

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**DECEMBER 2, 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 30A, 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. Almeida announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Health (2 appointed by the Board of Selectmen), Conservation Commission (3 BOS), Economic Development Committee (1 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (2 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (2 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 BOS), Permanent Building Committee (5 BOS), Finance Committee (1 Moderator), and Veterans Memorial Park Committee (2 BOS). Talent bank forms are available at Town Hall or on the website. Interested residents should submit forms to the Town Administrator's office and will be contacted for a short interview.

He advised the Annual Christmas tree lighting sponsored by the Kiwanis Club would take place on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

The order of business moved to Priority Matters.

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

**Consider the Appointment and Swearing in of Matthew Adams as a Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic**

Chief Michael Healy recommended the appointment pending the CORI check. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Matthew Adams as third class firefighter/paramedic,  
pending the CORI check.

Firefighter Adams' father, a retired fire chief from Portsmouth, RI, pinned his badge.

Chief Healy thanked the Board and residents for the support at Town Meeting. He added that the ladder truck should be in service on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Consider Conditional Offer of Employment to Thomas Desserres for Full-Time Public Safety Dispatcher**

Communications Director Chris Campbell recommended the appointment pending a successful background check. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Thomas Desserres as full-time public safety dispatcher, with the conditions stated by the Communications Director.

**Consider the Appointment of Patrolman Fred Paquin (retired) to the Position of Special Police Officer**

Chief Craig Mace advised that Patrolman Paquin retired on November 20, 2015 after 35 years of service. He was the first K9 handler in the 1990s and proponent of the current K9 program. He did a lot of work with mobile data computers and work stations in the building. Chief Mace read from Patrolman Paquin's letter that "if he could turn the hands of time back he would do it all over again". The Chief said it is one of the classiest letters he has seen.

**Consider Conditional Offer of Employment to Constantino Natale**

Chief Mace said that interviews were held to hire academy trained police officers. Fourteen candidates were interviewed. Seven were qualified and Mr. Natale was exceptional. He is aware of the prerequisites.

Chief Mace respectfully requested approval to extend a conditional offer of employment. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

**VOTED:** To extend a conditional offer of employment to Constantino Natale.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Classification Hearing**

The hearing opened at 7:16 p.m.

Chairman Paul Buckley noted accomplishments of the Assessors' Office: Appellate Tax Board appeals were very successful, they have been on time with the 2015 cyclical inspector plan, and

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Lydia Cordeiro received the title of Massachusetts Accredited Assessor.

He said the Assessors office is working hard and has a fine department.

He explained the purpose of the classification hearing. The Board of Selectmen must determine the residential factor.

Property assessment review: Residential values increased about 3% and commercial values by 12%. New growth increased 38% at \$706,455. The average residential single family assessment is \$305,800 or 3%. The maximum levy increased 5.8% at \$36,590,000. Fifty three commercial properties in Seekonk qualify for the exemption with a total 10% value at \$1,560,500. The minimum residential factor is .788376 as defined by the Department of Revenue. Bristol County tax rate comparisons were included in the packet distributed to the Board. In 2015, the Board of Selectmen chose a commercial property shift of 1.62 or residential of .796959 with the 10% shift. To keep it the same as it is now it would be .798296.

Mr. Brady recommended keeping the 10% exemption. He is going back and forth between the 1.61 and 1.62 shift.

Mr. Andrade would be between the 1.62 and 1.63.

Mr. Almeida would go with the 1.62.

Mr. Viera felt they should give commercial a break but more of a break to residential. It is rare they get anything back. He felt it should be the 1.64.

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

**VOTED:** To close the hearing at 7:28 p.m.

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

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 2 Nays: To set the 2016 residential shift at 1.62 and residential factor at .794989 with 10% commercial exemption.

Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye; Mr. Viera – Nay; Mr. Andrade - Nay.

Mr. Viera felt the shift should be 1.64. He noted the big box stores come to Seekonk because of its proximity to the highway. Most of the police and fire calls go to the businesses.

Mr. Brady was concerned about the small businesses.

**LICENSE HEARING**

**CHANGE OF MANAGER 99 RESTAURANT**

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

**VOTED:** To table the change of manager for 99 Restaurant.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discuss Seekonk Bikeway and Consider Forwarding to SRPEDD for Inclusion in the Draft Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Regional Bikeway Plan**

Town Planner John Aubin III presented the draft and requested authorization to forward it to SRPEDD.

In July and August, he developed the initial plan which was forwarded to the Town Administrator and Planning Board. The Planning Board authorized him to move forward in September. An informal review was conducted. SRPEDD asked Seekonk to be included in the regional bicycle plan. He met with representatives from SRPEDD and Ron Bennett of the Planning Board.

He revised the plan to include classification system and mileages to various routes and getting it into format to be regional plan.

On November 10, 2015, the Planning Board reviewed the plan and provided a positive recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. It opens up a number of funding at the state and federal levels. If approved by the Board, it would give the Town nothing more than future consideration of a bikeway in Seekonk. He would try to outreach to surrounding communities and state agencies in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Mr. Cadime recommended moving forward.

In response to Mr. Viera's question, Mr. Aubin advised that Chief Mace had input particularly with regard to Arcade Avenue. Mr. Cabral has also had some input.

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

**VOTED:** To authorize the Chairman to sign and forward the draft SMMPO Regional Bikeway Plan to SRPEDD.

On another matter, Mr. Aubin advised that the Planning Board is in receipt of maps dating back to the 1850s. It is an historical asset. He invited Board members to come to look at them.

### **DPW Roadway Presentation**

Mr. Cadime advised that Seekonk gets roughly \$550,000 in Chapter 90 funds per year. SRPEDD did a road pavement analysis report which will be shared with the Board at the end of January or beginning of February. They want to strategize a five-year plan and discuss the type of processes used on the road.

Interim DPW Superintendent David Cabral stated that he has a plan for 2016 that he started looking at in June. It uses the existing Chapter 90 budget of \$580,000. He meets annually with the gas company. He suggested that in the five-year plan they might want to consider drainage and sidewalk improvements and possible utility pole relocations. They don't do those now.

Projected roads for next year: Ledge Road from Jacob Street to Arcade Avenue, North Wheaton Avenue (entire length), North Wheaton Avenue cul de sac, Willard Avenue (entire length), and County Street from East Providence line to Elizabeth Way. That would include the work through the intersection of Rte. 114. There might be a roadway project later on. County Street has the trench situation and the gas company allocated \$50,000 for that. The total Chapter 90 funding is \$589,000. Mr. Cabral explained the process for each roadway.

He said a lot of money was spent on crack sealing with money received from the State.

Mr. Viera asked if the entire allocation is spent every year.

Mr. Cabral said usually but there are times he puts money aside for larger projects.

Mr. Viera asked about a rumor that Chapter 90 might be discontinued.

Mr. Cabral replied there is no guarantee. The tendency right now is pushing for more money, but it might be necessary to use town money as well.

Mr. Cadime said it is all part of the Transportation Bill. There is always a concern Chapter 90 funds might not be there. They need to do long-term planning. He noted Chapter 90 does not include sidewalks and drainage issues.

Mr. Viera said that is more reason why the Town should not spend free cash.

Mr. Andrade agreed. He suggested allocating free cash funds for roads.

Mr. Cadime said they need to figure out what the cap is for the budget.

Mr. Brady agreed.

**Approval of Job Description of DPW Superintendent**

Mr. Cadime distributed the job description to be reviewed by the Board for discussion at the next meeting. He noted that Mr. Cabral has done a tremendous job serving as Interim and Asst. DPW Superintendent.

**Advertisement of DPW Superintendent Position**

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

**VOTED:** To post internally the position of DPW Superintendent.

Mr. Almeida noted there is a need for a Recycling Coordinator.

Mr. Cabral is currently doing that. Mr. Cadime will post the position.

**Discussion on Town Meeting**

Mr. Brady wanted to make sure that at the next Town Meeting the three-year reappointment requirement is removed from the Steelworkers Supervisors contract. Currently, four people are given a benefit the others are not. He felt that everyone should be treated equally. He finds it reprehensible and intolerable. It has nothing to do with individuals who are in a three-year contract and not part of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Almeida disagreed. There is no way these four department heads can be part of the same three-year contract like everyone else.

Mr. Brady said the contract has nothing to do with reappointment. Another option would be to put the three-year restriction under the employment clause for Assessor, Director of Planning, Board of Health Agent, and Conservation Agent. He said he doesn't see anywhere under Article 6 of the Charter that the Conservation Commission appoints an agent.

Mr. Almeida was upset because the Board had met multiple times with two departments and it appeared had come to a mutual agreement. Yet, two individuals, one from each department, spoke in opposition. He felt it was a waste of time.

Mr. Brady said the town made a mistake years ago allowing those positions to be in a union.

Mr. Andrade would like to know if surrounding towns are set up like Seekonk. Dartmouth is not.

Chairman Parker noted that Interim Town Administrator Stenhouse had indicated he had never seen a town where the control was with the boards and not under the Town Administrator.

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Mr. Viera felt it would be a good idea to try to add the three-years to those positions.

Mr. Brady said he would question the motivation of those boards and their consolidation of power if they reject that.

Chairman Parker agreed with Mr. Almeida. He wasn't surprised but disappointed. The Board of Selectmen met with these boards and three of them had agreed to the terms. Two out of those three stood up and spoke against it.

Mr. Brady said they went against the will of people in this town because it was a ballot question.

Board members discussed different ways of getting more people to attend town meeting.

### **Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of November 4, 2015**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of November 4, 2015.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mr. John Alves wanted to make sure the purchase and sales agreement for the Old Town Hall met the direction of Town Meeting that the building be restored to specifications for listing on the National Historic Register.

Mr. Cadime advised that he met with representatives from the tribe last week. He articulated to them that their submittal was not the legal document to be used and there was some discrepancy that the Board had talked about. He asked them to review the purchase and sales that was part of the RFP. They met today. The language was stipulated in there that they had up to 18 months to get the building up to the National Historic Register standards with the help of the Seekonk Historical Commission. As long as it is a good faith effort, the community would say it is good enough. At that time, they have no control over the National Historical Register. He talked to Atty. Klein at Kopelman and Paige. She is tweaking some language. The goal is to have it for the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. He felt the will at Town Meeting is well represented in the purchase and sales agreement.

Mr. Alves noted the Community Preservation Committee put the \$100,000 into that for historic preservation, not to meet the lease requirement. The building will now be sold for \$55 and not be restored. If it doesn't happen, he will ask for the \$100,000 back.

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Mr. Andrade asked what assurance is there that the building will be restored.

Mr. Cadime felt they could see the progress in the 18 months. The Town can always get the money back.

Mr. Robert DelRosso talked about Monday night's Town Meeting. He watched it on television. He knew what was going on. Years ago the Board of Selectmen would present the budget and articles.

He felt this Board of Selectmen allowed Mr. Cadime to take a beating from people who did not know what they were talking about. The speaker would not shut up.

Mr. DelRosso noted that Mr. Bowden, the chairman of the senior center, has been in and out of the hospital many times and yet look at what he has put into that building and he was made fun of.

Mr. Cadime made an honest presentation and was accused of cheating and not one of the members of the Board of Selectmen got up to defend him.

Mr. DelRosso talked about the condition of the roadways and the bylaws. He read from the bylaw dealing with road cuts. The Board of Selectmen should conduct a public hearing. Seekonk roads are in horrible condition.

Mr. Brady said he didn't hear comments on the senior center. He heard questions on the \$118,000 relocation costs, not a personal attack on the Town Administrator.

He agreed there are too many new road cuts. Contractors only have to repair to a certain standard.

Mr. Viera agreed that the Board needs to take more control at town meeting but his big concern is that town meeting is under the control of the moderator.

Mr. DelRosso said the Charter should be changed.

Mr. Robert Blanchard asked about plans to fill the Conservation Agent position.

Mr. Cadime said he met with the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. He is hopeful that a part time agent might want a full time position.

Mr. Blanchard noted that Mr. Andrade spoke up at Town Meeting with regard to the senior center.



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Mr. Bill Kirchmann, 59 Oak Hill Avenue, indicated he is the senior member on the recycling committee. They do not have a coordinator. They have not had a formal meeting in a year. They missed an activity last month and Earth Day is coming up in a few months.

Board members approved Mr. Cabral's request to do an internal posting as long as Mr. Cadime agreed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

None.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Cadime advised that letters to potential legal firms were sent out. They need to respond by January 15, 2016 if interested.

He will be doing a FY 2016 budget presentation at the next meeting. He wants to streamline the process and have solid dates for input and public input prior to town meeting.

In September, he reviews the capital plan requests from department heads and sends to the Capital Improvement Committee and they might meet with various boards. The operating budget requests are due to the Town Administrator in November. That is slightly behind. Preliminary budget discussions with boards take place in December and should be distributed to the Board and Finance Committee by January 15, 2015. Budget hearings take place from January to April. The Board and Finance Committee should be ready to make a final recommendation for Town Meeting. His goal is to have Town Meeting in May instead of June. He is changing the format of the budget to have narrative, including goals.

Mr. Cadime sent a letter to Lynch Corp. The attorney called him. Representatives will be at the December 16, 2015 meeting.

He met with representatives from Holy Cross Cemetery. They need to talk to their Board of Directors. Should have an update for the next meeting.

The tow bid will be advertised in the Central Register on December 16 with the due date on December 30, 2015 at 2 p.m.

There will be a formal press conference at the Fire Department to introduce the new ladder truck. He recommended board members stop by the Fire Department to see the truck.

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He will schedule a Tri-board meeting for January. The School Department should have a preliminary budget.

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

### **School and Town Consolidation Committee Report**

Waiting for a contact from the School Department.

### **Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report**

Mr. Viera reported they have not met in awhile.

Mr. Almeida said residents of Chestnut Street are asking for more signage and police presence. They are not happy with the speed and the number of commercial vehicles on that street.

Mr. Cadime noted they are doing a comprehensive traffic plan. He could have Chief Mace come in and talk about Chestnut Street.

Mr. Brady said it is difficult to limit a public way.

Chairman Parker inquired about an update on the judge's decision regarding the call firefighters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** To dissolve at 9:21 p.m.

Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary