

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 6, 2015
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Parker opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Almeida announced that volunteers are needed on the Animal Control Building Committee (1 member appointed by the moderator), Capital Improvement Committee (3 members appointed by the moderator), Conservation Commission (2 members), Cultural Council (1 member), Economic Development Committee (1 member), Energy Committee (3 members), Finance Committee (2 members appointed by the moderator), Historical Commission (2 members), Planning Board (1 joint appointment), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 members), and Zoning Board of Appeals (2 alternate members as of June 2015).

Chairman Parker advised that T-shirts are available for purchase at \$15 each to support the canine unit (Kilo). Shirts are available at the Town Clerk's office or by calling the Police Department.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Discussion with Fire Chief on Hiring of Two Firefighters and Vote to Authorize or not Conditional Offers of Employment – Scott Godin and Michael Smith

Fire Chief Michael Healy advised that he has been recruiting to fill two openings for firefighter/paramedics. A written test was held on Saturday, April 18, and the agility test later. Four people passed and qualified for an interview. He would like to offer employment to these two individuals.

Michael Smith is currently a licensed paramedic. He would have to pass psychological and physical with drug screening, a CORI check and department background check. He would have to move within a 15 mile radius within six months of hire.

Mr. Cadime recommended.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Michael Smith,
with conditions as described by the Chief.

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Scott Godin is currently an EMT. He would have to pass the same screening and become a paramedic within a year of appointment.

Mr. Cadime recommended.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Scott Godin, with conditions as described by the Chief.

Both individuals will have to sign a letter in accordance with Local 1931 that any new employee who leaves within five years of employment has to reimburse the town \$5,000.

Moderator Appointments to Boards and Committees

Moderator Michelle Hines recommended Lee Cassidy for the animal control building committee. He has 25 years construction experience and would like to see this get off the ground.

Appointments for the Finance Committee were tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Hines will notify the two individuals that they should be in attendance.

Ms. Hines advised that Larry Ransom does not want to be reappointed to the Capital Improvement Committee.

She appointed Susan and Steven Rutter. They felt they could contribute to the town. Mrs. Rutter's term will expire in 2018. Mr. Rutter's will expire in 2016.

Ms. Hines advised they have to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

She does not have enough people on the by-law review committee. It is two year's overdue and by-laws should be reviewed on a regular basis. Interested individuals should submit a talent bank form.

Consider or not Appointments of Gary Sagar and Shane Halajko to Zoning Board of Appeals as Full Members as of June 1, 2015

Mr. Cadime recommended.

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

VOTED: To appoint Gary Sagar and Shane Halajko to the Zoning Board of Appeals as full members as of June 1, 2015.

Two alternates will be appointed in June.

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Consider Reappointment of Douglas Brown to Tri County (BOS, Moderator and School Committee Appointment)

Mr. Cadime advised the Board needs to meet with the moderator and School Committee. Deferred until the meeting of May 20, 2015.

Consider Approval or not the Request from Holy Ghost Brotherhood to Use Taunton Avenue on Sunday, August 16, 2015

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

VOTED: To approve the request from the Holy Ghost Brotherhood to use Taunton Avenue on Sunday, August 16, 2015, beginning at 12 noon for approximately one hour.

Discussion and Vote or not on an Amendment to the Civil Engineer Portion of the Architectural Contract for the Senior Center

Mr. Cadime explained there are two issues. The first is that MBL did surveying of the property. We weren't able to get the full documents to the new architect so the civil engineer has to do a complete survey of the property at a cost of \$3,800. The second issue is there is an increase with the fire sprinklers. According to codes, the second floor has to be done at \$8,000 for that portion of the work.

Mr. Andrade said all of that should have been included in the original contract.

Mr. Cadime said they did not do the site survey. There have been several attempts to contact MBL. They refused to release documents. They are saying that it is intellectual property that engineers do not release.

Mr. Brady said to notify Kopelman & Paige to have them contact MBL. The Town paid for those documents and is entitled to them.

Building Committee Chairman David Bowden explained the firm that did some of the work in the beginning wouldn't sign off and the current one working for the architect said it has to be signed for.

Also, the building is being renovated for the senior center excluding the two levels of office space. However, the building inspector indicated the sprinkler system has to be designed for the entire building.

Mr. Cadime recommended entering into an agreement with Pare Corporation. It would save the Town 10% by going with Pare vs. Brewster Thornton Group.

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

VOTED: To enter into a contract with Pare Corporation for Amendment No. 1 in the amount of \$3,800.

Mr. Cadime recommended an amendment to the contract with Brewster Thornton Group.

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

VOTED: To amend the contract with Brewster Thornton Group in the amount of \$8,610.

To Accept, with regret, the Resignation of John Santos as Building Commissioner, Effective May 15, 2015

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

VOTED: To accept, with regret, the resignation of John Santos as Building Commissioner, effective May 15, 2015.

To Accept, with regret, the Resignation of Seth Bai as Veterans Agent, Effective May 15, 2015

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

VOTED: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Seth Bai as Veterans Service Officer, effective May 15, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2016 Budget Presentation

Finance Director Bruce Alexander was in attendance.

Mr. Cadime advised that the budget presentation is available on the website. He thanked department heads for their cooperation and hard work.

He noted the FY 2016 budget is about growth and sustainability. It assumes there will be an increase in the tax levy to 2.5%, an increase in new growth, an increase in motor vehicle excise tax, an increase in local receipts and successor agreements for collective bargaining agreements. He is currently negotiating with bargaining units.

Budget priorities include an increase to 40 officers in the Police Department over the next three years, an increase to 47 in the Fire Department within the next three to five years, two full time

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dispatchers around the clock, a full time Parks and Recreation Director, and part time secretary for the Veteran's office.

Due tot the resignation of the Veterans Service Officer, Mr. Almeida suggesting regionalizing that position. A part time secretary might not be needed.

Mr. Cadime advised that the State will come down and do an audit. It might be possible to have an individual on a part time basis to service veterans.

Mr. Viera noted that any veteran who needs services can go to the Providence office or the Veterans Hospital in Providence.

Mr. Cadime advised the FY 2016 budget is balanced at \$48,395,623, a 5.96% increase. The general fund is \$47,226,408, a 6.07% increase and Sanitation Enterprise Fund at \$1,169,215, a 1.8% increase.

State Aid is at \$6,357,565, Tax Levy - \$37,041,925, Local Receipts - \$1,775,000, Motor Vehicle Excise - \$1,900,000, and Other Sources - \$1,021,888.

Further information in attached budget.

Mr. Cadime noted that DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux will be retiring as of July 10, 2015. He thanked and wished him well.

With respect to the Board of Health, Mr. Brady said he would be in favor of two part time inspectors with no benefits.

Mr. Almeida asked for a breakdown of residents compared to non-residents who use the library.

During discussions about the School Department, Mr. Brady said, when his son started school, there were almost 2,500 students. Enrollment will now be 1,931. Yet during that same time the budget has increased by \$9M and they are adding 21 new full time employees. He felt there is an accountability problem in the district. The Town was credited for almost \$28M. He is not seeing it in the classroom.

Mr. Cadime noted that this budget does not include collective bargaining.

Mr. Brady was concerned because the Board cannot get together with School Committee members.

Mr. Viera said the parents don't understand. They believe what they are hearing that the Board of Selectmen is not giving the School Department the money.

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Mr. Almeida noted that a nearby school district has had a budget \$1M less for 11 consecutive years and that district has full day kindergarten.

Mr. Viera suggested that Mr. Cadime should explain to the PTOs.

Chairman Parker said when people are hired mid-year that figure doubles the following year.

Mr. Brady asked for the MUNIS budget because it breaks down items within departments.

Mr. Viera wanted to make sure there is enough money for overtime in the Fire Department budget.

Discussion and Vote on Warrant Articles for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting

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

VOTED: To include Article 1 (reports) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting and reserve endorsement after hearing reports.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 2 (budget) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 3 (revolving funds) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include Article 4 (salaries for elected officials) on the warrant for the June 15 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 5 (\$10,000 transfer from dog licenses) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 6 (stabilization fund) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 7 (free cash) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 8 (Community Preservation fund) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 9 (disposal of surplus property) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 10 (borrow in anticipation of revenue) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 11 (transfer from free cash to snow and ice) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include Article 12 (number of Finance Committee members) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: Not to endorse Article 12.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 13 (trails) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 14 (Right of First Refusal – KOC) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 15 (\$69,000 for purchase of 2 monitor/defibrillators) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 16 (reduction in real estate and personal property taxes for Mass. National Guard or military reservists) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include Article 17 (nine member charter commission) voter petition on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To include Article 18 (\$50,000 for Veterans Memorial Park) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera stated the committee felt this was the easiest way to get it on the warrant. The project will be \$300,000. It is broken down into phases. They are in the process of raising funds.

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

VOTED: To include and endorse Article 19 (Aquifer Protection Bylaw) on the warrant for the June 15, 2015 Town Meeting.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of March 25, 2015, April 8, 2015 and April 16, 2015

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of March 25, 2015.

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

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of April 8 and April 16, 2015.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Alves asked for an update on the Old Town Hall. He noted it has been six months since the vote to dispose of it.

Mr. Cadime said they have got to talk to the tribe about the lease agreement.

Mr. Almeida said an RFP was supposed to go out to everybody. He felt they are catering to one particular group.

Mr. David Bowden talked about the tenants at the new senior center location. He said it is a travesty to the towns' people to have to pay the amount of money for relocation. He did not want to mention the cost.

Mr. Almeida said he wanted the tenants removed prior to purchasing the building.

Mr. Bowden suggested they contact legal and look at the numbers.

Mr. Bob Blanchard said negotiations keep on changing re: the Old Town Hall.

Mr. Brady noted that the Town has done everything obligated to do. The options are to enforce the lease or dissolve it.

Mr. Blanchard was concerned that the tribe might not get the money.

In that case, Mr. Brady said it should revert back to the Town.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime advised that Rep. Howitt was able to get the \$50,000 grant for the opticom light at the public safety complex.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Andrade talked about complaints from Carters Way residents concerning Lynch Corp. in East Providence.

Mr. Cadime said the Conservation Agent was out there last week. There is no debris. The Building Commissioner is waiting to hear from the Building Commissioner in East Providence.

Mr. Viera suggested residents call the East Providence police to complain.

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Mr. Viera asked about the cost of legal fees per year.

Mr. Cadime said \$110,000. It is about \$125.00 per hour.

Mr. Viera felt they should go out for a RFP or hire a staff attorney for three days a week.

Chairman Parker noted that Kopelman & Paige has lawyers that specialize in all areas.

Mr. Viera was in favor of the part time secretary for the Veterans' Service Officer.

He announced that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2015, stepping off at 10 a.m. from the high school. He invited individuals and groups who want to participate. The American Legion will provide free hot dogs and hamburgers following the parade.

Mr. Cadime advised there is money to cover the costs of the parade.

Chairman Parker asked for projected costs for all phases of the Veterans Memorial Park.

At 10:17 p.m. Mr. Brady motioned, Mr. Andrade seconded, 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, and AFT for library and to review FY 2014 and FY 2015 executive session minutes and vote on whether they are ready for public release, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of March 25, 2015, April 8, 2015, and April 16, 2015; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary