

**OF SELECTMEN**  
**SEPTEMBER 7, 2016**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera,  
Michelle Hines, David Parker

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Andrade 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 recording the meeting must notify the Chair. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE**

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Health (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Conservation Commission (3 BOS), Economic Development Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (2 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (1 BOS), Permanent Building Committee (5 BOS), Recreation Committee (1 BOS), Recycling Committee (1 BOS), and Finance Committee (1 Moderator).

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Town Clerk Janet Parker reminded residents that the State Primary was the next day. Polls would be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. There are no contested races on either ballot.

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

**Consider the Appointment of John M. Ferreira to the Position of Building Inspector**

Mr. Cadime recommended the conditional offer of employment to John M. Ferreira to the position of building inspector.

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

**VOTED:** To extend a conditional offer of employment to John M. Ferreira as Building Inspector, pending background check.

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Ferreira has 18 months to get his commissioner's license.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Consider National Grid's Request to Install Four Stub Poles on Pine Street**

Chairman Andrade opened the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Michael Parent of National Grid was in attendance. DPW Supt. David Cabral was also in attendance.

Mr. Cabral had concern about the pole in front of 410 Pine Street. He asked if the location could be shifted to either side otherwise it would be right in front of this property.

Ms. Hines asked about the pole across from 0 Pine Street. She didn't want a pole on anybody's property.

Mr. Parent was not familiar with the area.

Chairman Andrade recognized that it is not his fault, but this is the second time Mr. Parent has been at a meeting and unable to answer questions from the Board. He asked if the information could be available beforehand.

Mr. Viera concurred with the Chairman. The Board needs to get answers to their questions. He asked what would happen if the Board denied the request to install the pole.

Mr. Parent said they would have to find another solution.

Mr. Viera doesn't want this Board to be a rubber stamp for the utility company.

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

**VOTED:** To close public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Cadime said he could not make a recommendation without knowing about the options.

Mr. Parent felt abutters were notified.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the request to install four stub poles on Pine Street, except for 410 Pine Street.

**Consider National Grid's Request to Relocate Poles and Install Three New Poles on Central Avenue**

Chairman Andrade opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. No comments.

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

**VOTED:** To close the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Cabral advised the poles are at 380 and 398 Central Avenue between Pond Street and Maple Avenue. He asked if they would be located on grass strip.

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

**VOTED:** To table pending further information.

Mr. Almeida asked if the old poles would be removed.

Mr. Parent said that usually a liaison works with the town.

Chairman Andrade asked about the representative for Seekonk.

Mr. Parent said these positions are part of the union so anybody can handle specific engineering questions; not necessarily with regard to where poles are.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Set FY'17 Trash Fee Rate**

Mr. Cadime stated the proposed annual trash fee is \$200, an increase of \$20 from FY'16. A large portion of that is curbside collection. The combined curbside collection and trash is \$633,675. There is a 2% escalation cost every year. That includes purchase of trash bins and new vehicles for the automation of the trash bins. Of the \$200 trash fee, \$119.56 is for collection broken down by 5,300 households. The recycling expense of \$8,000 impacts the rate of \$1.51 and transfer station operating costs and administrative program which includes a portion of Mr. Cabral's salary and benefits (15%). The debt associated with Newman landfill impacts the rate at \$17.97 and contingency budget at 57 cents. The amount of \$5.62 which is the last payment of the front loader is not included in the \$200 because contingency funds were used. There is revenue coming in offsetting that cost. The collection rate is 96 percent. About \$3,000 comes in from the transfer station.

Mr. Viera asked why such a huge increase.

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Mr. Cadime said the Board in the past used retained earnings. That is free cash. Right now there is \$62,000 left and is carried over from year to year. The Finance Committee has concerns about the reserve amount in case there are issues that have to be addressed.

Mr. Viera said the fee is going up, the cost of the bags is going up, and the quality is going down.

Mr. Almeida asked about the 15% for Mr. Cabral.

Mr. Cadime explained that the administrative fee includes the salary of the recycling coordinator and 15% of Mr. Cabral's salary, including his benefits. The remaining comes from the general fund.

Town overhead is \$48,000. Other related costs include the Treasurer's office sending out bills.

Mr. Almeida recalled that when this contract was renewed he was told the trash fee would be reduced. It went from three employees to one with the automated system. He didn't understand how the trash fee was increased. He would not support the \$20 increase.

Chairman Andrade said the contract has a 2.5% increase every year. In order for the fee to stay the same, there would need to be no escalator in the contract.

Mr. Cabral noted that last year's increase was absorbed by retained earnings.

Mr. Cadime said it is supposed to be self-sufficient so funds have to be generated. That is why he cautioned about using retained earnings.

He said it would take awhile to build up the retained earnings. The reserve fund should have \$250,000 for emergencies.

Ms. Hines said it looks like the bulky waste and appliance disposal is not increasing. The large bags will go up by five cents. The charge is less than the cost.

Chairman Andrade asked if it would be possible to figure out how to get to the \$250,000 over a number of years by charging the \$189 or \$190.

Ms. Hines does not want to set a fee on an estimated cost.

Mr. Cadime said that line item 8 is the only one that could be reduced. The impact would be \$7.73.

Ms. Hines asked if there's another way to put money into the reserve fund.

Mr. Cadime said it can't be done because it is an enterprise fund.

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There was a lengthy discussion.

Mr. Cadime recommended the trash fee as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Hines, and it was

**VOTED:** 2 Ayes; 3 Nays; To set the rate as presented.

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

There was no second to a motion by Mr. Almeida to set the rate at \$195 with the cost of bags as presented.

Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was

**VOTED:** 2 Ayes; 3 Nays; To set the rate at \$190 with large bags at \$1.01 and small bags at 62 cents.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Cadime stated there is a strong possibility of a deficit by going with the \$190.

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

**VOTED:** To set the rate at \$195 with \$1.01 for large bags and 62 cents for small bags.

### **Discuss the Leonard Street Bridge**

Mr. Cabral advised this is a 40 ft. right-of-way road owned by the town. It serves one house. There are very significant deficiencies in that bridge and immediate concerns. It was brought to his attention about six weeks ago when pieces of plank were missing on the bridge. Representatives from GPI went out there and recommended the bridge not be used until repairs are made.

He has posted signs that the bridge is unsafe and pass at own risk. He has concerns about dump and oil delivery trucks. The homeowner has stopped oil delivery and provisions will be made for trash removal.

A short term fix would be to replace the four planks. It would bring that bridge up to four ton rating – an average passenger vehicle. Beams should be brought up on each side and locked in

place. That would bring the bridge up to 11 ton rating and eliminate concern about oil truck or emergency vehicles. It could be up to 15 ton rating by increasing the thickness of the lumber. He will bring the long term solution before the Board.

This property abuts transfer station property. He talked to the homeowner to make the connection. He also talked to the Chief Healy and Mr. Cadime. The connector to the transfer station could be used for emergency purposes.

Mr. Viera was not sure it is town property. He had a problem with DPW employees doing the work as far as liability.

Mr. Cabral said it is a 16' x 12' span. He felt DPW employees could handle it.

He is researching to make sure it is town-owned property.

A motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Viera, to table was withdrawn.

Mr. Cabral suggested to change timbers, put in gravel access road and do work on both abutments.

Mr. Cadime said the steel looks rotted.

Mr. Viera again questioned whether that is town property.

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

**VOTED:** To put in a safe access road to allow for emergency vehicles to the home.

Mr. Cabral estimated it would be under \$3,000 to do the work. He has the money in his budget.

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

**VOTED:** To identify if the bridge is town-owned property and, if so, to replace the missing planks to allow for vehicular traffic by the homeowner. If it is not town-owned property, to approach the homeowner to make the necessary repairs.

Mr. Cabral has the additional \$1,000 in his budget for a total of \$4,000.

### **Discuss Contract for Luther's Corner Remaining Design Services**

Mr. Cabral said this project is on the TIP for 2017. Plans need to be ready by this time next year to advertise for work in 2018. He is looking for \$150,000 of Chapter 90 in order to get the \$2M sitting there for the project.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the contract with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for the remaining design work at Luther's Corner.

Mr. Parker asked the total amount of Chapter 90 for next year.

Mr. Cabral replied over \$600,000.

Mr. Parker questioned spending almost 20% of Chapter 90 funds on this project.

Mr. Cadime noted the \$2M allocated for the project. He added that the State usually looks for the Town to do the design phase.

In response to Mr. Almeida's question, Mr. Cabral said he is satisfied with the contract.

### **Discuss Phase II of the Senior Center Building**

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

**VOTED:** To table until the next meeting.

Mr. Almeida emphasized that he is not against doing Phase II. He felt the situation at the public works building is a priority. For the next meeting, he would like to see a plan on how to resolve that situation. The needs of the seniors have been satisfied for now.

Mr. Parker said the DPW building, animal shelter, and town hall expansion are priorities. He felt that completion of the senior center building would allow for some of the offices to move from town hall into that building.

### **Consider Letter of Intent for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program**

Library Director Peter Fuller advised that the Library Facilities Committee intends to come before the Board to request a warrant article to grant authority to move forward and request a library construction grant.

The letter of intent is strictly for planning and budgetary purposes by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.

The Library Facilities Committee met with the Finance Director and Treasurer and should have firm numbers by November.

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

**VOTED:** To authorize the Town Administrator to submit the letter of intent to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

**Consider Acceptance of a Donation from Robert Cosmo & Heather Hilton to the Seekonk Animal Shelter**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Hines, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the \$150 donation to the animal shelter and send a letter of appreciation.

**Consider the Approval of June 15, 2016 Minutes**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of June 15, 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**

None.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report**

Mr. Viera reported there was a setback in getting the remainder of the bricks, but it should be done by the end of September. He apologized to anyone who purchased the bricks.



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He talked about an establishment on Newman Avenue that is licensed as a nursery is now operating as a landscape business. He had an agreement put forth by the ZBA. He asked Mr. Cadime to have the incoming building inspector look into it.

Mr. Parker mentioned that Mr. Cadime had indicated he would have a recommendation for building inspector.

Chairman Andrade noted that Mr. Ferreira was unanimously appointed by the Board at the beginning of this meeting.

Mr. Parker asked about an assistant building inspector.

Mr. Cadime stated that he will talk to Mr. Ferreira about staffing.

Ms. Hines corrected a statement she made at the last meeting with respect to the blood drive at the senior center on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and that anyone over the age of 61 could not donate blood. There is no age limit for blood donations.

She announced the Food for Fuel event would take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Seekonk High School. Tickets are available at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Take out is available. The money is used to help residents who can't pay their utility bills.

Mr. Parker asked about an update on the cemetery.

Mr. Cadime advised legal is working on an agreement.

Mr. Almeida inquired about a date for Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Cadime will talk to the moderator and report to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Almeida announced the 9/11 Observance is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex. Residents should bring their own chairs.

Mr. Parker said Sen. Timilty and Rep. Howitt will be in attendance. It seems like Seekonk is the only town that continues this observance.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation relative to call firefighters as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) and to conduct strategy with respect to pending litigation relative to Robert Lamoureux as per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of June 15, 2016; not to reconvene to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary