

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**NOVEMBER 20, 2013**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

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

Interim Town Administrator: Gary Stenhouse

Chairman Almeida called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of our 35<sup>th</sup> President John F. Kennedy.

Chairman Almeida advised that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, any person taping the meeting must notify the Chair.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Allocation of the Percentage of the Tax Levy to be Borne by Each Class of Property for FY 2014 (with Assessors)**

Chairman Almeida opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Assessor Theo Gabriel and Asst. Assessor Lydia Cordeiro were in attendance as well as members of the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Paul Buckley advised that municipalities are required to classify real property in four classes according to use: Residential, Open Space, Commercial and Industrial. Cities and towns that are certified to assess properties at full and fair cash value may elect to shift the tax burden among the major property classes within the certain limits as allowed by law. The adoption of certain rates does not change the tax levy but determines the share of the total levy for each class.

Last year the Board of Selectmen chose the 1.6 shift or a .800888 factor with a small commercial exemption.

The values have gone down.

Mr. David Patissi said the Board of Assessors did not vote on a recommendation. His feeling would be to take a long term look and reduce the shift to 1.5.

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

**VOTED:** To close the Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m.

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To adopt the CIP shift 1.59 with residential factor of .801529.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Brady said the larger businesses bring a lot of people into the Town and utilize a lot of services. It is not unfair to give them somewhat of a shift.

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To continue with the 10% commercial exemption.

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

Mr. Sagar acknowledged the work done by the assessors.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Continued Conversation about Town Administrator Search**

Mr. Stenhouse summarized comments made by the Board at the previous meeting regarding the qualities for a town administrator. Mr. Parker noted that there are three construction projects underway and experience in public procurement is important. Mr. Sagar mentioned work on the bond rating. Mr. Brady wanted to continue to develop a relationship with the School Department to consolidate services. He is looking for someone who could think outside the box – constantly looking for better cost effective ways to perform town functions. Chairman Almeida felt that the next town administrator should be a true communicator with no favoritism. The town administrator should be involved in the community (attending certain civic affairs, etc.), be approachable, and have an open door policy.

Mr. McLintock is looking for someone with a strong leadership background. Someone not afraid to make a decision and stick by it. A person who has very high integrity and can work with employees inside this building and all around town. That is very important. There are a number of issues.

Mr. McLintock noted that the Town passed a milestone Monday night when the Library Board of Trustees and the Veterans Memorial Park Committee reached an agreement regarding the location of the park. He felt people have to work together. He liked the idea of work sessions.

Mr. Stenhouse felt that some Board members are concerned because others go off on their own and there doesn't seem to be much coordination.

He watched the video of the November 18<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting.

He talked to Atty. Fair today because there was a question that a non-resident had been allowed to make a motion. The attorney remembered that it was a duly qualified elector of the town.

Chairman Almeida cautioned that they are going off topic.

Mr. McLintock congratulated Chairman Almeida for appointing Mr. Brady and he to negotiate with the Library Board of Trustees and Veterans Memorial Park Committee. He noted this was an example of cooperation.

### **Discussion, if needed, on Actions Taken at Town Meeting**

Mr. Sagar said that someone thought the library director had made a motion; it was a town resident.

He questioned why the attorney was changing the wording on the warrant at Town Meeting since the warrant is forwarded to legal counsel prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Brady said it was a petitioned article. There were no motions on Articles 11, 12 and 13.

Mr. Sagar asked if those three articles were rejected.

Chairman Almeida said the warrant had closed. They went ahead and did the petitioned articles.

Mr. Parker stated that there was an article to increase zoning fines. There was supposed to be a public hearing. It never did go to the Planning Board and more than likely it will be declined by the Atty. General's office. Members of the Planning Board were at Town Meeting but didn't say anything.

Mr. Brady personally thanked the Library Board of Trustees and Veterans Memorial Park Committee for reaching an agreement. They met on Saturday morning and reconsidered. They approved the submission of a special permit application to have the memorial put on library property. He was very pleased it was resolved and did not get to Town Meeting floor. There was no animosity. Mr. McLintock and he will continue to meet with those two boards to complete this.

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### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS (FIRST SESSION)**

Mr. Ed Malloy and Mrs. Phoebe Dunn asked about the community gardens.

Chairman Almeida explained that a nearby resident had concerns about the garden and a rental house that belongs to The Commons. There were overgrown weeds and grass.

Mr. Malloy said he was away and did not know what was going on. He went to the garden on Saturday and his winter vegetables were gone.

Mrs. Dunn said that a cherry tree belonging to The Commons fell on the fence and on the compost bin donated by Eagle Scout projects.

Mr. Stenhouse took responsibility. As Interim Town Administrator, he got word that the place was a mess. The neighbor checked with the Housing Authority and was told it was a town project. He asked the DPW Superintendent to clean it up. There was no ill intended.

Mrs. Dunn said the Housing Authority has done a good job cleaning around the parking lot.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Accept with Regret the Resignation of Officer Andrew Amaral**

Chief Craig Mace announced the resignation of Officer Amaral effective December 2, 2013. He will join the Mass. State Police. Officer Amaral has been with the Seekonk Police Department for four years. He built the website. He was the Chief's Medal recipient.

Chief Mace respectfully requested that the Board thank Officer Amaral for his service and wish him well.

Mr. Sagar noted that the former Town Administrator was very impressed by him.

Board members thanked Officer Amaral and wished him good luck.

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

**VOTED:** To accept, with regret, the resignation of Andrew Amaral, effective December 2, 2013.

#### **Accept with Regret the Resignation of Special Officer Richard Phillips**

Chief Mace pointed out that full and part time officers were in attendance.

He announced the retirement of Special Officer Richard Phillips, effective September 30, 2013.

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Officer Phillips was sworn in on May 26, 2003. He completed the police academy and stayed until September 2013. He was a dependable and honorable employee, spending much time working at the Seekonk Speedway.

Chief Mace noted that Officer Phillips was very giving of himself. He was recognized for volunteering at charitable events, for which he received letters of commendation. He cast a favorable light and brought pride to the Police Department.

He thanked Officer Phillips and wished him and his family well.

Chief Mace respectfully requested that the Board accept Officer Phillips' resignation and thank him for his service.

Mr. Parker said he has known Officer Phillips for years. If "Rocket" was your friend, you had a good friend.

Chairman Almeida thanked him for his service and keeping Seekonk safe.

### **Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of October 23, 2013**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of October 23, 2013, as presented.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

None.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Stenhouse advised that interviews for Communications Director will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Public Safety Complex. Mr. Alexander, Chief Mace, Chief Jack, and Mr. Stenhouse will sit in on interviews. The field was narrowed down from ten to five candidates. He goggled all five. There was one he could not bring forward in good faith. One of the candidates is presently employed in Seekonk Dispatch. There were ten candidates total from two advertisements.

The Town Administrator position has been advertised extensively. MRI has gone to all electronic advertisements - Government jobs. com, and websites for International City Managers Association, Maine Municipal Association, Mass. Municipal Association, RI League of Cities and Towns, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

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Mr. Stenhouse said newspapers are not used for advertisements because it is very expensive. If required by Charter, it will be put in the newspaper.

In addition, there are a number of other recruitments going on in Massachusetts. A person might be interested in two different positions. The closing date is December 13<sup>th</sup>. They hope to be able to screen the number down and get essay questions to the candidates before Christmas.

Mr. Stenhouse anticipated he would be in Seekonk for four months.

He advised that he sent a letter to the gaming commission regarding concerns about proposed gambling at Raynham Park.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Sagar stated that federal or state funds are needed to clean up the site of the fire on Maple Avenue. The Conservation Agent has contacted EPA. She would like to set up a meeting with EPA, legal counsel, and local state representatives, possibly the second week in December.

Mr. Sagar noted that Mr. Parker had commented that volunteers make the community. He wanted to thank JoAnne Spencer, who volunteered to choose and coordinate the colors at the new Banna Fire Station.

He stated there has been a lot of action since Town Meeting. The Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Park Committee and he met with the ZBA secretary and filed the necessary paperwork in the permitting process. That petition will be heard on December 16, 2013.

He met today with the Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Park Committee, Mr. McLintock, Town Planner, Library Director, Town Engineer, and Veterans Agent and came up with a conceptional idea.

Mr. Sagar asked the Chairman to set up a schedule of Board of Selectmen meeting for the first six months in 2014. He felt that every other week worked out well.

He distributed a chart of appointments.

He had copies of the minutes of the ZBA meeting when the animal shelter building committee was before them to get the special permits.

He wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Parker stated that DPW has seven outside contractors for snow removal. Mr. Lamoureux needs at least 15, preferably 20. He felt the Board needs to talk about this.

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Mr. Parker asked about the resident who wanted to come before the Board regarding the tree removal issue of a few meetings ago.

Mr. McLintock suggested that the Chairman of the Board of Health should come before the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Health has discussed changing the work hours of employees primarily because during the winter months contractors start work at 7 a.m. and don't want to wait until 8:30 a.m. to come into Town Hall.

Mr. Stenhouse said they should come to the Town Administrator because they are in a collective bargaining unit.

Mr. Brady said they also need to go through their union representative.

Mr. Brady indicated that Steve D'Amico would like to be appointed as the SRPEDD representative. It should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Chairman Almeida stated that Mr. Stenhouse is doing a very good job as Interim.

He wished all families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Parker added his best wishes for Happy Thanksgiving.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS (SECOND SESSION)**

None.

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

**VOTED:** To dissolve at 7:22 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary