

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 10, 2016
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. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Health (3 Board of Selectmen appointments), 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 Recreation Committee (1 BOS).

Mr. Cadime advised he has interviewed applicants and would have one for the Energy Committee and possibly one for Conservation.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Appoint and Swear in Kevin English as Firefighter/Paramedic Third Class

Fire Chief Michael Healy recommended the appointment of Kevin English. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To appoint Kevin English as Firefighter/Paramedic Third Class.

The swearing in ceremony was conducted by Chief Healy and witnessed by Asst. Town Clerk Florice Craig.

Firefighter English's badge was pinned by his dad, Joseph.

Appoint and Swear in Matthew Bradford as a Firefighter/Paramedic Third Class

Chief Healy recommended the appointment of Matthew Bradford. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To appoint Matthew Bradford as Firefighter/Paramedic Third Class.

The swearing in ceremony was conducted by Chief Healy and witnessed by Asst. Town Clerk Florice Craig.

Firefighter Bradford's badge was pinned by his mother, Nancy.

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Nicholas Storelli to the Position of Patrolman Third Class

Police Chief Craig Mace advised that one of the candidates approved for a conditional offer of employment had rescinded his interest.

At this time, he is recommending Nicholas Storelli. He is already Massachusetts Academy trained and a police officer for Bentley University.

Mr. Cadime concurred with the recommendation.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Nicholas Storelli as Patrolman Third Class.

Consider the Appointment of Esther Young to the Position of Part Time Kennel Worker

Animal Control Officer Sharon Hall recommended the appointment of Esther Young. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To appoint Esther Young as part time Kennel Worker.

Consider the Appointment of William F. Kirchmann to the Position of Recycling Coordinator

DPW Superintendent David Cabral recommended the appointment of William Kirchmann. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To appoint William F. Kirchmann to the position of Recycling Coordinator.

Consider the Appointment of William Clark to the Arts Council

Mr. Cadime noted that Mr. Clark had served for six years on the Arts Council. He was required to take a year off and is now looking to get back on the council. He recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint William Clark to the Arts Council.

Vote to Accept the Donation from the Seekonk Lions Club to the Veterans Memorial Committee

Mr. Gary Sagar, First Vice President of the Seekonk Lions Club, introduced President George Foley, a former member of the Board of Selectmen and a Viet Nam war veteran.

Mr. Foley presented a \$12,000 check to the Veterans Memorial Committee.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$12,000 donation from the Seekonk Lions Club to the Veterans Memorial Committee.

Vote to Accept the Donation from the Seekonk Lions Club to the Seekonk Senior Center Building Committee

Mr. Foley presented a \$10,000 check to the Seekonk Senior Center Building Committee to be used for the kitchen at the new senior center.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$10,000 donation from the Seekonk Lions Club to the Senior Center Building Committee.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the generous donations.

On another matter, Mr. Sagar requested that the GATRA bus be reinstated in town.

At Mr. Andrade's request, the order of business moved to:

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion and Vote on Request for Roadway Opening of a Recently Paved Road: Newman Avenue for the Stone Ridge Subdivision Project

Atty. Michael Ferragamo of Brainsky Levinson advised this is a continuation of discussion that started at the meeting of January 13, 2016 regarding the request to open the roadway for the gas line for the Walker Street subdivision. They requested the Board of Selectmen approve the cut in the road.

DPW Superintendent David Cabral had a copy of the actual gas cut. He met with the engineer and construction representative from Columbia Gas and the contractor. It turns out they need to do a 1,200 sq. ft. cut in the roadway to bring gas into the subdivision. This cut will go across both travel lanes on Newman Avenue and a portion of Walker Street. He is not in favor of a cut in a new road. However, if the Board decides to grant this request, he recommended the Board allow him to oversee the pavement restoration portion. He will have the Board sign the road opening permit. The gas company would like to start in mid March.

They would cut the road, put the line in, compact it, and put a temporary patch. Before the end of the construction season, they will replace that patch with a permanent patch. If it doesn't hold up, the contractor will be responsible to restore that piece. Mr. Cabral noted that Board members know his position on this.

Mr. Andrade felt they had reconsidered the location of the new line so as not to cut cross the roadway.

Mr. Cabral said they looked into that. A revised plan would still go across the travel lanes.

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board be consistent with Mr. Cabral's recommendation to not allow the cut. If the Board wanted to move forward, it would be with the stipulations as outlined by Mr. Cabral.

Atty. Ferragamo advised his client would agree with those conditions and would modify the bond.

Mr. Almeida asked about tunneling under the road.

Mr. Cabral said they looked into that.

Mr. Andrade noted that water would bring in benefits to residents but not the gas line.

Atty. Brainsky said nothing has been installed yet. It would provide natural gas to Walker Street. The line would be extended to the end of lot one.

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He understood and respects the Board's position. He requested the Board approve the request and allow Mr. Cabral total control over restoration and the additional bond.

Mr. Viera noted the Town does not have a good track record with the gas company.

Mr. Almeida asked how long it would take to correct defects.

Mr. Cabral said it can be monitored and a time limit included.

If the gas company does not respond, Mr. Andrade suggested the Board could bring in a company to make repairs and charge the gas company.

Atty. Brainsky clarified it would be the developer not the gas company.

Planning Director John Aubin stated the Planning Board set the amount of surety. It did not include the proposed gas line.

The five-year moratorium is up August 2017.

Mr. Cabral felt the work could be done in a week.

Mr. Robert McLintock stated the developer should be responsible for all costs. It should not be the responsibility of taxpayers.

Chairman Parker noted taxpayer money would not be involved either way.

Atty. Ferragamo said the developer would bear the cost.

Chairman Parker explained the concern on the part of the Board of Selectmen is having a road that failed or needs to be repaired. Residents will be inconvenienced.

Mr. Viera asked if the moratorium could be extended beyond 2019.

Mr. Cadime said it is a good compromise if the developer would agree.

Atty. Brainsky said it could be added to the five- year maintenance bond.

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board not approve the request to cut the road.

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

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VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Nay; To approve the request for a road cut on Newman Avenue for the Stone Ridge Subdivision Project, subject to conditions set forth by the DPW Director and with the bond as agreed to by Atty. Brainsky, which brings it to at least 2021.

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

Mr. Andrade felt it would minimize the cuts if both water and gas could go in at the same time as long as three feet apart.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; To amend the motion to include 60 days as the time frame to go in and do the repairs.

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

Mr. Brady wanted to make sure the bond would not be released until at least 2021.

The roll call vote on the amended motion: Mr. Andrade – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Nay; Chairman Parker – Nay.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of the Seekonk Economic Incentive Initiative and Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Town Planner John Aubin III noted the Board had background information. He read his memo into the record (attached). The next step would be the adoption of guidelines.

Mr. Aubin explained that, under the program, no incentive agreements between the Town and potential developer can be approved except by Town Meeting. It is significant.

Mr. Cadime thanked Mr. Aubin for the detailed work provided. He recommended the Board review the material over the next couple of weeks. It will be an agenda item in two weeks.

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone discussion on the Seekonk Economic Incentive Initiative and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Budget Discussions

Fire Department

Mr. Cadime explained these are preliminary budgets and subject to change. A final budget will be presented later in order to get a vote from the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. These presentations are on the website.

Chief Healy advised the FY'17 budget covers all contractual agreement between the Town and Local 1931. There are no salary increases because contracts expire on June 30, 2016. Negotiations will begin. He is requesting one new full time employee. The increase in the expense line is to address aging equipment.

The proposed staffing levels are Chief, Administrative Assistant, two Captains, four Shift Lieutenants, and 28 Firefighters. One of the captains will oversee fire prevention. There is money in the FY'16 budget. He will be coming before the Board for promotions.

Total salaries increase is \$174,398. He was allowed to hire two individuals in July and two more in January. The two appointed at this meeting are replacements for two resignations. He will conduct a recruitment test in March.

Total other expenses equal \$17,300. Revenue total is anticipated at \$72,878.

Mr. Cadime noted the importance of upgrading equipment. Chief Healy has done a tremendous job in advocating for his department.

Police Department

Chief Mace also noted that contracts expire in June 2016.

He would like to hire an additional officer in order to have 41 full time employees – Chief, two Administrative Assistants, one Captain, three Lieutenants, seven Sergeants, and 27 Officers.

Annual revenue is approximately \$112,000.

Chairman Parker inquired about funds for the canine unit.

Chief Mace advised the present dog is coming to the end of his service. He would like to get a canine handler in the fall. There is a grant for that.

Mr. Almeida asked about the DARE program or drug prevention.

Chief Mace explained there is a School Resource Officer. He felt that parents need to be more involved.

Communications

Director Chris Campbell stated the budget covers any increases due to contractual obligations between the Town and AFSCME. There is an increase in expenses to allow advances in technology (camera system – 98 cameras). This is a level service budget. Staffing levels will remain the same – Director and 9 full-time Dispatchers. The total salary increase is \$58,013. A portion of the 9% increase over FY'16 is salary increases from contract and step increases for new dispatchers coming off probation.

There is a \$25,000 increase in request for comp time coverage. It is a large increase but he is trying to get a better handle on use of comp time. He is trying to maintain two dispatchers on each shift. Employees are allowed to accrue comp time under the contract.

They are looking to get intersection cameras in place.

The budget continues to include funding for the Code Red program. He clarified questions raised at a previous budget meeting.

Mr. Almeida had asked about messages being put out by Plymouth County at discretion of the sheriff's office.

Mr. Campbell said they have never refused a request to launch a call for emergency purposes.

In response to Chairman Parker's question, all residents are automatically in the Code Red program. They have the option to create a profile and include additional forms of contact. They can also opt out of non-emergency calls and out of the program completely.

The program is budgeted because he felt the Board wanted to continue the program in town.

Mr. Campbell explained that when the system is launched it comes up as two 800 numbers. It will say emergency communications or community notification. The Town has the ability to change that to a local number. It would require a dedicated line. When answering the phone, people hear a pre-box message that says stand by for important message.

Under the current proposal, Code Red would leave the price the same – just under \$7,800 per year at full service for a two-year contract. There could be savings of \$8,000 to \$9,000 for a five-year contract. He is also looking at other vendors. The service is still free with Plymouth County. The budget does not include monies from 911 grants.

Consider and Establish a Date for the Spring Town Meeting

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

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VOTED: To set May 16, 2016 as the date for the Spring Town Meeting and open the warrant on February 11 and close at noon on March 25.

Discussion of a One-Day Special Event Policy

Mr. Cadime would like to prepare a policy for one-day special events. Board members agreed.

Consider the Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2016 and January 27, 2016

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

VOTED: To accept Regular Session minutes of January 13, 2016 and January 27, 2016.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime recognized DPW Superintendent David Cabral and his staff for the tremendous work they did during the recent snowstorms.

Chairman Parker noted that Board members got updates during the storm from Mr. Cabral. He asked if there is any way to get that on the internet during a storm.

Mr. Cadime said he would work on that with Mr. Alexander.

Mr. Cadime referred to negative press which appeared in the Attleboro Sun Chronicle. He usually does not respond to media reports. It concerns discussion about talent bank forms. When reports are misleading, it calls into question the relationship between the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator which may have a negative impact on whether people want to volunteer. He felt the Sun Chronicle did a disservice to the community.

It is necessary to get an apology for this. It was erroneous information. He has an open door policy and anybody can schedule a meeting with him at any time. The media does not influence his management style.

Chairman Parker noted there are 21 openings right now. He asked if there are any talent bank forms for these openings.

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Mr. Cadime noted there were appointments at this meeting. Two or three were not put forth for various reasons. They have to be qualified.

Chairman Parker noted that three members of the Board of Health resigned, leaving two members. Mr. Almeida and Mr. Viera volunteered so they could have a quorum until someone comes forward. There are no talent bank forms for these positions.

Mr. Cadime advised the next agenda will include budget discussions, foreclosures, and cemetery update.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Almeida said there was another article in the Sun Chronicle about employees resigning, relocating, etc. The Board has no control over that. It seems there is one individual who is looking for attention.

He talked about the deterioration of the DPW building. He is uncomfortable having employees in that building.

Mr. Andrade commended Officer Keith Perry who helped a homeless person find shelter and food. It got national attention.

He asked for an update on the Seekonk couple who assisted foster children.

Mr. Viera suggested the Board invite Officer Perry to a meeting for proper commendation. He went above and beyond by responding to the needs of an individual.

It will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Brady said the press seeks to make the news not report it. The headline did not match the body of the article. He felt the Board should send a letter to the editor requesting a retraction. It was a disingenuous and dishonest headline not supported by the writing.

Chairman Parker announced the 20th Annual Taste of the Town sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Gr. Seekonk would take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Grand Rose Ballroom at the Clarion Inn on Rte. 114. Tickets are \$30 per person.

A tentative meeting with the School Department is scheduled.

The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 28, 2016.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:19 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character of an individual or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 1; to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Superintendent of Public Works per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3); to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Chief of Police per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3); and to consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of January 13, 2016 and January 27, 2016.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary