

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**APRIL 5, 2017**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Andrade, 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), anybody recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

The Chairman was sick and said he would be leaving after certain items. He clarified that he has abstained himself from such projects as the animal shelter, senior center, and library because his employer, William Starck Architects, bids on those kind of projects. If the firm is successful, he would not work on those projects.

Chairman Andrade left at 7:48 p.m. following the discussion on snow operations.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE**

Mr. Viera announced 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), Permanent Building Committee (5 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (2 BOS), Recycling Committee (1 BOS), and Zoning Board of Appeals (2 BOS).

Chairman Andrade noted that the Town Administrator has received a few talent bank forms which he will review.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**- None.

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

**Reorganization of the Board**

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

**VOTED:** That the leadership of the Board remains the same with David Andrade, Chairman; Nelson Almeida, Vice Chairman; and David Viera, Clerk.

**Recognition of Mrs. Janet Parker for 21 Years of Service to the Town**

Ms. Hines presented Mrs. Parker with a Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

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Mrs. Parker praised Town Hall employees. She will miss them. She mentioned her proudest accomplishment is Save-A-Pet. She thanked the voters for supporting the construction of an animal shelter and she looks forward to seeing it built.

**Consider the Appointment of Freddy Luperon to the Position of Sealer of Weights and Measures**

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment.

Mr. Luperon introduced himself to the Board.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Freddy Luperon as Sealer of Weights and Measures.

**Consider the Appointment of Courtney Moody as Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals**

Mr. Cadime advised he interviewed Mrs. Moody. He recommended the appointment for a three-year term.

Mrs. Moody introduced herself. She responded to Ms. Hines questions that she has not attended any ZBA meetings. She is a realtor and she felt that would be beneficial to the ZBA.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Courtney Moody as an alternate to the ZBA.

Mr. Parker was pleased to see young people get involved.

**Interview Candidates for Charter Study Committee (Robert Richardson, Joyce Leven, John Alves)**

Candidates told why they want to be on the Charter Study Committee.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Robert Richardson to the Charter Study Committee.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Joyce Leven to the Charter Study Committee.

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

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**VOTED:** To appoint John Alves to the Charter Study Committee.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Alves said he hoped the committee does a good job and that would negate the need for a commission.

Mr. Viera expressed concern that Mr. Alves made a statement that he wasn't in favor of changing town government. He asked Mr. Alves to look at the charter in its existence with an open mind.

Mr. Alves said it is an invalid question.

Mr. Viera questioned if his mind is made up for that is it made up for other things?

Chairman Andrade clarified that Mr. Viera suggested he look at it from all areas. Nothing will result in changes. The form of government change would happen under a commission; but, that shouldn't preclude a committee from discussing the form of government.

The Board of Selectmen needs to consider any suggestions from the committee.

Mr. Alves said he doesn't see any need to change the form of government.

The order of business moved to:

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion of Snow Operations**

DPW Director David Cabral reported there were 12 events overall – six were plowable and 6 required sanding operations. The blizzard was on February 9. It was an average year - \$209,000. Last year it was over \$100,000. It was a mild year. It was over \$300,000 the prior year.

Chairman Andrade stated that Board members got a few e-mail complaints. Some were from north end residents who felt the snow removal operation was not as good as the south end.

Mr. Cabral said they began on 5:30 a.m. on February 9 and ended at 3 a.m. the following day and back to work on Friday at 7:30 a.m. There was about 11 to 12 inches of snow on the ground. It was a difficult storm that started out with rain and then freezing rain. They could not pre-condition the streets because of the rain. He felt the guys did a great job.

There are two sanders assigned to the north end, two to the south end and two back up sanders. They were short a truck because two of the older trucks were down. He is looking to get a vendor with a large truck to support the DPW crew.

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The nature of that storm was difficult. There were two other storms with two inches of snow over that weekend. Roads were passable by the end of the day on Saturday.

Ms. Hines said the roads in the Town of Norton were down to the pavement from the very first day.

Mr. Cabral said Seekonk has limited resources. It would be interesting to see what Norton has for resources.

Ms. Hines asked why the State does not do Route 152.

Mr. Cabral said awhile back and for whatever reason Seekonk and Attleboro took over Rte. 152.

He said it is difficult to get more vendors because of the requirements. He would like to review those requirements prior to next winter.

Ms. Hines suggested before the end of the summer.

She commended the workers. They did a good job in certain parts.

Mr. Cadime said DPW has done a tremendous job. He met with Mr. Cabral. They set high expectations and internally did not live up to those. He met with staff to figure out how to improve the process, especially on Rte. 152. They need to identify new equipment either to purchase or hire a vendor. The vendor application should be changed to attract more people. They need to implement a new process of treating the roads.

Mr. Viera said this in no way is critical of the department or Mr. Cabral. However, he did experience that Rte. 152 and Central Avenue were horrible.

He suggested discussion should begin in July. Mr. Cabral should talk to vendors as a group or independently. He agreed that the insurance requirement is a little extensive.

Mr. Almeida has listened to vendors, employees and residents. He felt it is an internal issue. He suggested an executive session to talk with Mr. Cabral and his assistant. He has many concerns.

Mr. Parker said he got just one phone call. He talked to Mr. Cadime. He drove around Saturday night. That's where it should end. This is micromanaging. Mr. Cadime called the person back. It reminds him of BOS meetings of several years ago.

Ms. Hines said there were a lot of complaints. She talked to Mr. Cadime. Residents deserve an explanation and this is the forum they have.

She thanked Mr. Cabral for attending.

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Mr. Viera said he is tired of hearing about micromanaging. There is a difference. The Board has the right to get the answers to the people that elected them. Nobody is micromanaging.

Mr. Parker felt that Mr. Cadime could have given the report and Mr. Cabral did not need to be here.

Ms. Hines disagreed.

Mr. Cadime said that Mr. Cabral is more than happy to be here and provide updates. He reassured every member of the board. They recognize there was an issue, and they can almost guarantee it doesn't happen again. If there are internal issues, he would like to hear them. There is no mechanism for executive session.

Mr. Cabral distributed budgets. He advised the budget is \$91,000. The amount spent this year is \$206,835.27, in 2015 it was \$306,533.71, and in 2016, it was \$237,574.92.

He noted they haven't increased the budget amount in awhile because once increased that has to be maintained.

Mr. Viera added that is the only line that can legally be overspent without ramifications. They know they will have to go for a reserve fund transfer.

Mr. Cadime said communities are allowed to deficit spend.

Mr. Almeida said he will relay his concerns to the Town Administrator. He commended Mr. Cabral and employees.

Mr. Viera concurred.

The order of business returned to:

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **FY 2018 Budget Hearing**

Mr. Cadime commended department heads that helped prepare the budget. There was a problem with the Munis update. The report will be distributed at the next meeting.

He talked about growth and sustainability. He didn't want to increase budgets or add staff and additional resources which could not be maintained in years to come. The budget building process is as close to zero-based budget as possible. The School Department puts together their budget but the budget number submitted to the town is from the Town Administrator. It's a bottom line appropriation so there will be a discrepancy. He is extremely concerned about the sustainability in the School Department budgets.

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Budget assumptions are to increase tax levy to 2.5%, increase new growth, increase local receipts, and unrestricted local aid and Chapter 70 based on the Governor's budget.

Police have finalized their contract with a 1.75% increase in salaries.

The Fire contract has expired and it is currently in arbitration. There will be no contractual increases.

The AFSCME units, United Steelworkers, and Library contracts are expiring at the end of FY 2017.

They are looking at a three-year plan to increase the Fire Department staff to 47 (11 firefighters per group, 1 fire prevention captain, 1 administrative captain, and 1 fire chief).

They need to update equipment for police, fire and communications and increase training for public safety and town hall employees.

The FY 2018 budget is balanced at \$52,597,431, an increase of 5.18% and \$2.6M increase from FY17. The General Fund is at \$51,407,364, a 5.15% increase and \$2.5M increase from FY'17. The Sanitation Enterprise Fund is at \$1,190,067, a 6.3% increase and \$70,521 increase.

State Aid is at \$6,520,691 based on the Governor's numbers. Chapter 70 is at \$5,128,872 (increase of \$42,657). Unrestricted Local Aid has a decrease of \$10,005 to \$1,391,819. Tax Levy is at \$39,671,219. Local Receipts at \$2,450,000. He disputed comments from the School Committee that the town is not aggressive enough with the forecast of budgets. The town needs to be conservative. He recommended not using one time money in the operational budget.

Mr. Cadime advised that following the Town Meeting he would be coming before the Board to talk about a south end fire station. They intend to add 4 new mid-year hires.

The debt for the high school and Martin School is retired this year.

There is a difference of \$1.4M in the amount submitted by the School Department compared to the town. The amount proposed is \$25,187,986 which is an increase of \$867,544 from FY'17. The town is funding 79.6% of the School Department budget. The Foundation Enrollment is 1,912 students. Net School Spending Requirement is \$19,257,288. He applauded the Superintendent of Schools for trying to find ways to reduce the budget. He met with her to discuss closing the nearly \$1.5M gap.

Mr. Cadime talked about unsustainable salaries the town cannot afford and will take away from direct programs for students. That has to be addressed. The concern is step increases and contractual adjustments well above what is affordable.

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The town is conservative but aggressive with revenue projections.

He talked about comments about flush money. The use of those monies will create structural deficits. The town's bond rating is AA. He invited anyone to come in and look at the books or go out with assessors to see the process.

Department heads make sure they only spend what they need and are willing to give back and that is where free cash comes from. The School Department does not do that.

The Tri-County assessment increased 9.98% to \$1,118,554 for 83 students and Bristol Aggie also increased 11.11% to \$19,170 for 12 students.

The Sanitation Fund is at \$1,238,244, an increase of 6.04%.

Mr. Viera asked about adding police officers.

Mr. Cadime said they held off staffing this year but maybe next year. The goal is 40 officers.

Mr. Parker asked about the cost of full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Cadime said roughly \$320,000 including additional teachers. He felt it would be the use of one-time money as a separate warrant article. The School Department made cuts and the gap is now \$30,000.

Mr. Viera suggested a quad board meeting prior to Town Meeting in order to go in unified.

The Public Hearing opened at 9:08 p.m.

Mr. Chris Zorro of Colt Drive asked if the town had voted last year to include full-day kindergarten in the operational budget.

Mr. Cadime was not sure. Full-day kindergarten is optional.

Mr. Parker added that parents paid for that.

The public hearing closed at 9 10 p.m.

Vice Chairman Almeida thanked Mr. Cadime for the very thorough report.

Mr. Parker thanked department heads for getting their budgets prepared on time. He noted the budget information is available for any residents who want it. He does not want to hear they didn't get it before Town Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update from Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller Regarding 36 Maple Avenue**

Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller and Town Planner John Aubin were in attendance. They have been working together on this project.

Mrs. Miller advised they applied for state and EPA funding. The state grant was \$100,000 in assessment funding and EPA \$300,000 for remediation funding. No information from the EPA.

She provided background on the property. In 2012 the EPA removed asbestos and drums on the site. It is unclear whether there are additional sediments. The fire damage has prevented additional assessments. Hopefully, with the funding, they can get under the building. They need to do a human health risk assessment and ecological and ground water testing.

The town got a commitment from Mass Development for \$100,000 in additional assessment funding. The Board of Selectmen must accept a resolution. The town must enter into a MOA with Mass. Development. The funding must be repaid upon resale of the property for redevelopment. That is not the case with EPA funding. This assessment will put the town in a better position to acquire additional EPA funding, if available, for remediation. They will get a background review of all documents so far and data reports, site visit to determine the best sampling locations, a Phase II investigation comprehensive report, a Phase 3 evaluation which will recommend an option plan and a two-hour meeting to discuss the reports.

Mr. Viera asked if it qualifies for a super fund site.

Mr. Aubin said that is why they did the assessment to find out different options.

Mr. Parker asked about doing the work without ownership of the property.

Mr. Cadime explained the town has access to the property. The tax title attorney is holding up to the point of foreclosure. That will not happen until there is confirmation of EPA money and a plan.

Mr. Viera wanted to make sure a bank is not involved.

Mr. Parker concerned that this might take years.

**Update from Peter Fuller Regarding the Library Construction Grant**

Library Director Peter Fuller stated that it has been a 19-year effort to find adequate space for the library. The library received a \$3.1M grant in 2000 but the town did not accept it because of circumstances to fund the remainder of the project.



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Since then, they have spent almost \$230,000 to update the building, get new furnishings, electrical update, and lighting update. There just isn't enough space in that building.

At the November 28, 2016 Town Meeting, residents approved replacing the existing building with a new one at the current location on Newman Avenue. It is a little more than 24,000 sq. ft. The voters authorized the town to submit a public library construction grant application to the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.

The total project cost is about \$15,845,000. The estimate includes escalation for three years and contingencies. Grant awards will be made in July. Thirty libraries have applied for grants. If the town is placed on a waiting list, it will not be until 2019 to 2022 to get the grant. The town would have to make a commitment for funding within six months of grant award. It would be on the warrant for Town Meeting in November 2017. There will be a referendum in January 2018 for debt exclusion. More information is available on the library and town websites.

In response to Vice-Chairman Almeida's question, Mr. Fuller said the town's share would be \$7,982,535.

Mr. Parker said the amount at Town Meeting would be \$15M. He suggested it would be better to hold a Special Town Meeting in February for this and then the regular election in April.

Mr. Cadime said the article could include a stipulation that contingent on the grant.

On another matter, Ms. Hines said she heard the library was withdrawing from SAILS.

Mr. Fuller said they could not operate without the SAILS network.

Mr. Viera expressed appreciation for the cooperation in putting the light for the Veterans Memorial Park.

### **Update on the Status of Old Town Hall**

Mr. Cadime advised he received a redline version from the tribe's attorney with regard to the deed. The tribe is trying to eliminate the reverter clause. The intent was that the town would get the property back if the tribe did not live up to expectations of the RFP. The tribe is trying to get funding. They want to have full control of the property. Mr. Cadime felt that was not the understanding.

Additionally, the town has the right to the premise easement. The tribe wants to include language that the town would have to go to court to exercise that right.

Mr. Parker said this has been going on for ten years. Board members agreed they are done with this.

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Mr. John Alves, Chairman of the CPC, stated \$100,000 was put into that building for roof and removal of asbestos and mold.

Mr. Viera said the Board needs to move expeditiously and take control of that building.

Mr. Cadime said the tribe indicated it would rent out space in the building to a business or attorney.

Vice-Chairman Almeida noted that was not the intent of people at Town Meeting. Tribe members indicated to the Board that they were financially sound.

### **Establish a Date for Spring Town Meeting**

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

**VOTED:** To set June 5, 2017 as the date for the Spring Town Meeting and open the warrant today and close on May 5, 2017.

The meeting will be at Seekonk High School.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Consider the Municipal Modernization Act Regarding Signature of Treasury Warrants**

Mr. Cadime advised this is a result of the Governor's Modernization Act to streamline government.

Board members agreed to continue as currently done with three signatures.

#### **Consider the Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2017**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the minutes of March 8, 2017.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mr. Chris Zorra of 28 Colt Drive said he has been a snow removal vendor for about six or seven years. He suggested a meeting with vendors and Board members.

Mr. Viera noted that Mr. Cadime represents the Board.

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**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**- None.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report**

Mr. Viera said they are still working on the installation and repairs of the bricks.

The Memorial Day Parade is on Saturday, May 27, 2017, stepping off at 10 a.m. from the high school.

Mr. Viera asked for a viewing stand at the Park for dignitaries.

Ms. Hines thanked people who attended the Save-A-Pet auction and also those who donated items.

Mr. Parker said they made 40% more than in previous years.

Ms. Hines had a 1955 Annual Report donated to the archives.

She thanked the voters. She noted that 11.3% or 1,158 of the 10,195 eligible voters actually voted. She is disappointed in remarks that a few people run the town and only a few come out and vote. She doesn't know how to get people to vote and attend Town Meetings. She is tired of hearing people say they didn't have enough notice. The information is out there. Town Meetings are announced at Board of Selectmen meetings and on the website. Board of Selectmen meetings are rebroadcast on TV9.

Ms. Hines commended the Fire Chief and EMS for their assistance to East Providence.

She noted there will be a ZBA hearing scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017, at the high school. However, the applicant for a special permit for substance abuse rehabilitation facility has withdrawn the request.

The Bristol County Mosquito Control will hold a Family Education night on Monday, May 7, 2017, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the library.

Mr. Viera advised the compressor station was overwhelmingly defeated in the recent election in Rehoboth. Seekonk has joined with Rehoboth and Attleboro to deter that station from going into Rehoboth. The north end of Seekonk would definitely be affected. The next step is to go to the Governor.

Vice-Chairman Almeida thanked the voters for the opportunity to serve for three more years. He said there was one contested race and two with no candidates.

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Mr. Cadime advised that Janet Parker was a write-in candidate for the Board of Assessors. The Planning Board also had an opening.

Mr. Parker agreed that the interest is not there.

Mr. Viera clarified that anybody whose mailbox was damaged during the snowstorms should contact DPW.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:27 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with United Steelworkers of America Clerical Unit Local 16031 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) and United Steelworkers Supervisors Unit Local 16031 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 March 8, 2017; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

