

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**JANUARY 11, 2017**  
**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 30, Section 21(f), 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), Zoning Board of Appeals (1 BOS), Permanent Building Committee (5 BOS), Recycling Committee (1 BOS).

Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil announced a vacancy on the Finance Committee for a term that will expire on June 30, 2018. Anyone interested should complete a talent bank form. Public interviews will be held at a posted meeting and a qualified candidate appointed.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Ms. Adriana DosSantos had a handout for Board members.

Chairman Andrade explained the matter could not be discussed in this setting. The individual named would have to be in attendance and it would have to be in executive session.

Ms. DosSantos said she sent an e-mail to the Town Administrator on January 5, 2017 expressing her desire to resign from the position due to turmoil in the office. That situation had been brought to his attention at least three times. The same day she followed up with another e-mail to notify him that it was a two-week notice. She had an episode at the office because of too much stress and was taken to the hospital. She was surprised when she called the staff today to say that she was coming back. She was told that she was not allowed back in the office except to collect her personal items and that she had to be escorted to her office by two staff members because her resignation went into effective on January 5, 2017.

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Mr. Cadime clarified that he received a telephone call from Ms. DosSantos on January 5, 2017 saying that she had already submitted her key on that same day to Ms. Huck and the fact that she was resigning. She also said she would not be giving her two-week notice. She apologized for it and said it would be acceptable if he wanted to dock her pay for two weeks.

She interrupted that she did not say that.

Mr. Cadime said he has never lied or misled anybody and with all due respect, he is not going to fabricate a statement. All he would need is a letter of resignation. He was very clear. He spoke to the director and told her the key was already given and Ms. DosSantos had left the premises.

Ms. DosSantos said she had not left the premises.

Chairman Andrade asked her not to interrupt.

Mr. Cadime said he needed a letter of resignation. If he didn't get it, it would be abandonment and he would move forward with the letter of termination. He then received the letter of resignation which didn't have a date (Board members had a copy). Subsequently, he received a second e-mail that said she would want to put in her two weeks. At that point, he had not seen it until after the fact.

His stand has always been, especially in a stressful work environment as was claimed, not to let the individuals back into the buildings to protect the Town and there is no exposure. He added, not suggesting that Ms. DosSantos would do anything like that because he worked with her and she wouldn't do that. Ms Huck said she had come back on Wednesday and Friday but the conversation was that she was visiting the center at which time there was an episode which she mentioned. He had a conversation with Ms. Huck because he was a little confused as to why she would be back. He went back and noticed that she sent another e-mail that said she would be giving two weeks. He told Ms. Huck that was not acceptable.

He made it clear that she would be paid and that the resignation letter was effective on the January 5, 2017 and she could collect her personal belongings. He was told that somebody in the office was putting her stuff in a box. He told them to stop; not to touch her stuff. She can go into the office and that somebody had to be there with her to collect her belongs.

Ms. DosSantos wanted to respond. However, Chairman Andrade noted that she is on the agenda.

The order of business moved to:

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider the Designation of Sharonlynn Hall as Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151**

Mr. Cadime advised that every year the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Services requires that the mayor or town official appoint the animal control officer. He recommended the appointment of Ms. Hall.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Sharonlynn Hall as the Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151.

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

**Vote to Continue to Endorse the Save-A-Pet Society**

President Patricia Cloutier explained this is an annual request.

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

**VOTED:** To continue to endorse the Safe-A-Pet Society.

**Vote to Accept Gifts, Monetary and Tangible, Donated by the Save-A-Pet Society to the Seekonk Animal Shelter During the Year 2017**

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

**VOTED:** To accept gifts, monetary and tangible, donated by the Save-A-Pet Society to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during the year 2017.

Mrs. Cloutier announced the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Save-A-Pet Auction would take place on March 28, 29 and 30, 2017.

**Accept, with regret, the Resignation of Adriana DosSantos from the Position of Assistant Director of Human Services**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the resignation of Adriana DosSantos as Assistant Director of Human Services with regret, as of January 5, 2017.

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Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida asked if there was any reconsideration of the two weeks notice.

Mr. Cadime said he felt uncomfortable and disappointed that Ms. DosSantos was here. He affords respect to every employee and this is an unfortunate situation. It is not the form or vehicle to have this conversation. It is unfair to other employees. He takes exception to allegations and suggestions that he might be misleading individuals or the public. Also, there is no reconsideration. He has worked extremely hard to rectify the situation. This has been going on prior to his arrival in Seekonk. Ms. DosSantos has approached him in the past about feeling uncomfortable working in that environment. He has tried to work it out. She had submitted her resignation in the past. He met with her and asked her to reconsider.

Mr. Almeida clarified that his question was if the employee had requested to pull back the resignation in the follow-up e-mail.

Mr. Cadime said no.

Ms. DosSantos said it is embarrassing. She has given 200% to the town for 5 ½ years.

Chairman Andrade said she resigned and handed in her keys. She didn't give two-weeks notice.

### **Interview Candidates for the Charter Study Committee**

Mr. Cadime noted that, at the November 2, 2016 meeting, the Board voted to create an ad hoc committee to study the Town Charter (with the exception of the form of government). The committee would consist of a minimum of five and maximum of eleven members. Talent bank forms were accepted until December 1, 2016.

Mr. Parker said it is an ad hoc committee not bound by the open meeting law. These people are interested and should not have to be interviewed.

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

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; To appoint Elizabeth Eklund, David Saad, David Sullivan, Jr., Joyce Leven, John J. Alves, Kyle Laprade, Robert Richardson, and Robert Blanchard.

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

In further discussion prior to the vote, Mr. Cadime said they are supposed to be interviewed.

Mr. Viera wanted to get it done.

Ms. Hines noted they came to the meeting and she would like to hear from them.

Chairman Andrade suggested they appoint seven in order to keep the number uneven.

Mr. Hoogerzeil stated that he served on a previous ad hoc committee and they followed the open meeting law.

Mr. Parker said he would check on that. He will yield to Mr. Cadime for now.

### **LICENSE HEARINGS**

#### **Consider a Request for a Change of Manager to Michele Frances Tucci for TGI Friday's, 1105 Fall River Avenue**

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

**VOTED:** To indefinitely table the request for change of manager for TGI Friday's, 1105 Fall River Avenue.

#### **Clarification of the Vote on the Annual License Renewals of:** **Class I Motor Vehicle License – First Acura, 16 Highland Avenue** **Class II Motor Vehicle License – Group One Cars, 18 Highland Avenue** **Class II Motor Vehicle License – Reliable Motors, 550 Central Avenue** **Class II Motor Vehicle License – The Car Palace, 14 Taunton Avenue**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the Class I motor vehicle license for First Acura, 16 Highland Avenue; Class II motor vehicle license for Group One Cars, 18 Highland Avenue; Class II motor vehicle license for Reliable Motors, 550 Central Avenue; and Class II motor vehicle license for The Car Palace, 14 Taunton Avenue.

Mr. Viera suggested that in the future any questions should be directed to the secretary.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss Speeding Complaints Throughout Town**

Mr. Cadime mentioned that Mr. Viera had raised concerns at the previous meeting, in particular with the area near the high school, and after that a few residents came into the office with complaints.

Police Chief Craig Mace said he heard that Ledge Road is a concern. Right now, the Police Department is responsible for patrolling 110 miles of roadway in Seekonk, 3.07 miles of Rte. 6, 3 miles of Rte. 114A, and 2.7 miles of Rte 44.

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During the week, there are at least three patrolmen and one supervisor on the midnight shift and on weekends four patrols and one supervisor minimum. On the day shift and 4 p.m. to 12 midnight, a minimum of 4 patrols and one supervisor. Sometimes there are five cars. There are times there are two supervisors at one time. The Town is broken up to four posts.

The Chief said historically complaints received at the Police Department are about speeding. The speed limit in residential areas is 30 miles per hour. Some people do not understand that. Seekonk is a cut through town so there is congestion.

In the past, they have done direct patrol assigning officers to specific areas and also the radar trailer. They have put empty cruisers with mannequins inside. There are other options as well.

In 2015, police stopped 2,181 cars and issued 2,300 citations and, in 2016, police stopped 4,918 and issued 3,344 citations. Arrests and complaints were at 489 in 2015 and 821 in 2016. Calls for service in 2015 were 15,277 and 17,979 in 2016.

Chief Mace said police officers are aware of Ledge Road and other areas in town.

He asked if Board members had any other areas of concern.

Chairman Andrade said Rte. 44 at Arcade Avenue before the Grist Mill.

Chief Mace explained they put a radar trailer at Arcade Avenue and then a sign board listing the speed limit. It is posted at 40 mph coming off 114A to Arcade Avenue. It goes down to 30-35 at Pleasant Street. The speed limit on Taunton Avenue is 50 mph and goes to 40 mph near the public safety building.

Ms. Hines said she asked Mr. Cadime to try to get the 40 mph on Taunton Avenue pushed back now that the light is in place at the public safety complex.

Chief Mace credited Mr. Cabral. He knows who to talk to at Mass. DOT.

Mr. Viera suggested a cruiser at the intersection of Ledge Road and Arcade Avenue periodically would be a deterrent

Chief Mace said cruisers are in and around the schools. He said that officers are doing a good job.

Mr. Viera said nobody is suggesting they are not doing their job.

Mr. Parker asked if the town has authority to reduce the speed limit on side roads.

Chief said it would probably require DPW to do a traffic study and then petition the State to reduce the speed.

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Ms. Hines asked if the Chief takes suggestions on what to put on signs.

Chief Mace said yes.

He researched for safety programs through the International Association of Police Chiefs. There are times that grant funding is received based on crash data.

He talked about educating the public. He noted that his Cable TV show is the highest rated show on TV9.

He noted the town is divided into four posts. He plans on developing a sustainable plan and then enforcement.

Chief Mace respectfully requested that residents call the Police Department with complaints.

He talked about steps taken for the safety of officers.

**Consider the Local Initiative Application for Local Action Units at Country Brook Estates**

Mr. Cadime advised that Atty. Jillian Jagling had worked with the developer on the application.

Mr. Timothy Cusson of Delphic Associates, 651 Orchard Street, New Bedford, MA, was in attendance representing Costa Development LLC

Mr. Cusson advised the development was permitted under a local inclusionary by-law which requires 10% to be affordable. There are 18 units or rounded to minimum of two units. It will be Unit 1 and 15. Prices are \$178,700 for affordable units.

In response to Mr. Almeida's question, Mr. Cusson advised that the affordable units will be the same as the others.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the Local Initiative Application for Local Action Units at Country Brook Estates and authorize the Chairman to sign.

**Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of November 30, 2016**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of November 30, 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 advised that the budget process is ongoing. Budgets were submitted and Mr. Alexander and he are meeting with department heads. A preliminary budget should be submitted to the Board by the end of the month. He expects to have numbers from the governor’s office by January 20.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Viera inquired about the status of the old town hall.

Mr. Cadime advised the documents are almost done.

Chairman Andrade expressed his appreciation to those who reached out to his family following the fire at his home. He has found temporary housing while repairs are being done. It is ¼ mile outside of the state line. He checked with the Secretary of State. It is considered an act of God and could not be foreseen. He doesn’t have to resign from the Board and can run for re-election.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:11 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Viera, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with Fraternal Order of Police MASSCOP Local 215 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) and 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 and to consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of November 16, 2016 and November 30, 2016; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Prepared by:

David Viera, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary



