Surplus Equipment

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

VOTED: To authorize the DPW Superintendent to declare a 1997 Elgin sweeper, a Ford backhoe bucket and a pick up truck rear window guard as surplus.

Discussion on Budget Priorities

Mr. Sagar advised that he came up with a list of items to discuss for FY15.

1. Sufficient resources for 24 – 7 staffing for advanced life support for the Banna fire station.
2. Provide sufficient resources for two dispatchers at all times.
3. Review the Building Department operations, zoning, etc.
4. Prepare and issue a RFP for cost and savings to outsource grass cutting operations by DPW and schools.
5. Funding for part time secretary for Veterans Agent as agreed to in FY 14.
6. Review all fees especially fees charged for recreational activities.

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On #1, Chairman Almeida noted that at the last Town Meeting the Chief had indicated there is adequate staff to man the Banna station 24 hours.

Mr. Brady recommended doing it with overtime.

He felt that #2 is being done 2/3 of the time. For a certain time, there is only one dispatcher. The new Town Administrator and Communications Director should make that decision.

He said the Board needs to start prioritizing services.

On #3, Mr. Brady noted the report was generated by the International Assoc. of Building Commissioners. He would not support two full time building inspectors.

Chairman Almeida said that builders have told him they have got to increase costs in Seekonk because of the delays for permits.

Mr. Brady recommended one residential inspector and one for commercial but not 24 hours a day.

He was agreeable to #4, but they would have to pay prevailing wage. He would like to see a facilities manager, a Department of Buildings and a Department of Roads and have DPW focus on roads, and another division to take care of building and grounds. He would like to see consolidation with the School Department and have one person oversee all facilities.

Chairman Almeida said the advantage of having DPW take care of lawns is that they can be called if there is a problem.

Mr. Sagar said he would be receptive to a part time (10 hours per week) for a Veterans Agent's secretary.

Mr. Brady felt there has to be some interaction with the School Committee on #6. It would make more sense to have the Recreation Director position at the School Department, but there isn't any room.

In response to Mr. Parker's question, Mr. Alexander advised that he would send this information to department heads.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of September 4, 2013

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of September 4, 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 the warrant for the November 18, 2013 Town Meeting was posted today and is on the website.

The Finance Committee asked if a member of the Board of Selectmen could attend the meeting on November 5th to talk about the traffic light at the public safety complex and the demolition of the police association building.

Mr. Sagar will attend.

Mr. Sagar and Chairman Almeida commended Mr. Alexander on his performance as Acting Town Administrator.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Sagar complained about the cable equipment. He felt it is antiquated. People at home cannot hear the meetings.

Mr. Sagar suggested they discuss the long term lease for the former town hall/police station at the next meeting.

Mr. Parker said the cable equipment is in good condition. The problem is that people sit back and are not near the microphones when speaking. He noted that the equipment is operated by trained staff.

He thanked all those who attended the supper to benefit the fuel assistance program for the needy.

Chairman Almeida thanked police and fire. Because of their prompt response, there were no fatalities in accidents and fires this past week. He also thanked surrounding communities for assistance.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (SECOND SESSION)

Mr. Robert Blanchard suggested that agendas should be posted in a timely manner. He added that Channel 15 and the website should have the same information.

Mr. John Wright of Jacob Street complained about the problems associated with the construction of houses on Jacob Street.

Chairman Almeida said he heard that the State had indicated it would be dangerous to have traffic come out onto Rte. 44. He noted that development has been approved in town.

Mr. Parker noted that the Board of Selectmen cannot intervene with Zoning or the Planning Board.

Chairman Almeida stated that the Board of Selectmen did not put the Veterans Memorial Park on the warrant. It was a petitioned article.

Mr. Brady said the location is town property, and it is up to the citizens to decide how it should be used. He felt it was unfair to ask Board members beforehand how they would vote.

Mr. Sagar said that Mr. Brady and Mr. McLintock have tried to mediate the matter.

Mr. Brady said there are concerns and interests on both sides. He urged that passion not get the better of both sides. He wished it could be resolved before Town Meeting. There should be a place to honor our veterans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 p.m. Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session for an update with the Chief of Police and Interim Building Commissioner on possible litigation case; not to reconvene to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary