

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 11, 2015
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

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

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chair. The Board of Selectmen is taping both audio and video.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Sagar stated 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.

Chairman Parker added that Town Moderator Michelle Hines has been looking for residents for a by-law review committee.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LICENSE

Consider Approval or not the Transfer of Corporate Stock and the Appointment of a new Corporate Director for Winn's Liquors, Inc., located at 21 Brook Street, Derek Mui, Manager

Chairman Parker opened the hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Atty. Robert S. Ovoian represented the applicant, Winn's Liquors, Inc. Derek and Rachel Mui were also in attendance. Atty. Ovoian advised that Raymond Mui had turned over his interest to Derek Mui. It is simply a transfer within the family.

No comments.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the transfer of corporate stock for Winn's Liquors, Inc., located at 21 Brook Street, Derek Mui, Manager.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider and Appoint Florice Craig to the Position of Assistant Town Clerk

Mr. Cadime advised that three internal candidates were interviewed. He recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Florice Craig as Assistant Town Clerk at Step 2, effective March 16, 2015.

Mr. Sagar congratulated Ms. Craig.

Mr. Almeida added his congratulations. He wished her good luck in the new position. He was pleased to see a promotion from within.

Chairman Parker agreed.

Ms. Craig thanked the Board. She looked forward to working with Mrs. Parker.

Consider Approval or not of Marathon Route for Ocean State Multi Sport

Gary Menissian, director, requested permission to use the route for a marathon in November. Two dollars of each entry fee will go to the Seekonk YMCA. The race will start and finish at Seekonk High School. He has permission from Rehoboth, Attleboro, and East Providence.

Chief Mace said that Mr. Menissian has coordinated with Capt. John. They will need three police officers for details.

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

VOTED: To approve the marathon route for Ocean State Multi Sport.

Consider Approval or not of the Municipal Aggregation Documents for Good Energy

Mr. Cadime noted that a warrant article was passed at the Fall Town Meeting to go out to bid with SRPEDD for aggregation electric. A plan is available on the website for citizens and

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residents to view. It has to go out for RFP. There will be a two-week period to submit comments (March 12 to March 26, 2015) and a public hearing is scheduled for April 8. Good Energy LP is the consultant. He read the outline in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 164, Section 134a.

Mr. Andrade cautioned residents about locking in lower rates with alternate suppliers because they don't know what the new rate will be right now.

Mr. Cadime said if residents choose to go with this plan they do have the ability to opt out at any time.

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

VOTED: To approve the municipal aggregation documents for good energy.

Consider Approval and Sign License Agreement with the Knights of Columbus for the use of the Parking Lot and the Right of First Refusal for Real Estate

Mr. Sagar noted that in November Mr. Bowden and he got permission from the Board to reach out to neighbors of the proposed senior center. They met at the YMCA in December to get a 15 ft. wide easement. They just got approval from the YMCA that they would grant that easement.

Mr. Bowden and he also met with the Knights of Columbus for a license agreement to be able to use the parking lot for overflow parking. The cost will be \$1 per year. The Knights approved it.

At the same time, they discussed the Right of First Refusal. The KOC and the Town has entered into a right of first refusal should the KOC sell the property. There was discussion that it might have to be approved by Town Meeting. The easement at the YMCA would also have to be approved at Town Meeting. He noted that the KOC does not intend to sell the building at this time.

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

VOTED: To approve the agreement with the Knights of Columbus for use of the parking lot

Prior to the vote, Mr. Brady commended Mr. Sagar and Mr. Bowden for doing this.

Chairman Parker added his appreciation.

Mr. Andrade questioned if they would be able to use that area for the staging during construction of the senior center.

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Mr. Sagar felt it could be discussed.

He said the building committee is very happy with the architectural firm. They agreed on the design.

Mr. Cadime said that progress has been tremendous. They have a floor plan laid out and some specific plans for mechanics and electrical. There are also plans for potential upgrades to make it look more like a senior center.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion and Possible Vote for RFP for Old Town Hall

Atty. Mark Reich was in attendance to talk about deed restrictions vs. selling the land.

Mr. Andrade said the tribe wants ownership in the property so they can apply for grants. He asked whether it would be possible to sell the building and maintain control of the land.

Atty. Reich said deed restrictions could be included in the RFP for a building sale and land lease.

Mr. Andrade expressed concern about the deed restriction because once the tribe owns the building they could put up another building without looking at the deed restriction.

Mr. Cadime said they would need to have liability insurance.

Atty. Reich said they would have to indemnify and hold the Town harmless. All liability would transfer regardless of sale or lease.

Mr. Sagar noted there is a thirty-year lease in effect that was negotiated under the previous town administrator.

Atty. Reich said they might not want to give up the lease, which might discourage some of the bidders. He suggested an informational meeting with all parties involved.

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

VOTED: To table discussion on the RFP for Old Town Hall.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Gary Delgizzi of 24 Ford Street suggested that the Town Meeting should be held on a Saturday or Sunday. The meetings sometimes end late and people have to leave before it's over.

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Mr. Neal Abelson, 1588 Fall River Avenue, noted that Planning Director John Hansen left two months ago. He asked Mr. Cadime about advertising and interim help. He called SRPEDD and engineering firms. He decided to talk to Mr. Hansen, who would do it for \$75 per hour. He felt it would be good for the Town since Mr. Hansen is familiar with the issues. Mr. Cadime told him to draw up a contract. Time went by and Mr. Cadime told him they could not use Mr. Hansen. Mr. Abelson assumed it was the Board of Selectmen that did not want Mr. Hansen back.

Chairman Parker said it wasn't done at a Board of Selectmen meeting he attended.

Mr. Cadime said he talked to Mr. Abelson about getting three quotes and that Mr. Hansen would not be recommended. It was not a vote of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Brady mentioned, if the Charter gives the Planning Board authority to appoint a planner, why didn't they appoint an acting planner.

Mr. Abelson said he was told to get a contract by Mr. Cadime. He was trying to work within the system and the other boards in town. He felt the blame is being thrown toward the Planning Board.

Mr. Brady said he has never been in favor of bringing a person back that leaves. He was told there was an error in the new zoning bylaws. He was asked if he wanted the person responsible to fix it. He said only if it would be done for free.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire and Rescue Mapping Presentation

Chief Michael Healy and Director of Communications Chris Campbell were in attendance. Mr. Cadime explained that the report includes fire calls for the last five years to get an idea of where the calls are from and times. Also, to identify if there is a potential need for the south end fire station and narrow down a good location.

He acknowledged Mr. Campbell, who prepared the report, and Chief Healy who worked with him to analysis the data.

Mr. Campbell said the report is from 2009 to 2014 for the south end (from the south side of Route 44 to the town line.). Average response times for the south end are included in the numbers. Town-wide any call is 6.5 min. coming out of 500 Taunton Avenue. Within the southern end, any call is 6.1 min. coming out of 500 Taunton Avenue. Response time within the central district is 4.54 min. and the north district is 7.45 min.

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In 2014, strictly EMS calls (does not include motor vehicle accidents) town-wide 1490 with average arrival time of 6.41 min. and in the southern district 626 calls with average on scene time of 5.57 min.

Motor vehicle accidents town-wide that the Fire Department responded to in 2014 equals 217 with average response of 5.53 min. and in the south 135 of those with average of 6.2 min.

Fire calls 902 town-wide and 559 of those were in the southern district.

In 2013, 1,600 town-wide EMS calls and 663 of those in south with average response time of 5.53 minutes.

Motor vehicle accidents 198 town-wide and 129 in the south.

Fire calls 701 town-wide and 430 in the south with average of 7.27 min.

In 2012, 1,559 and 577 in the south end with response time of just over 5 min.

187 motor vehicles accidents with 109 in the south end.

Fire calls 727 with 435 in the south.

In 2011, 1,520 EMS, 608 in the south district with average response time 5.24 min.

Motor vehicle accidents 176 with 103 in the south.

769 fire calls with 478 in the south district.

In 2010, 1,286 EMS calls, 539 in the south district.

Motor vehicle accidents 194 with 111 in south.

Fire calls 748 and 416 of those in the south.

In 2009, 1,161 EMS calls with 525 of those in the south district.

Motor vehicle accidents 212 with 133 in the south.

Fire calls 251 with 149 in the south.

Mr. Campbell noted that overall, without question, the predominance of the calls are in the southern district, probably because of the majority of commercial and industrial property. Response times are fairly consistent with town-wide averages overall.

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Mr. Andrade asked about the national and state averages for response times.

Chief Healy said nationally it is within 8 minutes for a fire response, EMS within 4 minutes for first responder, ALS - an ambulance within 8 minutes. The state would follow the national average.

He is looking to redo the districts now that Banna is open.

Chairman Parker said there should be a work session within the next two or three months to make some decisions.

Mr. Cadime recommended they work on staffing because it is well below standards.

It will cost \$250,000 to fund Banna. Sixty-five percent of the budget goes to the schools. He said it becomes challenging on the Town side to balance that allocation of funds to get the staffing levels up to where it needs to be. He will have information on the Fire Department during budget time.

Chief Healy said that staffing doesn't meet the national standards. National standards on Engine Company is 4; Seekonk has 2. There are only two firefighters at the north end fire station so for an EMS call they either take the ambulance or fire truck. The ladder truck has nobody on it. The national average is 2.

Mr. Andrade felt that residents were told the public safety building when it was built would satisfy the entire town.

Mr. Brady said it was made based on the fact that they had trashed a study that was done for two buildings. The feeling was that one building in the center of town could service the entire town.

Mr. Cadime said the first step is to find out how to properly staff fire and police and how to get the funding for that. The Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee have to discuss what to do from a revenue standpoint and how to divide the revenues.

Mr. Almeida thanked Mr. Campbell and Chief Healy. He felt the response times to the south end are excellent. He felt they should wait until the Chief is ready to meet.

Chief Healy said he can get the information for May.

Award Pavement Reclamation Bid or not to Murray Paving & Reclamation, Inc.

Board members commended Mr. Lamoureux for the work DPW did during the snow storms.

Mr. Lamoureux recommended awarding the contracts.

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Murray Paving & Reclamation, Inc. in the amount of \$1.43 sq. yd. The contract extends from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2018 with the option of two additional one-year extensions.

Award Pavement Preservation and Related Work Bid or not to Sealcoating, Inc.

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Sealcoating, Inc. for a period from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018 with the option of two additional one-year extensions.

Award Bituminous Concrete Overlay Bid or not to Cardi Corporation

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Cardi Corporation, for a period from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018 with the option for two additional one-year extensions.

Award Hot In Place Asphalt Bid or not to Highway Rehabilitation Corp.

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Highway Rehabilitation Corp. for a period from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018 with the option for two additional one-year extensions.

Award Cold Planing Bid or not to Costello Industries

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Costello Industries for a period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015 with the option for two additional one-year extensions.

The order of business moved to:

Discussion Regarding Area Hotels

Mr. Andrade asked to have this put on the agenda. He said it seems like Seekonk is in the news for arrests made in hotels in this town. He asked if there is any way to curb the negative media attention without hurting local businesses.

Mr. Cadime said the Chief and he have had several conversations on this. Police are checking registers at hotels on a daily basis.

Chief Craig Mace stated it has been going on for decades. Internet has become more prevalent. Human trafficking has been going on for decades. People who commit crimes elsewhere come to Seekonk hotels to hide or worse. Hotels are abiding by the laws and cooperating. He is proud of what the officers are doing. They can only do so much; these people have constitutional rights.

Discussion Regarding Drug Paraphernalia

Mr. Andrade said he noticed marijuana pipes, etc. in a store.

Chief Mace said police went to 17 establishments and identified five in violation. It is a complicated matter.

Mr. Andrade commended the police and also businesses for their cooperation.

Discussion and Vote to Advertise for Part Time Clerk in Planning

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

VOTED: To post internally and advertise the part time clerk position in the Planning Department.

Discussion on Town Website

- 1. More user friendly**
- 2. RFPs/RFQ Site**

Mr. Andrade would like to have the RFPs and RFQs posted on the website. He added that there are multiple pages on the website regarding the same thing. He felt the website should be streamlined.

Mr. Cadime said he hasn't checked to see if every department is up to date. He agreed the website should be streamlined and user friendly.

Mr. Almeida suggested using the IT person that is supposed to work for the School Department and Town.

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Mr. Sagar complained about calling the main number that is on the website for Town Hall. There is no reference to Conservation, Veterans Services, or Human Services.

Mr. Brady said there should be a service agreement when the phones were purchased.

Chairman Parker noted that some of the offices in Town Hall do not have a license for access to the website.

There was discussion about the amount paid for the IT person who doesn't do much at Town Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR;S REPORT

Mr. Cadime said he would like to have a preliminary budget by the first meeting in April. There will be a public hearing on fees on March 25th.

Mr. Brady asked about fees for the School Department.

Mr. Cadime said the schools have a revolving account.

Mr. Brady said the Board should know how much money is being brought in by all departments and report to the citizens.

Mr. Cadime said the balance should be done on the warrant articles for Town Meeting. He said the outside auditor should also come before the Board to give a complete picture.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Andrade stated that the items he brought up earlier were not criticism. He was trying to bring dialog. He talked about having calls transferred to another person.

He asked for an update on relocation of tenants at the proposed senior center.

Mr. Cadime said nothing yet.

Mr. Almeida noted that he previously talked about a tri-board meeting. He felt they need to meet now. In talking to parents, there seems to be a lot of misinformation out there.

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Mr. Brady was emphatic that he will never vote for an override vote.

Mr. Almeida complained about the sidewalks on Olney Street.

Mr. Sagar wanted information on GATRA as part of the budget.

Mr. Cadime said he sent his evaluation to all Board members.

Mr. Brady advised that Mr. Sagar, Mr. Cadime and he met with representatives of the library and the Veterans Memorial Committee. They will continue to meet. From now on, all communication will go through Mr. Cadime to Mr. Fuller at the library.

Mr. Andrade felt it is always good to have one point of communication.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:52 p.m., Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session for update on contract negotiations with AFSCME for DPW and Dispatch, update on contract negotiations with United Steelworkers for Clerical and Supervisory, update on contract negotiations with Mass. Teachers Association Library Affiliate for Library, and discussion on pending litigation for Banna Fire Station; not to reconvene to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary