

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 29, 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.

Mr. Cadime informed the Board of Selectmen and the audience that long-time employee Ernie Watson passed away in his sleep on Tuesday, July 28. He was a building inspector in Seekonk since 1986 and also worked part time for East Providence.

The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence followed.

Chairman Parker announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 20, anyone taping the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is taping audio and video.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Health (1 BOS), By-Law Study Committee (5 Moderator), Conservation Commission (3 BOS), Cultural Council (1 BOS), Economic Development Committee (1 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 BOS), and Permanent Building Committee (5 BOS).

LICENSE HEARING

Mobile Food Cart License for Honey Dew Donuts/Kobhuntre LLC, Christopher Brierly

Mr. Cadime advised the request meets the criteria set forth by the Board re: event and site specific.

Mr. Brierly said he would sell ice coffee at the Seekonk Speedway during race events.

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

VOTED: To approve the request from Christopher Brierly of Honey Dew Donuts/
Kobhuntre LLC to operate a mobile food cart at the Seekonk Speedway
and forward to the Board of Health.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Moderator Committee Appointments

Ms. Hines advised that she is getting responses for the By-Law Study Committee. She needs a resident from Precinct 3.

She recommended the appointment of Justin Sullivan for a vacant position on the Finance Committee to expire in 2017. She needs applications for the second opening.

Mr. Sullivan said his family just moved to Seekonk a year ago and he is looking to get involved in the community. He has a MBA from Northeastern University and also a marketing degree from Villanova. He will be sworn in before the next Finance Committee meeting.

Consider and Vote on the Town Administrator's Recommendation for the Following Three-Year Committee Appointments

Capital Improvement Committee – Richard G. Blais (July 2015-June 2018)

Veterans Memorial Committee – Joe Velardo

Mr. Cadime said he met with Mr. Blais. He is a retired Providence firefighter. He is studying public administration at Roger Williams University. With this appointment, the committee will be full.

Mr. Blais said he felt it was time to get involved with the town.

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

VOTED: To appoint Richard G. Blais to the Capital Improvement Committee for a three-year term to expire on June 30, 2018.

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment of Mr. Velardo to the Veterans Memorial Committee. He has 45 years in the construction industry and has volunteered his time to get this built. He spoke on it at Town Meeting and has reached out to different vendors to try to get supplies donated on behalf of this project. He deserves the opportunity to serve on this committee.

Mr. Velardo was in attendance.

Mr. Viera said Mr. Velardo has been a huge asset to the committee.

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

VOTED: To appoint Joe Velardo to the Veterans Memorial Committee.

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Board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Blais and Mr. Velardo for stepping forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Vote on the Promotion of Glenn Fraser Driver/Laborer to Operator/Laborer

Mr. Fraser was in attendance.

Mr. Cadime and Acting DPW Superintendent David Cabral recommended the appointment. The position was budgeted.

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

VOTED: To appoint Glenn Fraser as Operator/Laborer, as recommended by the Town Administrator and Acting DPW Superintendent.

Discussion and Possible Vote on a Transfer Station Operator Position

Mr. Cadime noted there have been some conversations with regard to additional hours at the transfer station on Saturdays.

Mr. Cabral had documentation on hours that people actually go to the transfer station on Saturday. It was previously open the second and fourth Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to noon with one operator. Since the Board of Selectmen recommended extended hours, it is open every Saturday from April through November from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. exceeding the four hours of having an operator at the transfer station. Two people are needed since it is an 8 hour operation.

The general public is accustomed to the second and fourth Saturday.

He looked at other Saturdays for a couple of weeks. Operators didn't see a need to have somebody there after noontime. The average of the total Saturdays open was 67 residents using the transfer station. In the 8 a.m. to noon, 92% are coming in and 7.9% in the following hours. The cost breakdown to run the operation from April to November for an operator and foreman is around \$20,000 at time and a half. It would be approximately \$5,848 for one operator for four hours every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. That is a \$14,000 savings.

In addition to the transfer station, DPW provides yard waste pick up from May until mid-October and Christmas tree curbside pickup in January.

Mr. Cabral recommended one operator for four hours every Saturday.

Mr. Cadime agreed. He said the money comes from the enterprise fund.

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Mr. Almeida suggested a DPW worker could work until noon on Friday and until noon on Saturday to eliminate overtime.

Mr. Cadime said the contract calls for specific language. The individual per the contract is a landfill operator.

Mr. Almeida suggested hiring a part time transfer station operator.

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board vote on how to proceed going forward with the hours. He added there needs to be discussion on the hiring of a Superintendent of Public Works and the goals and objectives of that department.

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

VOTED: That the hours at the transfer station be from 8 a.m. to 12 noon from April to November and to discuss how to fill that position with the DPW Superintendent.

Discussion on the Library Facilities Study Project

Library Director Peter Fuller, Chairwoman of the Library Facilities Study Committee Anne Miller and Frank Kennedy of STV/DPM were in attendance. They had a power point presentation. They are looking for town-owned property.

Mr. Kennedy noted that the study includes the grant application to the state.

Mr. Fuller said they will reissue the RFQ.

Discussion and Possible Vote on a Human Resources Director

Mr. Cadime stated this was included on the agenda at Mr. Viera's request. It might be a good consolidation with the School Department to share a human resources director. He noted that sometimes employees do not want to talk to the town administrator.

Mr. Viera said that the Charter calls for a personnel board. He envisioned this person would be a go-between the town administrator and employee. He did talk to Mr. Cadime about it.

Mr. Cadime felt it should be a human resource/assistant purchasing agent position.

Mr. Brady said he doesn't want a person put in the middle between the employee and the town administrator.

Chairman Parker was not sure he wanted this.

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Board members agreed to have Mr. Cadime discuss this with the Superintendent of Schools and report back to the Board.

Consider Approval of Open Session Minutes of July 1, 2015

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of July 1, 2015.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Robert DelRosso of 201 Miller Street talked about the bylaw study committee. A number of people from Concerned Citizens were ready to serve. He was disappointed there wasn't a candidate from precinct 3. He knew a person who submitted a talent bank form a year ago. He will ask that person to submit another form. He said there are six people interested.

In discussion about the transfer station, Mr. DelRosso said this town ran a landfill for over 30 years six days a week and open to the public. There was no charge. They had three operators in the DPW that rotated at the landfill for a month. They would work on Saturday and take Monday off. There were problems with the union. They went to arbitration twice and won both times because they said they would take that operator and put him under the Board of Health.

Mr. DelRosso talked about a permanent building committee.

Chairman Parker said it was formed but there is nobody on it. It is specific as to requirements.

Mr. DelRosso said it will be difficult to get people to serve because they won't be able to bid the job.

He noted the original intent was to put the library on Cole Street.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime expressed condolences to Mr. Watson's family and friends. He will be missed at Town Hall.

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He advised about 50 different firms were in attendance at the mandatory pre-bid conference for the senior center. The sub-bids are due by August 12 and the general bids on September 1.

He is trying to set up a site visit with representatives of Lynch Corp. with regard to recent complaints. He asked residents to call Seekonk policy so that complaints can be documented.

He advised that dispatch and building commissioner positions are still open. He got two resumes for the building position but one is not certified in Massachusetts. An in-house candidate is interested in the part time zoning secretary position.

Once the tree removal contract is awarded, they will take care of the tree in the middle of the sidewalk on Olney Street.

He met and will continue to meet with the animal shelter building committee.

He has a draft mobile food cart policy which he will forward to board members. He included ice cream trucks as well.

He has a draft job description for the executive assistant position.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Cadime responded to several questions from Mr. Andrade.

He advised a background check is ongoing for the veterans service officer. He will be training with Jack Taylor from Rehoboth.

A presentation on the cemetery will be on August 26.

Kopelman & Paige is working on the RFP for the old town hall.

Mr. Almeida talked about the tree bid. A local company was rejected during the last bidding process because insurance paperwork was not included. That firm had the previous contract. It happened under the former town administrator and previous board.

With regard to legal counsel, Mr. Almeida said he likes that Kopelman & Paige is a big law firm and covers multiple areas. However, he is disappointed with recent action concerning the purchase of the building which will house the senior center. It cost the town over \$10,000 to evict the tenants. He felt Kopelman & Paige should assume the responsibility.

Mr. Almeida said he would not support a 6% budget increase next year.

Chairman Parker noted it was never 6%.

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Mr. Cadime said it is stable at 2%.

Mr. Viera agreed with Mr. Almeida as it relates to budget increases. He would like to see for next year's town meeting a hands-on budget presentation from the Town Administrator. He would like to see new growth identified.

Mr. Cadime said there needs to be discussion on revenues vs. expenses. He felt the School Department should be included in the presentation at town meeting.

Mr. Viera also said he is not totally satisfied with Kopelman & Paige.

Mr. Cadime said he has discussed concerns with Atty. Joe Fair.

He asked how the Board wants to proceed. Legal services are exempt from Chapter 30B.

Mr. Viera would like to go out for a RFQ for legal services.

Mr. Brady said there needs to be minimum qualifications. It should be a firm that has staff with expertise in several areas.

Chairman Parker noted that the Town gets in excess of \$10,000 that is not charged by Kopelman & Paige. He noted that nobody has talked to them about their response time.

Mr. Cadime said they charge \$125 per hour and that rate has not increased for a long time.

Mr. Andrade suggested inviting a few firms in.

Mr. Cadime will check around and prepare a list of firms. He noted that Kopelman & Paige provides legal services to the State.

Chairman Parker inquired about progress on negotiations regarding the Banna Fire Station.

Mr. Cadime said "yes".

No progress on discussions to save on the cost of electricity.

Chairman Parker suggested residents avoid the Grist Mill area during the daytime because of construction.

Mr. Cadime will check to make sure soil is not being removed from the site of the new assisted living facility on Route 6.

Chairman Parker noted that it is Mr. Brady's 54th Birthday.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary