

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 22, 2015
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. He announced that meetings will start at 7 p.m. during the summer months.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Brady announced that volunteers are needed on the Animal Control Building Committee, By-Laws Review Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Property Tax Work-Off Committee, Recycling Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Chairman Parker advised that the Board met in Executive Session on Monday, April 13, to consider whether to counter offer in the event Mr. Cadime was offered employment in another community. That did happen, and the Board met again in Executive Session on April 16 to consider an acceptable contract which would keep Mr. Cadime in Seekonk. Consideration was given to the cost involved in a town administrator search and interim town administrator. The Board unanimously voted (5 to 0) in Executive Session and ratified and signed in Open Session for a three year contract effective April 23, 2015. The salary will be effective July 1, 2015 subject to Town Meeting approval. The salary he accepted to stay in Seekonk is less than the offer in Somerset.

Chairman Parker said that Board members felt they did what is right for the Town of Seekonk. Mr. Cadime's skills are the highest of any town administrator they've had in Seekonk. His knowledge of both sides of government will serve Seekonk well.

Mr. Cadime thanked the Board for allowing him to stay in Seekonk. This was the right fit. There is more excitement and fulfillment for him to stay in Seekonk. He has a great relationship with the Board. Employees from department heads to support staff are great.

Mr. Brady mentioned that, in the three terms he has served, the Board has been criticized for not having continuity. He felt this is the best for the Town of Seekonk.

Mr. Andrade agreed.

Mr. Viera is glad to finally bring stability to that office.

LICENSE HEARING

Consider Approval or not of an Antique & Second Hand License for James Waterman III, d/b/a Synergy Metals Recycling to be located at 1741 Fall River Avenue

Mr. Waterman responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Viera noted that is a very wet area and asked about precautions to make sure there is no contamination of the soil.

Mr. Waterman said the owner of the property will put in a concrete slab in the front and the back won't be used right now. If it will be used in the future, he would have someone check to see what can be done. The concrete slab will be where the dumpsters sit.

Mr. Almeida was glad to see another vacant site being filled.

Mr. Almeida motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the antique and second hand license for James Waterman III, d/b/a Synergy Metals Recycling to be located at 1741 Fall River Avenue, subject to all required approvals.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Discussion and Update on Motel 6

Mr. Cadime advised that Chief Mace and he attended a meeting in Warwick, RI where two corporate officials came in from Texas. There was discussion about individuals fronting hotel and motel rooms to other individuals. They talked about cameras and training for hotel staff and a "do not rent list" to be shared at other motels as well. Motel 6 would scan the registration list to the Police Department.

Chief Mace said it was a productive meeting. He appreciated the cooperation. They were welcomed by the mayor. They had time to share their concerns. There have been fugitives and suspected murdered in the motels. It is not the fault of the motels. The general manager and employees are very good. It is the clientele. Police will be included in meetings with hotel staff.

He said the Seekonk Police Department is a member of the regional Homeland Security Taskforce.

Mr. Andrade and Mr. Almeida expressed their appreciation to Motel 6 management for their cooperation and to Mr. Cadime and Chief Mace for attending the meeting in Warwick.

Mr. Viera suggested setting up a task force with other hotels and motels

Chief Mace said it is unfortunate that hotels and motels do not have a clearinghouse.

Discussion on Panhandling

Mr. Cadime said the problem seems to be reoccurring. The question is what to do. It is discouraging and a deterrent to businesses.

Chief Mace explained that up until 2013 the technical terms for arrests were vagrants or transients. It changed during the summer of 2013 and an arrest was thrown out of court. They cannot be arrested. Capt. John and he have been going through different statutes. Officers move people along but they cannot arrest, charge or harass them. He suggested contacting town counsel.

Chairman Parker suggested if someone is harassed they should call the police and let them follow up.

Mr. Brady stated that our Constitution in Massachusetts is far more protective of rights of citizens than the U. S. Constitution. He suggested if it bothers you avert your eyes.

Mr. Viera commended Chief Mace.

Mr. Almeida said the only complaint he has heard is that they are on Route 6.

Discussion, Update, and Vote or not on Seekonk Speedway Rules and Regulations for 2015

Chief Mace went through the revisions. The most significant is allowing spectator drags on regular nights instead of special events or thrill show.

Chief Mace and Chief Healy approved of the revisions.

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

VOT ED: To accept the updates on the Seekonk Speedway rules and regulations for 2015 as presented.

Update on Fire Department Vehicles

Chairman Parker asked about the condition of town ambulances.

Chief Healy explained that Rescue 1 (2005 Ford) had a problem recently. It took awhile to determine the problem. In the meantime, the newer vehicle, Rescue 4 (2012 Ford) blew the turbo. Both are back in service. He has a Rescue 3 (2007). Rescue 2 is out of service and will be sold. In the capital plan for next year, he is requesting a new ambulance. It is funded through the ambulance receipts account.

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Mr. Cadime referred to the capital improvement plan included in the agenda packet. There is an ambulance lease for \$255,000 for FY 2016.

Chief Healy noted that mutual aid coming into town has decreased considerably. The Town is still available to provide mutual aid elsewhere.

Chairman Parker asked about the impact of the new Banna Fire Station. He suggested a work session this summer to discuss the need in the south end.

Chief Healy replied that he needs about six months to provide adequate statistics on Banna. He doesn't see the need for a south end station at this time. He felt they need to look at staffing.

Update and Discussion on GATRA Transportation

Postponed.

Consider Reappointment of Robert Lamoureux and David Cabral to JTPG

Mr. Cadime recommended.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Robert Lamoureux as delegate and David Cabral as alternate to the Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG).

Consider Reappointment of Steven D'Amico as BOS Representative to SRPEDD

Mr. Cadime recommended.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Steven D'Amico as the Board of Selectmen representative to SRPEDD.

It was noted the Planning Board needs to appoint a representative.

Consider Reappointment of a Board of Selectmen Member to Bristol County Advisory Board

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

VOTED: To reappoint David Andrade as the Board's representative to the Bristol County Advisory Board.

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Mr. Viera asked why the individuals were not in attendance.

Mr. Almeida noted that about two years ago the Board agreed not to require attendance if it was a reappointment.

The consensus of board members was that individuals should be in attendance. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Road Way Opening of a Recently Paved Road (Stone Ridge Subdivision off Walker Street) and Vote

Atty. Eric Brainsky was in attendance to represent the petitioner.

He congratulated Mr. Parker and Mr. Viera on their election. He mentioned that, as a business owner and taxpayer, he felt it was good decision to keep Mr. Cadime in Seekonk.

He explained this is a 10-12 lot subdivision project. They are looking for a 10'x5' patch on Walker Street and 10'x5' on Newman Avenue to run the town water line (100 sq. ft. of disturbance in Newman Avenue.)

They preliminary talked to Columbia Gas about doing gas at the same time.

Mr. Viera stated that the Planning Board suggested the developer look into running town water up Walker Street. It would benefit fire protection and also protect the aquifer district.

Mr. Andrade said there is a moratorium in effect for a reason. He asked about a bond to cover the remainder of the five years in case there is a failure of the patch work.

Atty. Brainsky felt his client would consider increasing the bond. That could be a condition of the approval and worked out with the Planning Board.

Mr. Almeida would have liked input from Mr. Lamoureux.

Mr. Cadime noted that Mr. Lamoureux has always been against opening a road after construction and he is consistent with that.

Mr. Almeida said there was a road opening on Fall River Avenue.

Mr. Cadime said it was done two days before they did the roadway.

He said there are a lot of factors going into it, such giving water to Walker Street and new growth from the developments represents additional revenue going for the Water District.

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Atty. Brainsky advised there isn't precedence for something like this. He understood the gas company did a patch work on Olney Street within the moratorium period.

Mr. Almeida felt the Board should be consistent.

Mr. Brady said he could see both sides.

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

VOTED: To approve the request to open the roadway for the Stone Ridge subdivision off Walker Street contingent that a bond is in place to cover the remainder of the moratorium and that prevailing wage rates are paid in accordance with Mass. DOT standards.

Mr. Andrade clarified for Atty. Brainsky that this concerns only the patch.

FY 2015 Third Quarter Budget Presentation

Mr. Cadime acknowledged Mr. Alexander, Mrs. DeFontes, and Mrs. Gabriel for their assistance. He noted that the presentation is available on line. They are on target and there are no major concerns.

He said that Mr. Alexander has been working with DPW and the School Department to implement the Comm. of Massachusetts Combuys, a new purchasing program. They have come down to give trainings and Mr. Alexander has been the contact for that. Mr. Alexander attended the Tri-County budget presentation for FY 16 and he has been assisting Mr. Cadime with the FY'16 budget review.

Mr. Cadime continued with the power point presentation.

Chairman Parker commended Mr. Cadime on the presentation.

Discussion on Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment and Vote

Mr. Cadime recommended to not reappointing Edward Grouke and Ronald Blum as per their request. Roger Ross will accept a three- year full member reappointment and Gary Sagar will accept a three-year reappointment as alternate. The Chairman of the ZBA recommended Shane Halajko as a three-year full member.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Roger C. Ross as full member and Gary S. Sagar as alternate member, pending further clarification.

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Discussion on Micro Managing

Mr. Almeida advised he requested this agenda item so that Board members can discuss the proper chain of command.

Chairman Parker noted that everything should go through the Town Administrator.

Mr. Cadime agreed. All communication for the Board should come through him so that he is fully aware of what is going on. He has told department heads. He will make copies of an MMA handbook.

Mr. Viera was interested in something geared more to Seekonk.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of February 25, 2015 and March 11, 2015

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept regular session minutes of February 25, 2015 and March 11, 2015.

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Robert Blanchard congratulated Board members and Mr. Cadime for the decision to keep Mr. Cadime in town. He felt it is good for Seekonk.

He noted it is too bad that only five people attended this meeting when the budget was reviewed.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime read a notice from the Water District re: Outdoor Water Management Program.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Andrade clarified that the Town's involvement with the consortium will not impact residents with solar power system. It will be at whatever rate negotiated by SRPEDD.

Mr. Cadime noted it was recommended that residents should not sign up for more than six months. Residents who sign up should make sure it is a reputable company.

If there are any questions about the consortium, he will contact Good Energy.

Mr. Viera asked about plans for solar energy for the Town.

Mr. Cadime advised there is a firm doing an energy audit. They are looking at everything. They estimated a savings of \$80,000 per year so far. This company can tap into incentives from National Grid and other companies.

He said they have talked about Maple Avenue as a great location for solar.

He noted this firm is not guaranteed any work. It will be an RFQ.

Mr. Viera asked for an update on the senior center and animal shelter.

Mr. Cadime advised they should have sample drawings for the senior center by next week.

This would be the third time an RFP went out for the animal shelter. The last time nobody showed up for the mandatory site visit. Nadeau Corp. might be interested.

Chairman Parker noted that the Board has never given out the Seekonk tiles to retirees.

There will be a budget presentation at the May 6 meeting.

Mr. Almeida asked about the Tri-Board meeting.

Mr. Cadime will follow up again.

At 9:31 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Almeida, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the following bargaining units as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3) Steelworkers for supervisors and clerical, AFSCME for dispatch and DPW, AFT for library; and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of February 25, 2015, March 11, 2015, and April 13, 2015; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary