

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 20, 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 7 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 recording audio and video.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Brady stated that volunteers are needed on the Animal Control Building Committee, By-Law Study Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Planning Board (joint appointment by Planning and Board of Selectmen), Property Tax Work-Off Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals (2 alternates needed in June).

The order of business moved to:

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion on Cemetery Sites

Town Clerk Janet Parker advised that she has been looking for town-owned land that could be used for a cemetery. She found land near the Legion and landfill. She spoke to Town Engineer David Cabral. He felt it would be a good site. There is direct access to that property.

The current cemetery is 5 acres and there are 2,900 graves there since the late 1800s. Mrs. Parker had maps showing other parcels of town-owned land.

Mr. Viera asked that Mr. Cabral look at the sites and get estimates on cost to prepare these sites. He also wanted an opinion from legal as to how to notify neighbors.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Issue Proclamations to Ted Grouke and Ron Blum for their Years of Service to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Tabled until later in the meeting.

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Upon his arrival, Mr. Viera presented a proclamation to Mr. Grouke.

Mr. Grouke stated that Chris Testa, secretary, made his job so much easier.

Consider Appointment of Mr. Scott Flaherty to the Position of Full Time Police Officer – Patrolman 3rd Class

Chief Craig Mace stated that on February 4, 2015 the Board approved the offer of employment for Mr. Flaherty. He successfully completed all prerequisites for becoming a full time police officer in Seekonk. He has already completed the academy. He will be in attendance at the June 3 meeting.

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

VOTED: To appoint Scott Flaherty as a full time police officer, Patrolman 3rd Class.

Sign Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) for the Senior Center and Banna Fire Station

Mr. Cadime advised the total cost is \$852,000 (\$52,000 for Banna renewal, \$200,000 for senior center renewal and \$600,000 new money for the senior center.) The interest rate is 0.50%.

He said the senior project is scheduled for completion in December 2015 or January 2016.

Documents were signed by Board members.

Moderator Reappointments to Boards and Committees

Town Moderator Michelle Hines appointed Dennis Toprac to the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee. The term expires in June 2017.

She noted that Mr. Toprac was interested in the Finance Committee but that number may be decreased to five at Town meeting. If that doesn't happen, he can reconsider the Finance Committee appointment.

Ms. Hines reappointed David Saad and Robert Richardson for another three-year term on the Finance Committee to expire in June 2018.

These individuals have to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Consider Reappointment of Sharon Hall as Animal Control Officer

Mr. Cadime recommended the reappointment.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To reappoint Sharon Hall as Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Brady was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Consider Reappointment of Darlene Christensen as Assistant Animal Control Officer

Mr. Cadime recommended the reappointment.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To reappoint Darlene Christensen as Assistant Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Brady was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Vote to Accept and Sign Warrant for Animal Control

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

VOTED: To sign the warrant for animal control.

Discussion and Update on Veterans Memorial Park Committee

Chairman Steve Arruda and Doreen Taylor were in attendance. Project Manager Joe Velardo arrived a little later.

Mr. Arruda explained that the warrant article was done quickly and just before the deadline.

Ms. Taylor said they have \$25,000 to work with. They hoped to have substantially more than that in order to break ground. The committee has decided to break it down in phases, subject to funding availability. There is a comprehensive plan on paper.

Mr. Arruda noted that they are getting pro-bono work done. They have asked Lowe's and Home Depot for donations of products. They were encouraged to put this article in to get some money to start this project.

Ms. Taylor said the bricks project was started ahead of time without a comprehensive plan in place. Money was collected at Town Hall but the project stopped.

Mr. Almeida asked what will happen with the bricks.

Mr. Arruda said they will honor those bricks. They will be using granite.

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Ms. Taylor said the information is on database. She knows who paid for them.

Chairman Parker noted that previously, when it was decided to move the memorial from Town Hall to the library site, a member of the memorial committee told the Board on two separate occasions that no taxpayer dollars would be used.

Mr. Arruda noted this is the first time he has come before the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Parker felt the article should have been put on the warrant by the Board of Selectmen. Voters will want to know how much money is involved.

Mr. Velardo estimated \$100,000 for Phase 1.

Ms. Taylor advised that about 500 letters were mailed out to get donations.

Mr. Brady noted that he has been the liaison. The committee has gotten money for other purposes. He suggested they be prepared to say what the \$50,000 is for.

Mr. Andrade felt that \$75,000 is a decent starting point.

Mr. Arruda noted that Mr. Cabral has worked countless hours for them. He marked exactly where the monument will go.

There was talk about volunteers doing work.

Mr. Almeida said they were supposed to put all head stones together at the monument. He thought it would be nice to have them all there.

He asked about available grants.

Mr. Arruda responded that they would look into that.

He doesn't have a problem with the head stones, but he hasn't discussed it with other committee members. He felt some families would want to keep the stones where they are. Their names will be on the monument.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget

Chairman Parker opened the public hearing at 8:26 p.m.

No comments.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To close the public hearing at 8:27 p.m.

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

Discussion and Vote on FY 2016 Budget

Mr. Viera stated that unfortunately the Board did not receive this document until Monday evening. It is a huge document to go through in a day and a half. He has a real problem with that. He felt it was unacceptable and he needs to know why.

Mr. Cadime noted a complete presentation was made to the Board at the last meeting. At Mr. Brady's request, all Board members got the MUNIS report on Thursday. He is available by phone and Mr. Viera never called. He is surprised with his concerns. He has talked about the budget on TV 9 and it is on line.

Mr. Viera responded that Mr. Cadime did an excellent job on the presentation. It is difficult to pay attention to the presentation without the document to refer to. Now that he has it, he sees a 6% increase in the budget.

Mr. Cadime said his presentation highlighted every single increase that there was.

Mr. Viera questioned whether that increase could be supported in future years.

Mr. Cadime stated that he built the budget on growth and sustainability. He is trying to instill a different mindset with department heads with regard to how to look at budgets. Department heads will monitor their revenue at least on a monthly basis. Seventy percent of revenue goes to the schools. It will be 6% for this year and next and everything else will level off because there hasn't been increase and adjustments in staffing levels since the 80s.

He felt this is a very good budget. Public safety has done tremendous but it is not enough. He pointed to the years they maintained a zero percent increase and with the schools it is not easy to close the budget gap.

Mr. Cadime reassured that this budget provides growth and maintains sustainability.

Mr. Andrade said those points were highlighted during the presentation.

Mr. Brady expressed concern that the school budget doesn't have any funds for raises and is still in negotiations.

Mr. Cadime said he was informed by the Supt. of Schools and School Committee that they would be able to fund the raises for FY'15 and FY'16 within their budget.

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Chairman Parker was surprised that the amount for raises was included in the budget. He said it was never done previously. However, he did not have a problem with that.

Mr. Cadime said he is ratifying contracts right now.

In reviewing the budget, Mr. Viera wanted to see justification for a full time Recreation Director. He noted that the library offers programs for adults and children.

Mr. Neal Rapp, Chairman of Parks and Recreation, stated that recreation is not just sports. They run several programs. Approximately 800 to 1,000 youngsters were serviced this year. Another 500 to 600 will participate in other programs. They need programs for adults in town. They need a full time director to take care of paperwork and expand programs.

Mr. Andrade asked if anybody had requested other activities.

Mr. Viera pointed out that a full time position would mean benefits. He suggested two part time people staggering the days.

Mr. Cadime stated the full time position was a budget priority from the Board.

Mr. Almeida said the director is paid less than \$20 per hour. It would cost about \$30 per hour with another part timer.

Mr. Viera noted that a family health plan costs about \$14,000 per year. With benefits, it would surpass the \$30 hourly rate.

Mr. Brady wanted to make sure there is coordination of programs run by other departments.

Mr. Andrade felt it has to be explored. He found it difficult to vote in favor of the full time position right now.

Mr. Almeida said he would support the recommendation of the Town Administrator. He felt the Board needs to address concerns with the Recreation staff.

Chairman Parker noted that Parks & Recreation didn't ask for this. The Board put it in the budget two years in a row and it was taken out. Mr. Cadime told the Board it was in the budget. The Board knew it was in the budget. He felt this is a sneak job.

Mr. Andrade said it sounds like the need is more time to get things done. It was a directive from the Board.

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

VOTED: To approve General Government budget in the amount of \$2,252,718, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve General Government – Legal budget in the amount of \$100,000, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Public Safety budget in the amount of \$7,293,097, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Education budget in the amount of \$24,580,209, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Highway and Streets budget in the amount of \$1,246,688, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Other Environmental budget at \$48,505, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Human Services budget in the amount of \$741,035, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Cultural and Recreation budget in the amount of \$1,001,195, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Debt and Interest budget in the amount of \$1,565,258, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve Other Fixed Costs budget in the amount of \$8,397,703, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve the total operating budget, not including sanitation enterprise fund, in the amount of \$47,226,408, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To approve the Sanitation Enterprise fund in the amount of \$1,169,215, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

VOTED: To submit to the Finance Committee and Town Meeting the Town Administrator's recommended budget in the amount of \$48,395,623.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of April 22, 2015

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of April 22, 2015.

Policy Discussion and Vote on Board Appointments

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

VOTED: To change the policy to read that all appointments and reappointments to boards and committees must attend the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Discussion and Vote on Town Meeting Warrant Articles, Sign Warrant

Chairman Parker wanted to know how the article to reduce the number of finance committee members got on the warrant. The Board was never asked about it.

Mr. Cadime said that all requests were on the draft.

There was discussion on quorums. Mr. Cadime will check it out.

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Mr. Cadime had two changes – Article 6, \$160,000 amount for the generator at the Martin School and to include the amount of the budget on Article 2.

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

VOTED: To approve the Town Meeting warrant with two changes - \$160,000 for the generator at Martin School and include the budget amount as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

The warrant was signed by board.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Cadime requested an emergency two-day appointment for a building inspector from Swansea. It concerns the safety of an elderly resident.

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

VOTED: To appoint William McGrady as building inspector for two days, effective May 20, 2015.

Mr. Cadime said it goes back to March 2015. The police report says it was condemned. There was no written documentation of that. The individual was in a facility in Brockton but was released and returned to her home. The former building inspector, police and fire went out there. The Board of Health did not.

Mrs. Huck is trying to find out what kind of services can be provided to this resident.

Mr. Brady stated that the Board of Health has 48 hours to explain why no one responded to this concern.

Mr. Andrade found it to be unacceptable.

Mr. Almeida said there are two part time inspectors in the Board of Health.

Mr. Cadime said not that he was comfortable with. He will provide the Board with a report.

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Mr. Almeida asked about cost for this building inspector.

Mr. Cadime replied that there is no charge with a mutual aid agreement. He wants to make sure there is proper documentation when reports come in.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime advised that at the next meeting the Board will be asked to accept a POW flag from Mrs. Anne Harding in honor of her brother Ralph G. King who was killed in WWII. The flag is currently flying at the cemetery.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Andrade wanted an agenda item to find a graves officer.

He asked if Veterans Agent and Building Inspector positions would be advertised.

Mr. Cadime advised that veterans' services are being covered by the Rehoboth agent for state issues and Providence, RI for federal. He talked about consolidation. Attleboro's veterans' agent just resigned. He hasn't been able to contact anyone in Swansea.

Mr. Almeida wants the transfer station open all day on Saturdays.

He talked about repairs to sidewalks on Olney Street. There is a tree stump coming out of the sidewalk in one area.

Mr. Cadime will follow up with Mr. Lamoureux.

Mr. Almeida said that some business owners have complained that there appears to be personal interests. Some are allowed to have flashing lights and flags and other cannot. There have been five violations on Taunton Avenue for almost a year.

Mr. Brady said to eliminate the bylaw.

Mr. Cadime said this is a matter for discussion.

Mr. Viera advised the Memorial Day Parade is on Saturday, May 23, beginning at 10 a.m. at the high school. Mr. Cadime will speak at the ceremonies afterwards.

Mr. Almeida, Mr. Andrade and Mr. Viera will participate in the Holy Ghost procession in Rehoboth on August 16th.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:30 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, 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 – Supervisors and Clerical, AFSCME – Dispatch and DPW, and AFT – Library, to ratify DPW contract and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of April 22, 2015; to return to Open Session for possible vote and sign contracts.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 11:53 p.m.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To ratify the MOA with AFSCME DPW as submitted.

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To adjourn at 11:55 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary