

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 7, 2015
REGULAR SESSION

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

David Andrade arrived late.

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Parker opened the meeting at 6 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, anyone recording the meeting must notify the Chair. The Board of Selectmen is recording both audio and video.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Almeida announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Property Tax Work-Off Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Snow plow vendors and replacement drivers with CDL are needed.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Vote to Continue to Endorse Save-A-Pet Society

President of the Save-A-Pet Society Patricia Cloutier was in attendance.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To endorse the Save-A-Pet Society.

Mr. Andrade was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Mrs. Cloutier advised that the Save-A-Pet auction will be held on March 24, 25, and 26, 2015 at the Ramada Inn (formerly Johnson and Wales). It will not be televised.

Vote to Accept Gifts, Monetary and Tangible, donated by Save-A-Pet Society to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during the Year 2015

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To accept gifts, monetary and tangible, donated by Save-A-Pet to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during the year 2015.

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Mr. Andrade was in attendance at the time of the vote.

Consider Request from Chief Craig Mace to offer a Conditional Offer of Employment to Michael E. Knox, Jr.

Chief Mace advised that he is anticipating two retirements in March. He requested the Board approve a conditional offer of employment to Michael E. Knox, Jr.

Mr. Cadime recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Mr. Almeida seconded, and it was

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To extend a Conditional Offer of employment to Michael E. Knox, Jr.

Mr. Andrade was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Consider and Appoint Jay Hewitt as Part Time Local Building Inspector

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To hire Jay Hewitt as part time local building inspector.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Cadime responded to Mr. Almeida that this employee will work on Saturday and will have an updated license.

Vote to Appoint Brian Fisk as an Alternate Electrical Inspector for the Building Department

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment. He noted that Mr. Fisk has been the alternate but he was never officially appointed.

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

VOTED: To appoint Brian Fisk as an alternate electrical inspector.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Finance/Budget Review FY 2015

Mr. Cadime noted that he had said he would do quarterly budget reviews. They missed the first quarter. This is the second quarter budget update. The presentation is on the website.

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He acknowledged this was a collaborative effort with Finance Director Bruce Alexander, Treasurer Christine DeFontes, and Assessor Theo Gabriel.

FY 2014 free cash was certified at \$2,015,900. Revenues came in higher than anticipated - \$599,541 and expenses lower - \$1,217,254. He said that department heads were fiscally responsible for making sure expenses were absolutely necessary. Sanitation Enterprise Fund - \$170,985. The tax factor was set at 1.62. The tax recap was submitted to the Department of Revenue on December 9, 2014, which was the earliest it had been submitted in ten years, and tax bills were mailed on December 31, 2014. Department heads were to submit budgets by December 26, 2014. He will begin to review those budgets with them.

He provided several updates (see attached).

Mr. Sagar said the bigger concern will be the \$330M projected State deficit and yet Mass. Taxpayers say it is actually a billion.

Mr. Brady said it is pretty incompetent to be off by that much. He said it is difficult to start making cuts in the third quarter when more than half of the budget has been spent.

Mr. Cadime noted the Governor's numbers are not released until April. In talking to the local representative and senator, they have said there is zero support for reducing local aid midstream.

It will be interesting to see where the House and Senate align on local aid with the new governor coming in. There won't be solid numbers until late May.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (First Session)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Appointment of Charles Beauchamp to the Energy Committee

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment.

Mr. Brady asked if Mr. Beauchamp had completed a talent bank form.

Mr. Cadime said he came into the office to inquire and they talked about it. He asked Ms. Rogers to contact Mr. Beauchamp to fill out a form.

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

VOTED: To appoint Mr. Charles Beauchamp to the Energy Committee.

Sign Form SRD-3, Declaration of Support (or not) of Mosquito Control Funding for FY 2016

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

VOTED: To support funding for the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project for FY 2016 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of October 22, 2014 and December 3, 2014

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of October 22, 2014 and December 3, 2014.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime advised the bid for the modular portion of the extension to the animal shelter building is out today. It was advertised in the Central Register and Attleboro Sun Chronicle. Bids are due on January 21, 2015 by 4 p.m. A mandatory site visit is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2015, at 10 a.m. There have been calls from people interesting in looking at the specs.

Chipotle received its liquor license today. Lums did not complete paperwork and the liquor license will be going back to the state. Eight out of twelve all pour liquor licenses are available.

The animal control officer will hold a rabies clinic on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at the DPW building from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chairman Parker noted it will be done in conjunction with the Town of Rehoboth.

The senior center building committee and the architect will hold its first meeting tomorrow to discuss the master plan and planning process. The RFP is out for relocation specialists. Relocation cost is estimated at \$10,000. It will be prevailing wage rates.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Andrade talked about a vote taken a few meetings back regarding plowing sub-divisions. The vote was 4 to 0 to approve it. In retrospect, he wished he hadn't voted for it because there are some paper roads out there; although, the logic to treat everyone the same makes complete sense. Unless the Town wants to take on the financial responsibility of paving the paper roads, he felt they should look at the overall picture of what that discussion will end with. Residents are paying to have a road plowed and they do not have a road.

Mr. Brady said the Town does not put in roads, it maintains roads. The Board needs to be more diligent and make sure the Planning Board does its job to ensure developers do what they are supposed to do. If they are going to do a paper road, they need to do it or take it off the map and say it doesn't exist. They are putting the Board of Selectmen in a bind.

From this point forward, he will make sure that, before accepting a road, all requirements are met. If not, the Board will seek legal recourse with the developer.

Mr. Andrade said he knows of a house that has been there for twenty years and still no road. One of the arguments being made is that person is paying to have his road plowed and to receive emergency services if there was a storm.

Mr. Brady reiterated that it goes back to the Planning Board. The Board of Selectmen has no say over the road until it is accepted by Town Meeting. That is why in previous discussions, he brought up not to plow any roads.

Mr. Andrade said it is existing roads. They do not have to worry about future developments.

Mr. Sagar felt the private way was a misunderstanding of the term.

Chairman Parker noted that any selectmen who voted in the affirmative can move to reconsider.

Mr. Sagar felt they were honoring the votes taken at Town Meeting and on the ballot.

Mr. Almeida extended best wishes for a Happy New Year. He announced the Annual Taste of the Town sponsored by the Kiwanis Club will take place on Tuesday, February 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Pawtucket Country Club. Tickets are available from Jan Parker, Bev Hart, and Edith Krekorian.

Chairman Parker advised the Town will be looking for a town planner. John Hansen left for a similar position in Dartmouth, MA.

Mr. Brady would like to meet with Mr. Sagar and the two representatives from the library and two representatives from the Veterans Memorial Committee to discuss a timeline of what will be happening.

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Mr. Sagar advised that a meeting was held with representatives from DEP and MassDevelopment to talk about 36 Maple Avenue. The representative from MassDevelopment indicated there is up to \$100,000 in grant money available. There was discussion about reusing the site for solar.

Mr. Cadime said there would less clean up with a solar.

Mr. Sagar requested that representatives from GATRA attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mr. Cadime advised that representatives from SRPEDD will be in attendance on January 21 to talk about a regional transportation plan. He will try to get GATRA as well.

Mr. Sagar suggested that the representatives to SRPEDD and anyone who has an interest in SRPEDD should also attend.

He urged residents who need a place to stay warm should contact Human Services.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS (Second Session)

Mr. Charles Beauchamp, newly appointed to Energy Committee, was in attendance. He noted that the website list the meeting as starting at 7 p.m.

He recently retired after 44 years as an engineer. He felt he has a sense of what the Energy Committee should be doing. He has done a number of small energy projects. He asked for written information on the Energy Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property with respect to the senior center as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(6), to discuss strategy with respect to open litigation as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), which the Chairman has determined that any public discussion may be detrimental to the Town's position and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of October 22, 2014; not to return to Open Session. Senior Center Building Committee members will attend.

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

