

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 8, 2017
REGULAR MEETING

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 advised that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), any person recording the meeting must notify the Chair. 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).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Mary Madonna to the Position of Kennel Worker

ACO Sharon Hall and Ms. Madonna were in attendance.

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Mary Madonna to the position of kennel worker.

Accept, with regret, the Resignation of Amy Doar Firefighter Paramedic

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the resignation.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Amy Doar as firefighter paramedic, with regret.

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Consider and Sign the Agreement with Metropolitan Telephone Company, Inc.

Mr. Cadime noted the Board had voted to award the bid to Metropolitan. The contract was drafted by Atty. Torres and representatives of Metropolitan. There will be an individual contract for each building.

Communications Director Christopher Campbell stated that Article 5 of the November 28, 2016 Town Meeting approved \$200,000 for the purchase of a town-wide integrated telephone system. On December 14, 2016, the Board authorized approval of the proposal and for Mr. Cadime to enter into negotiation. The contract is in the amount of \$155,495 for the phone system. A new system will be installed at ten municipal and school locations utilizing the existing town-owned fiber optic network. Over 350 handsets will be replaced. It includes a maintenance agreement with options to extend for an additional three years.

Ms. Hines asked for the titles of the two individuals from Metropolitan.

Mr. Cadime said Steve Burke is Regional Manager and Cindy Szpila is sales.

Mr. Almeida recalled that about two years ago the Town was supposed to share an IT person with the School Department.

Mr. Cadime said that was prior to his coming to Seekonk. It actually cost more money so the decision was made to continue with MX Consultant.

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

VOTED: To approve and sign the agreement with Metropolitan Telephone Company, Inc..

LICENSE HEARING

Consider the Request for Change of Corporate Name from Seekonk Liquors, Inc., d/b/a Chris Gasbarro's to Christopher P. Gasbarro Revocable Trust, 98 Highland Avenue

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone the request for change of corporate name from Seekonk Liquors, Inc., d/b/a Chris Gasbarro's to Christopher P. Gasbarro Revocable Trust, 98 Highland Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Request for a Partial Roof Replacement; Window Replacement and Heating System Replacement and Modernization at Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School

Chairman Andrade advised discussions at the Quad Board meeting concerned just the roof replacement. However, the MSBA recommended that any possible School Department projects be included as well. The items will be funded individually through the MSBA.

Mr. Cadime noted that a vote by the Board of Selectmen is necessary in order to submit a statement of interest.

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

VOTED: To submit the Statement of Interest to the MSBA for a partial roof replacement; window replacement, and heating system replacement and modernization at Mildred H. Aitken Elementary School.

Consider the Request for a Partial Roof Replacement at the Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School

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

VOTED: To submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA for a partial roof replacement at the Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School.

Consider the Approval of and Sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant

Board members reviewed the articles.

Article 4 is a request for \$950,000 for a new animal shelter building to be located on Town Hall property. There is a question of tying into the septic system. This amount includes installation of a new septic system. If approved at Town Meeting, it could be placed on the ballot for the April election. Save-A-Pet will be making a donation.

Article 5 is a request for \$73,970.54 for the purchase of a street sweeper.

Article 7 is to replace the general by-laws.

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

VOTED: To approve the warrant for the Special Town Meeting of February 27, 2017.

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Consider the Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of January 11, 2017 as presented.

Consider the Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of January 25, 2017 as presented.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Alves of 25 River Street expressed disappointment that town counsel had not responded to the question regarding appointment of a charter study committee.

Chairman Andrade said he didn't press the question.

Ms. Hines assured there would be a response by next meeting. She said the new law firm is supposed to be very good. One of her biggest complaints was the amount of time to get responses from attorneys.

Mr. Alves said the trails behind Town Hall and YMCA are completed and came in under budget. The money will be used for proper signage and to make sure the exit on Arcade Avenue is safe. He noted that town hall, police, fire and citizen volunteers helped. It was a well-coordinated community effort.

Mr. Cadime recognized Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller who coordinated the project. She is truly a great advocate for conservation and she is an asset to Seekonk.

Mr. Alves agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting

Representatives from Chick-Fil-A were in attendance.

Mr. Cadime explained that Chick-Fil-A has a grand opening promotion. The first one hundred people who camp out all night get a free combo meal once a week for a year. There will be entertainment.

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Mr. Jonas Williams, owner/operator of the restaurant, explained the event is on February 23, 2017. They hired almost 90 people; some of them are Seekonk High School students. He has enjoyed working with town officials and is happy to open a restaurant in Seekonk.

The "First 100" celebration starts at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22, for 24 hours. They provide security overnight and have staff onsite during the full 24 hours. There will be music until 10 p.m. It is like a small block party.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Almeida, to approve amusement license

VOTED: To approve the amusement license for Chick-Fil-A.

Mr. Parker said he is looking forward to it. It will be a fun event.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime reminded residents that the Special Town meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 7 p.m.

He noted that the bylaws have been completely revised. The committee worked well over a year going through this with department heads. He urged residents to attend town meeting to ensure there is a quorum and to take part in the process.

He announced that town hall would be closed the next day due to the expected snowstorm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report

Mr. Viera advised there are only about 7 to 10 bricks left to engrave and then work on the ones that need repair. All work should be completed by the Memorial Day parade.

He mentioned that he has heard complaints about the rising cost of Comcast.

Mr. Cadime said the current contract ends in 2020.

Mr. Viera felt they need to make it more competitive.

Mr. Parker said they tried to change a few years back but companies do not want to spend the money to wire the town for the few customers who might switch over.

Ms. Hines added that Comcast has closed the local offices.

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At Mr. Viera's request, Mr. Cadime will try to get a Comcast representative to attend a future meeting.

Mr. Viera noted there are unregistered cars on School, Olney, and Anthony Streets.

Mr. Parker urged residents to attend the Town Meeting on February 27.

Ms. Hines announced the Taste of the Town to be held at the Clarion Inn on March 7, 2017. Tickets are \$30 and are available in the Town Clerk's office and Human Services.

The Save-A-Pet auction is on March 28, 29, and 30 at the Ramada Inn. All merchandise is donated.

The senior breakfast is the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 9 and 10:30 a.m. at Human Services.

Mr. Almeida expressed concern that the two recent resignations targeted department heads. He would like to see a plan of action – maybe talking to employees.

Mr. Cadime said morale is at an all-time high since he has been in Seekonk. He attributed that to the Board's efforts to have a summer cookout and other activities throughout the year. He commended department heads.

He said that sometimes employees don't want to be held accountable and do not respect management. He is accessible to all employees. He is conducting performance evaluations.

Mr. Almeida said several residents who pay to play in a basketball league were turned away from one of the school gymnasiums.

Chairman Andrade said the situation has been resolved.

Mr. Almeida referred to an e-mail from the Concerned Citizens group about possible ethic violations. If this situation exists, he will move to rescind some appointments made to that particular committee.

Ms. Hines felt resignations on the agenda should not be listed as "with regret."

Mr. Viera said for several years he has felt the town needs an assistant town administrator, human resource person, and purchasing agent. Presently, Mr. Cadime does it all.

Chairman Andrade noted The Rehoboth Reporter had a great tribute to Town Clerk Janet Parker, who is retiring.

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Chairman Andrade announced that no one is running in the April election to fill the vacant seats on the Planning Board and the Assessors. The deadline to submit the 50 signatures to the Town Clerk's office is Monday, February 13, 2017.

Mr. Almeida noted that Rehoboth requires 35 signatures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:12 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with Seekonk Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1931 and Fraternal Order of Police MASSCOP Local 215 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), and Finance Director Bruce Alexander per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; to reconvene to Open Session.

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

Mr. Parker would not participate in Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To accept the contract with MASSCOP Local 215.

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To open the warrant for the February 27, 2017 Special Town Meeting.

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To add Article 8 to transfer money to fund the newly-ratified contract between the Town and MASSCOP Local 215.

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

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

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VOTED: 4 Ayes; To close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary