

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 9, 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 visual.

BOARDS 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), 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), Recreation Committee (1 BOS), Recycling Committee (1 BOS).

The order of business moved to:

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Funds for Veterans Memorial Park

Mr. Joseph Velardo of the Veterans Memorial Park Committee said the initial amount was approved at \$105,000. They will add another bench, 332 pavers and three silhouettes for a total of \$130,782; an additional \$25,782.

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

VOTED: To approve the additional \$25,782 for the Veterans' Memorial Park.

The order of business moved to:

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Promotion and Swear in Lieutenant Sandra Lowery to the Rank of Captain with the Fire Department

Chief Michael Healy explained the Fire Department has needed a full time fire prevention person for a long time. It will happen with this promotion. Two individuals took the test in December.

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An interview was conducted by an independent panel of local fire chiefs and deputy chief.

The Chief proudly recommended the promotion of Sandra Lowery. Mr. Cadime concurred.

Board members commended her for becoming the first female lieutenant and now captain.

Chairman Parker thanked her for what she has done and what she will continue to do.

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

VOTED: To promote Sandra Lowery to the rank of Captain with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Capt. Lowery was sworn in by Asst. Town Clerk Florice Craig. Her dad and niece pinned her badge.

Consider the Promotion of and Swear in Firefighter Jeffery Magill to the Rank of Lieutenant with the Fire Department

Chief Healy proudly recommended the promotion of Jeffrey Magill. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To promote Jeffery Magill to the rank of Lieutenant with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Lt. Magill was sworn in by Asst. Town Clerk Florice Craig. His wife and three children pinned his badge.

Consider the Appointment of Christopher Platt-Hanoian to the Position of Full Time Police Officer – Patrolman 3rd Class

Chief Craig Mace recommended the appointment. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To appoint Christopher Platt-Hanoian as Patrolman 3rd Class with the Seekonk Police Department, effective March 15, 2016.

Consider the Appointment of Constantino Natale to the Position of Full time Police Officer – Patrolman 3rd Class

Chief Mace recommended the appointment. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To appoint Constantino Natale as Patrolman 3rd Class with the Seekonk Police Department, effective March 21, 2016.

Both officers will be at the next meeting for swearing in ceremonies.

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Gary L. Rushing, Jr. to the Position of Patrolman 3rd Class

Chief Mace recommended the appointment. Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Gary L. Rushing, Jr. as Patrolman 3rd Class with the Seekonk Police Department.

Chief Mace advised he had a news release regarding a narcotics arrest at a home on Miller Street. Seekonk Police were assisted by the SWAT team and Swansea, Somerset, and Mattapoisett Police Departments.

LICENSE HEARINGS

Change of Manager for RWJ Beverage

Mr. Cadime advised this is the corporation located inside BJs. He recommended approval.

Manager Michael Azzolino was in attendance.

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

VOTED: To approve the change of manager for RWJ Beverage to Michael Azzolino.

Consider the Approval of an Amusement License for Rockwell Amusements for Carnival to be Held April 14-24, 2016

The carnival will be held at the Sam's Club parking lot.

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

VOTED: To approve the amusement license for Rockwell Amusements for a carnival to be held from April 14-24, 2016.

Mr. Viera said a donation will be made to the Veterans Memorial Park.

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Mr. Almeida noted there haven't been any issues with them over the years. He thanked them for returning to Seekonk and for the donation.

Consider the Approval of a Mobile Food Cart Permit Renewal for Timothy Spaulding to Sell Food at Seekonk Speedway

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

VOTED: To approve the mobile food cart permit renewal for Timothy Spaulding to sell food at the Seekonk Speedway.

Consider the Approval of a Mobile Food Cart Permit Renewal for David Souza/Kona Ice to Sell Shaved Ice

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

VOTED: To approve the mobile food cart permit renewal for David Souza/Kona Ice to sell shaved ice.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Adriana DosSantos to the Position of Assistant Director of Human Services

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

VOTED: To appoint Adriana DosSantos as Assistant Director of Human Services.

Mr. Brady suggested the position should be added to the warrant for inclusion in the Charter.

Mr. Almeida mentioned that he has heard positive comments from residents and employees. He is pleased to see an in-house promotion.

Mr. Brady concurred.

Consider the Appointment of Guy Boulay to the Board of Health
Consider the Appointment of Nadine Demty to the Board of Health

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone the above appointments.

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Vote to Accept the \$865 Donation from Sarah St. Hilaire to the Animal Shelter

Sarah St. Hilaire and Jason Pimentel were in attendance.

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

VOTED: To amend the sum to \$940.

Chairman Parker thanked them.

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the donation.

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

VOTED: To accept the donation of \$940 from Sarah St. Hilaire to the animal shelter.

Vote to Accept the \$2,000 Donation of a \$4,000 Commitment from Home and Commercial Security to the Veterans Memorial Park

Mr. Viera stated this is the cost of a bench. Another \$2,000 will be made next month.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$2,000 donation of a \$4,000 commitment from Home and Commercial Security to the Veterans Memorial Park.

Vote to Accept the \$2,000 Donation from James N. Viara to the Veterans Memorial Park

This donation is also to purchase a bench.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$2,000 donation from James N. Viara for the Veterans Memorial Park with gratitude.

Mr. Viera had another donation which was not on the agenda.

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

VOTED: To reconsider Item K on the agenda.

Vote to Accept \$2,000 Donation from James N. Viara and \$4,000 from Vidal DeMedeiros to the Veterans Memorial Park

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

VOTED: To accept the \$2,000 donation from James N. Viara and \$4,000 from Vidal DeMedeiros for a five ft. white star in granite for the Veterans Memorial Park.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Auction of Foreclosure Properties

Mr. Andrade abstained from discussion.

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Alexander, Mrs. DeFontes, and Ms. Jameson met with the tax attorney this week to look over the parcels for foreclosure. He needs assessed values and the acreage and potential development of the properties. The tax attorney has an auctioneer who will contact the Town. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Appointment of Custodian of Tax Title

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To appoint the Finance Director/Asst. Town Administrator position as the Custodian of Tax Title, as recommended by the Town Administrator.

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

Consider the Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2016

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of February 10, 2016, as submitted.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Town Moderator Michelle Hines advised that David Francis resigned from the Finance Committee. He has served for many years. She wished him well.

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She had interviewed Russell Horsman, who was in attendance. He is still interested. He will fill Mr. Francis' position that will expire in June 2016.

She also had two resignations from the Library Facility Study Committee - Mr. Waddington and Mr. Self. She had two appointments to fill those vacancies – Daniel Tavares and Martha Manno. Mr. Tavares is an architect and OPM Specialist and Ms. Manno is a former member of the Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. John Alves said he didn't know if any of the land to be foreclosed is buildable. He suggested the Community Preservation Committee might be able to do something with a lot instead of auctioning it off. He was thinking of affordable housing.

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 he met with District Attorney Tom Quinn. He introduced him to the staff and he met with Chief Mace. It was a good conversation about public safety in Seekonk. Mr. Cadime mentioned that he is trying to get additional monies for cameras on traffic signals. District Attorney Quinn committed to at least one camera.

Mr. Cadime said he met with the vendor of the website looking for options. He will be coming back with recommendations to move forward with upgrades.

He will begin to negotiate with police and fire.

He met with a representative of Bryant College about leadership training for Selectmen and City Councilors. It is free. He would like to have department heads attend. He is trying to get Swansea, Somerset, and Rehoboth to join.

He has been working with phone consultants to get a service agreement for the new phone system.

He attended a Library Facilities Study Committee meeting. The project is still in the initial stage.

Mr. Cadime noted that 4,421 customers (89.4%) have opted into the Electric Aggregation program. For the summer, National Grid prices may be lower than this (9.4) but will significantly increase at the beginning of the winter.

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He cautioned people not to opt out. The Aggregate group will send out an educational packet to customers.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

School and Town Consolidation Committee Report – Nothing.

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Viera announced that the dedication will be on March 28th following the Memorial Day parade. The parade will end at the park.

There's the possibility of having people park at the junior high school and bused to the park.

Mr. Viera asked about interviewing law firms.

Mr. Cadime said packets are ready for the Board.

Mr. Brady asked about the status of the light at the Public Safety Complex.

Mr. Cadime said there was a problem and the vendor had another job. Work should start within the next few weeks.

Mr. Brady stated that he was incredibly disappointed with the Tri Board meeting the other night. He felt he was at a seminar on special education. He is still not convinced with the numbers. He can't understand how the Collaborative is losing money. He felt this was the perfect time to move the Collaborative out if the Town needed the two buildings. He said it was somewhat insulting to be lectured on something that had nothing to do with town finances.

Mr. Viera agreed. It was not what he expected. He didn't realize the School Committee had another meeting scheduled.

Mr. Almeida commended the Kiwanis Club on the success of the Taste of the Town held the previous night. He thanked the Clarion Hotel for providing the space and the businesses. Approximately 150 to 200 people attended.

Chairman Parker added his comments about the Tri Board meeting. Personally, he will never agree to another Tri Board meeting unless the Board sets the rules. It will be to talk about full day kindergarten and budgets that affect the Town. It was an informational meeting on special education.

In response to people who asked, Mr. Almeida noted that the Spring Town Meeting has been held in May in the past.

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Chairman Parker asked for an update on the vacant department head positions.

Mr. Cadime advised there are no new applicants for building inspector. The new hire for Conservation Agent did not accept the position. Health Agent is still open.

Mr. Almeida asked if the Town would get any financial benefits from the proposed casino in Taunton.

Chairman Parker said the Town would have to prove a casino in Taunton would impact Seekonk.

Mr. Viera said questions were raised with regard to the use of blue bags and containers.

Chairman Parker noted the blue bags pay the tipping fee.

Mr. Viera suggested the Board should talk about the landfill not being opened on Saturday afternoons.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session 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 discuss litigation strategy with respect to Nadeau Corp. and Blount Bennett Architects, LLC as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), to conduct strategy with respect to negotiations with the Superintendent of Public Works per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), to discuss 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 February 10, 2016; to reconvene Open Session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to Open Session at 9:54 p.m.

Mr. Andrade read a letter of resignation from Firefighter Matthew Owens.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Matthew Owens as firefighter, effective March 4, 2016.

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

VOT ED: To approve and sign the contract between the Town of Seekonk and Police Chief Craig Mace.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 9:55 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