

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 8, 2015
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Parker, Nelson Almeida, David Andrade,
Michael Brady, David Viera

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 advised 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.

He welcomed Mr. Viera, newly elected member of the Board. Mr. Viera had served on the Board in the past.

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, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Property Tax Work-Off Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chairman Parker added the Town Moderator is looking for volunteers to serve on the By-law Review Committee.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To continue with the present officers, as follows:
David Parker, Chairman; Nelson Almeida, Vice Chairman; and
David Andrade, Clerk.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Hearing on Municipal Aggregation Documents

Chairman Parker opened the hearing at 6:04 p.m.

Finance Director Bruce Alexander and John O'Rourke from Good Energy were in attendance.

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Mr. Cadime noted that residents had voted at the Town Meeting in November to go into this agreement for aggregate electric.

Mr. Alexander explained that this started last year by SRPEDD. It includes 17 towns and cities. They solicited proposals from energy aggregates and companies. Six companies were interested and Good Energy was the successful bidder.

Mr. O'Rourke responded to questions from Board members.

He said they can't go out to bid until September because they have to go through a comprehensive process with the Department of Energy Resources and the Department of Public Utilities. Leading up to that time, they will have some indicative pricing. They don't know where it will be; but, it will be better than utility pricing on an annual basis. They do a competitive bid to get the best price and best terms. There are almost 200,000 households that will be in the aggregation within the SRPEDD region and outside. It will be substantial buying and the price should be very competitive.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that everybody under National Grid will get information leading to a 30-day opt out period. They will be informed about the rate as compared to National Grid. Anytime after that, they can opt out with no penalty. In the case of disruption in service, it would be the responsibility of National Grid.

He said the local company is strictly making money on transmission, distribution, and delivery.

Mr. Al Silva said he is saving about \$56 per month with another company.

Mr. O'Rourke cautioned people not to sign anything beyond six months.

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

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR DEPARTMENTAL FEES

This is a continuation of the public hearing of March 25, 2015.

Chairman Parker reopened the hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Cadime distributed updated rates for Parks and Recreation. Increases were mostly for non-residents and decreases for residents. It appears the reductions will be offset by the increases. He recommended approval as submitted.

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

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VOTED: To close the public hearing at 6:21 p.m. and accept the entire fee schedule as presented.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Discussion and Vote to Accept a Donation of a Motor Vehicle for Firearms Training for the Seekonk Police Department

Chief Mace advised it is a gift from a dispatcher of a 2000 Ford Taurus. It will not be registered; just towed back and forth to the range.

Chief Mace and Mr. Cadime recommended the acceptance.

Chairman Parker thanked the donor on behalf of the Board.

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

VOTED: To accept the donation of a 2000 Ford Taurus for firearms training for the Seekonk Police Department.

Discussion and Vote to Reappoint Christine N. DeFontes to the Position of Treasurer/Collector for a Term of Three (3) Years

Mr. Cadime noted the last appointment was on April 25, 2012. She was originally appointed on May 2, 2003.

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Christine N. DeFontes as Treasurer/Collector for a term of three (3) years.

Prior to the vote, Chairman Parker noted the Mrs. DeFontes has saved the Town well over \$1M in interest.

Mr. Brady said this is a case where people in the bargaining unit are treated differently. It is an injustice in the Charter that needs to be remedied and has to be addressed going forward.

Mr. Almeida thanked her for 15 years of service in Seekonk.

Discussion and Vote to Sign the Emergency Signal Installation Project Agreement for Taunton Avenue/Public Safety Drive

Town Engineer David Cabral explained that the contract was approved to form by Kopelman & Paige. It is in the amount of \$92,785 for construction and installation. It needs to be signed by

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a representative of the Board and the contractor.

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

VOTED: To accept and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract with Electric Company for the emergency signal installation at Taunton Avenue and Public Safety Drive.

Mr. Cabral said that discussion came up at the department head meeting about adding surveillance cameras. It would be about \$5,000.

Discussion and Vote to Sign a Letter of Support for Luther's Corner Project and Forward to Mass DOT

Mr. Cabral said this is a support letter for construction. It is at 25% design.

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

VOTED: That all members of the Board sign the endorsement of the Luther's Corner project and forward to Mass. DOT.

Mr. Almeida asked if there would be any inconvenience to the businesses.

Mr. Cabral replied there would not be any severe impact to the businesses. It would allow more efficient moving of the traffic.

Mr. Almeida asked about enforcement cameras.

Mr. Brady said he does not know of any community in Massachusetts that has that. He was unsure whether it would be enforceable and what provision of the state law it would fall under.

Discussion and Vote to Award a Contract and Sign a Notice of Award for Environmental Monitoring Services for Both Landfill Locations

Mr. Cadime advised 31 bids were submitted.

Mr. Lamoureux said all bidders got the same bid package with the same specifications. They know they have to meet Mass. DEP requirements.

Mr. Andrade didn't like the huge discrepancy in bids.

Mr. Cadime agreed. He recommended moving forward with Mr. Lamoureux's recommendation.

Mr. Lamoureux said this is water sampling and gas monitoring services at each location.

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Civil & Environmental Consultants of 31 Bellows Road, Raynham, MA for environmental monitoring services at both landfills in the amount of \$67,240 for three years, as recommended.

Mr. Lamoureux had Notices of Awards to be signed by the Board for contracts previously approved.

Discussion and Vote to Forward Mass DOT a Letter Requesting the Installation of a Crosswalk on Fall River Avenue and Ledge Road

Mr. Lamoureux advised this is at the request of the School Department as a safety measure for high school students who walk in that area.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Town Administrator to sign a letter and any other documents requesting the installation of a crosswalk on Fall River Avenue and Ledge Road.

Discussion and Vote on Accepting Additional Funding for Chapter 90 - Winter Recovery Assistance Program Funding and Approval of Project Plan

Mr. Cadime recommended approval.

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

VOTED: To approve the pavement management plan using \$290,000 of winter assistance program funding and forward a letter to Mass. DOT to approve the Chapter 90 project .

Mr. Brady thanked the Governor for forwarding the additional monies.

Mr. Viera asked if there is a plan to take care of the rest of the streets, such as County Street and Chestnut Street.

Mr. Lamoureux said that last July he sent a memo to the Board outlining the amount of money received from Chapter 90. It falls short of the amount needed to take care of the Town's needs. The Town has been getting about \$580,000 to maintain those roads. He tries to do as many miles of roads as possible using various strategies and projects. The Town does not give him money for road improvements.

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With regard to County Street, Mr. Cadime said there is a trench that is the responsibility of Columbia Gas.

Mr. Lamoureux noted that Columbia Gas was supposed to take care of that. Part of the roadway is falling apart as well. Columbia Gas doesn't feel responsible for that.

Mr. Brady suggested that Columbia Gas should rethink that statement or they will never cut another road in Seekonk.

Mr. Viera said there are issues on Newman Avenue; 90% of the gas main was in the shoulder of the road.

Mr. Lamoureux replied that Columbia Gas is aware of that.

He advised that he will use the \$290,000 to do crack filling in the roads and Lincoln Street.

Mr. Almeida talked about the condition of sidewalks on Olney Street.

Mr. Lamoureux said that is part of the problem of not having the funding - doing sidewalks would take away from the road miles he can do.

He just received information on a road rating study done by SRPEDD, which he will forward to Mr. Cadime for Board members.

Mr. Cadime said that sidewalks have to be done as part of the road work.

Mr. Brady talked about mailboxes on sidewalks.

Mr. Cadime said that has stopped. Mailboxes have to be properly placed or the postal service will not deliver the mail.

He said that every municipality is faced with insufficient Chapter 90 funding to maintain roadways.

Discussion and Vote on Appointing the Position of Building Inspector as ADA Coordinator

Mr. Cadime recommended the building inspector as the ADA Coordinator. He will check to see if it is a requirement that the ADA coordinator has to be listed on all agendas.

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

VOTED: To appoint the building inspector as the ADA Coordinator, contingent on speaking with the employee and union.

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Discussion and Vote to Allow the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers a Right-of Entry on Parcel 024.0-0000-0642.0 for Military Munitions Remediation at the Rumford Rifle Range

Mr. Cadime said he got a letter from the Department of the Army requesting to gain access to property off of Dexter Avenue. They will be doing remediation for ammunition that might be in the ground and some of it may be on Town property. They would give at least ten days notice. The actual clean up phase is two years. If they have to dig up the property, it will be restored to the way they found it. He recommended approval.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Department of the Army Right of Entry for Remedial Investigation on Non-Federal Public Lands.

Vote to Accept the Resignation of Firefighter Nicholas Mancini

A motion was made by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Viera, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Nicholas Mancini. with regret. as firefighter/paramedic effective March 12, 2015.

Discussion and Vote to Forward the Water Resource Protection District By-Law to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing

Atty. Jack Jacobi, Bob Bernardo and members of the Water District were in attendance.

Atty. Jacobi advised they have written a proposed new bylaw. They divided the district into a well protection zone, a ground water protection zone, and an aquifer protection zone. They delineated what would be allowed, what would not be allowed, and what would be allowed by permit. They adopted performance and design standards for all activities. Public sessions were held for residents. The Planning Board agreed with the language.

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

VOTED: To forward the Water Resource Protection District By-Law to the Planning Board for a public hearing.

Mr. Viera, as a member of the Planning Board, said there were some language changes and the Planning Board supports the by-law as written.

Mr. Almeida thanked the Water Board for protecting the Town's water for the future.

Mr. Robert Fuller, a member of the Water Commission, noted the Water District has spent about \$200,000 on the entire project.

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Mrs. Christine Allen, a member of the Water Commission, said it is time to protect the Town's most valuable asset - the Seekonk Water District wells. It is a small area in the north end of town. She urged people to support it at the June Town Meeting.

Discussion to Vote to Amend General By-Law Category 5B-C from April 1 to February 1

Mr. Cadime noted that a prior member of the Board had requested this. He does not recommend it.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime congratulated Asst. Assessor Lydia Cordeiro, who completed the course requirements and has become certified as a Massachusetts Assessor's Officer.

Board members congratulated her.

Mr. Cadime commended the Assessors' office staff.

He asked Chief Healy to come up with a plan to work out with the Water District to check all fire hydrants and identify where the flow is. Broken hydrants will be repaired by the Water District.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS AND COMMENTS

With regard to his comments at an earlier meeting regarding local hotels, Mr. Andrade noted that the same problem is happening in Warwick, RI.

Mr. Cadime advised that Chief Mace will be reaching out to the chief in Warwick. The two hotels are corporate owned and not a franchise.

Mr. Almeida thanked residents who voted in the recent election and the poll workers. He congratulated all candidates – winners and losers.

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Mr. Viera thanked the residents who supported him in his endeavor to come back to the Board of Selectmen. He will talk to the Town Administrator about concerns he heard during the campaign. He felt they need to get more people out to vote and attend Town Meeting.

Chairman Parker reminded successful candidates that they have to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Brady advised that T-shirts are being sold at \$15 each to support the canine program. He noted that Officer Laprade has done an excellent job with Kilo. Shirts can be obtained from the Town Clerk or calling the police station and leaving a message for Officer Laprade.

He asked about the new DPW truck. Also, the ladder truck for the Fire Department should arrive in September or October.

Mr. Cadime replied the DPW truck was ordered and should be here in about a month.

Chairman Parker noted that Mr. Viera will once again be in charge of the Memorial Day Parade. The committee could use financial help.

Mr. Brady suggested money could be transferred after May 15th. It is a worthy cause.

Mr. Viera said they have \$1,800; they need \$5,000.

Mr. Cadime said there might also be money in his budget.

Mr. Viera wanted to include a line item in the Board of Selectmen budget to support this every year.

At 7:33 p.m. Mr. Almeida motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3) and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Steelworkers – Supervisors and Clerical, AFSCME – Dispatch and DPW, and AFT – Library as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3); not to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Chairman Parker – Abstained. He would not participate in collective bargaining.

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary