

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 14, 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 20f, anybody recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS - None

2017 LICENSE RENEWALS

Mr. Cadime commended Executive Assistant Christina Testa for her work in preparing the documents to ensure that all renewal applications were in by the November 18, 2016 deadline.

He noted that Category 48 of the bylaw requires fingerprinting for all items except for entertainment licenses. There were no major issues. There were some minor violations with regard to parking and signs that some Board members were aware of.

Alcohol

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

VOTED: To approve all common victualler alcohol licenses as submitted.

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

VOTED: To approve all alcohol licenses for package stores as submitted.

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

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VOTED: To approve amusement machine licenses as submitted.

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

VOTED: To approve place of public amusement licenses including theater, miniature golf, go-cart track, entertainment, palm and card reading.

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

VOTED: To approve Class I motor vehicle licenses as submitted.

Mr. Cadime advised there will be quarterly inspections to make sure all businesses are in compliance with parking restrictions.

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

VOTED: To approve Class II motor vehicle licenses.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida stated that Showcase Shell wanted to increase the number of vehicles on their parking plan. It's currently six. He is willing to motion to increase by two. That station repairs dealer vehicles and the owner receives a violation letter whenever there are more than six vehicles on the lot.

Mr. Viera noted it is a very small area and a lot of activity goes on there.

Ms. Hines said he cannot follow the license he has now. She would be more apt to look at it if he didn't have any violations.

Mr. Viera noted this Board recently voted to limit the number of Class II licenses in town.

A motion by Mr. Almeida to increase the number of vehicles to eight for Showcase Shell had no second and failed.

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

VOTED: To approve Class III motor vehicles licenses.

LICENSE HEARING

Consider the Change of Manager to Kari Carreiro for Not Your Average Joe's at 1125 Fall River Avenue

Mr. Cadime advised all documents are in order. He recommended Board approval.

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

VOTED: To approve the change of manager to Kari Carreiro for Not Your Average Joe's.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Accept with Regret the Resignation of Anthony R. Araujo as Sealer of Weights and Measures Effective December 17, 2016

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the resignation with regret. He noted Mr. Araujo served the town as a police officer and later the sealer of weights and measures.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Anthony R. Araujo as Sealer of Weights and Measures, effective December 17, 2016, with regret.

Ms. Hines thanked him for his service.

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Nichole Wheeler for the Position of Part Time Assistant Animal Control Officer

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Alexander and Animal Control Officer Sharon Hall had conducted interviews. He recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Nichole Wheeler as part time assistant animal control officer, pending a successful background check.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Awarding the Bid for the Town-wide Phone System to Metropolitan Communications

Communications Director Christopher Campbell noted that a vote at the November 2015 Town Meeting approved \$50,000 to hire a consultant to study the needs of a town-wide comprehensive phone system for all municipal and school buildings. A study committee was formed consisting of the town administrator, finance director, communications director, school department business manager, school department IT manager, and school building and grounds supervisor. The committee interviewed several consultants and, ultimately, Nelson Communications was chosen as the consultant.

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Nelson Communications completed a town-wide needs assessment survey. RFPs were issued which resulted in the submission of eight proposals. Four were selected to move on to a vendor demonstration phase.

At the November 28, 2016 Town Meeting, \$200,000 was approved to move forward with the purchase of the system. The committee unanimously voted to recommend awarding the bid to Metropolitan Telephone, pending successful negotiations of a contract with the Town Administrator.

This system utilizes the Town's fiber optic network and connects all buildings connected to that. It will replace a minimum of eight phone systems within the Town and allow for one common phone system. It will address survivability concerns at each site. It will allow for needed expansion and future growth of the Town and replace approximately 385 handsets. It includes maintenance, replacement and upgrades for a minimum of five years.

Mr. Campbell requested the Board vote to award the bid to Metropolitan Telephone.

Mr. Cadime recommended awarding the bid and he will proceed with preparing the contract. It should be done by January 2017.

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

VOTED: To award the bid for phone system to Metropolitan Telephone.

Mr. Parker asked which town buildings are not fiber optic.

Mr. Campbell said the Banna Fire Station and animal shelter are not tied into fiber optic but will be incorporated in the new system.

Mr. Viera commended Mr. Campbell and Mr. Cadime for their work on this project.

Mr. Cadime said Mr. Campbell and the committee did a tremendous job.

Ms. Hines suggested they find out about expansion within five years, especially with the School Department.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Request from Ocean State Multisport to Hold the Annual Black Goose Marathon on October 22, 2017

Mr. Gary Minissian requested authorization to hold the annual black goose marathon. This is the third year.

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

VOTED: To approve the request to hold the Annual Black Goose Marathon on October 22, 2017.

Discussion with Department of Public Works Regarding Snow and Ice Update

DPW Superintendent David Cabral reported the department is ready. A new large sander was delivered today. Currently there are six sanders, ten small trucks, and 300 tons of salt. The magnesium chloride will be filled this week. Two snow blowers are ready to go. They delivered calcium chloride to all buildings. A spreader was purchased to use at the senior center. Eight vendors have signed up. He has a few more applications. He would like to have twenty vendors. A priority route is in place to take care of the schools.

Mr. Almeida thanked Mr. Cabral for the update.

Discussion of Recent Legislation on Recreational Marijuana

Mr. Cadime had a presentation that would also be available on the website.

Question 4 passed on November 8, 2016. Individuals are allowed to grow up to 12 plants at home. They cannot advertise or promote it. It is for recreational use. Dispensaries are based on 20% of retail liquor licenses. That would mean two dispensaries in Seekonk. Recreational use became legal on December 15 and the sale of marijuana becomes available on January 1, 2017. There is a 6.25% sales tax, 3.75% excise tax, and optional 2% local tax. These taxes are significantly lower than those in Colorado.

This will be controlled by a three-member Cannabis Control Commission similar to the ABCC.

Cities and towns can adopt ordinances and by-laws that impose reasonable safeguards on the operation of marijuana establishments.

The Board could have a referendum to limit the dispensary portion of the sale of marijuana in the town and also limit the signage for these dispensaries.

Ms. Hines suggested a ballot question in April to get input from residents.

Mr. Cadime suggested they wait and see what regulations would be imposed by the State.

Mr. Parker said if the voters say no the State would allow Seekonk to stay at zero.

Mr. Viera suggested the Planning Board look at zones.

Update on Animal Shelter

Mr. Cadime said this has been an ongoing project. Since he has been in Seekonk, a RFP was issued three times for expansion of the shelter. It was done as new construction and module building. Prices came in at \$700,000 which is significantly higher than the \$200,000 to \$300,000 figure expected. It makes more sense to build a new building. A committee member came up with a floor plan. Funding from Save-A-Pet (around \$10,000) could be used to hire an architect to do a feasibility study. It would be built on town hall property in the area that would have been the senior center. The biggest problem would be tying into the septic and running of electricity. They need to get a cost to get it on the special town meeting.

Mr. Parker said there is money left from the amount used for the roof.

Board members agreed it needs to be done.

Mr. Cadime thanked DPW Superintendent David Cabral for his help.

Update on Potential Department of Public Works Building Project

Mr. Cadime said there was talk about using the land at the transfer station to build a new facility there. It would have office space/garage to keep vehicles inside during the winter and also for additional storage space. They also want to look at a salt shed. Some equipment is stored at the old County Street Fire Station. He will check on the need for an OPM.

Mr. Parker suggested combining the animal shelter and DPW building projects.

Mr. Cabral indicated a certain area is unbuildable. He can work with the assistant superintendent and foreman to come up with a layout.

Mr. Viera stated the American Legion would be willing to work with the Town on a building and land there. The Town now leases the right of way from 114A into the landfill. .

Mr. Cadime suggested allocating \$10,000 from the FY'18 budget for a feasibility study and come back to the Board with various options. He felt they need to combine the animal shelter and Phase II of the senior center. The DPW building is further down the road and would be a separate item.

Mr. Viera said all three are important projects.

Update on Senior Center Phase II Project

Mr. Cadime asked what Board members want to see in Phase II of the project. There was talk about relocating the Veterans Agent and Parks and Recreation to that building. People are using the center for meetings so there should be some meeting rooms.

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Ms. Hines suggested the food pantry. If the School Department expands to the North School, the food pantry will need a place to go. The area would have to be handicapped accessible.

Chairman Andrade said it can be a lift and not an elevator if the split level portion is less than 14 ft. and that would greatly reduce the cost.

Ms. Hines noted there was an elevator on the outside of the building on Pleasant Street but it didn't work out.

Chairman Andrade was talking about an internal lift. He also suggested a storage annex.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Fred Khoury, owner of Showcase Shell at 730 Fall River Avenue, asked to increase the restriction of cars on his lot from 6 to 8 or 9. There are always cars on his lot because he repairs dealer cars. He has received violation letters. He tries to maintain six cars but when dealers don't pick up the cars it looks like he is over. He has five or six cars of his own.

Chairman Andrade said it doesn't make sense to increase to 8 if he can't comply with 6.

Mr. Khoury responded that he is complying with six.

Mr. Almeida was willing to motion to increase to eight. It would go back to six if Mr. Khoury doesn't comply.

Mr. Cadime suggested he use dealer plates and put cars on the opposite side of the lot.

Mr. Khoury said he doesn't have dealer plates.

Mr. Viera noted there are complaints about too many Class II motor vehicle licenses in town. Mr. Cadime researched and found 33. The Board moved to limit that number.

Residents of Burnside Avenue - Mr. Manuel Botelho, Mrs. Melanie Bo, and Mrs. Dina Conceicao expressed concern about the compression station and booster pumps coming through town.

They have attended meetings and were told the Seekonk Board of Selectmen was invited to participate in those meetings. They suggested the community get together. Rehoboth residents will have a non-binding vote in April. They have met with Chief Healy and will meet with the Board of Health in January.

Mr. Botelho said the company is Spectra. He spoke to Rep. Howitt.

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It was noted this is a federal program.

Ms. Hines suggested they can request to get on a future agenda for further discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime advised the closing on the cemetery is scheduled for Thursday, December 22, 2016.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report

Mr. Viera advised there are still some bricks that need to be placed in the ground and others that need to be repaired. Work will continue in the spring.

He got complaints about speed on Arcade Avenue particularly in the high school/Ledge Road area. He asked Mr. Cadime to get statistics from the Police Department on how many accidents at that intersection and the timeframe. He asked about a flashing caution light at that area.

Mr. Parker noted that the Board talked about possible projects going forward. He suggested they look at the warrant article passed a couple of years ago creating a five-member building committee.

Ms. Hines said it is under review by the by-law study committee.

Mr. Viera said the chairman of the by-law study committee wanted to know about dates for the hearings.

Mr. Cadime advised the Special Town Meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2017. Meetings will be scheduled for review of the by-laws, broken down into departments.

Mr. Parker inquired about appointments to the charter study committee.

Chairman Andrade said it would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Ms. Hines commended the Seekonk High School football team and coaches. They were in the playoffs and won the Thanksgiving Day game. She also commended the cheerleaders and band.

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She said the high school concert was great. The Hurley Middle School concert is tomorrow night at 6 p.m. She attended the Christmas Party at the senior center. It was a full house. Human Services is still collecting donations for Christmas.

Chairman Andrade asked if anyone could attend the Bristol County Commissioners meeting tomorrow night. He is unable to attend.

He had a complaint about the bad condition of a retaining wall in the area of 561 Taunton Avenue.

He had a request to have a designated area on the Town's website for general information of events.

Mr. Cadime advised that is in progress. There will also be a page dedicated to town meeting.

At 9:11 p.m., Ms. Hines motioned, Mr. Viera seconded, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with Seekonk Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1931 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having the discussion in Open Session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary