

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 22, 2017
REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: David Andrade

Town Administrator Shawn E. Cadime was sick.

Finance Director/Asst. Town Administrator Bruce Alexander was in attendance.

Vice Chairman Almeida 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 21(f), anybody recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording audio and visual.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Viera 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), and Finance Committee (1 Moderator).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Town Clerk Lottery Drawing for Ballot Position

Asst. Town Clerk Florice Craig was in attendance. The ballot positions are as follows:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

David Andrade
Nelson Almeida

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Barker
Lynn Cristino

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

William Woods
Erin Brouillette

WATER COMMISSIONER

Jeffrey Starr Mararian
Douglas Brown
Christopher Craft

Consider the Appointment of Ken Ruscetta to the Historical Commission

Mr. Ruscetta said he is interested in preserving the history of the Town.

Mr. Viera said Mr. Ruscetta served on the School Committee at one time. He and his wife have been involved in town government.

Mr. Alexander advised that Mr. Cadime recommends the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Ken Ruscetta to the Historical Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider the Request from Massachusetts Electric Co. and National Grid to Install Four New Poles at 400 Pine Street and 0 Pine Street, Plat 28, Lot 44

Vice Chairman Almeida opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Mr. Ed Paluah of National Grid said this is a large project to improve this area in the north end of Seekonk.

DPW Superintendent David Cabral explained this had previously come before the Board. One pole was questionable because it was in front of a residence. That has since been corrected. He is comfortable with the project and recommended it.

The public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the request from Mass. Electric Co. and National Grid to install four new poles at 400 Pine Street and 0 Pine Street, Plat 28, Lot 44.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the 2017 SRPEDD Technical Assistance Grant Application

Mr. Alexander said Mr. Cadime recommends approval.

Vice Chairman Almeida read a memo from Town Planner John Aubin III that the Planning Board had voted at its meeting on February 14, 2017 to prepare and submit an application to SRPEDD for Technical Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$12,500. Those funds will be matched by \$12,500 that was recently awarded to the Town through the Community Compact Program for the development of an Economic Development Guide for the Town.

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

VOTED: To positively endorse the proposed application to SRPEDD for Technical Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$12,500.

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of February 8, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of February 8, 2017.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Alves of 25 River Street expressed frustration that people have waited for four weeks to get a ruling from town counsel regarding the charter study committee.

Ms. Hines said it is upsetting that the Board is not getting answers on time. She really can't answer Mr. Alves' question.

Mr. Parker said it shouldn't even be a question. The Board has the right to appoint an ad-hoc committee.

Ms. Hines said the question is – is it “commission” or “committee.”

Mr. Viera said that Board members didn't interview the individuals.

He said they need an answer by next meeting.

Mr. Alves asked about the cost of legal fees to get \$55 for the old town hall.

Mr. Viera said he asked Mr. Cadime and was told it is in the hands of the tribe. The chief is away for the winter. There continues to be stumbling blocks. He noted that building is the last piece of history in town. He wanted an update for the next meeting.

Mr. Donald Kinniburgh, 119 West Avenue, asked if there will be soccer fields at Mararian farm. DPW has workers down there on Garden Street.

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Mr. Parker said Board members are not aware of any plans.

Mr. Alexander noted the Conservation Agent has been cleaning up some properties that are conservation land.

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 said work will continue on the bricks once the weather breaks.

Ms. Hines announced the 21st Annual Taste of the Town sponsored by the Kiwanis Club is on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Grand Rose Ballroom at the Clarion Inn on Rte. 114A. Tickets are \$30. There will be wine and beer tasting, raffles, etc.

She requested that Mr. Cabral attend the next meeting to talk about the recent snowstorm. Board members received many calls and she feels Mr. Cabral needs to respond to questions.

The Save-A-Pet Auction is on March 28, 29, and 30, 2017 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Ramada Inn. Donations are being accepted.

Mr. Viera said the rabies clinic is on March 11 at the DPW building.

He felt the Board should be reviewing the policies. He referred to the recent snowstorm. He had no problem with Town Hall closing on Thursday (day of the storm) but he questioned why it was also closed on the Friday. There were residents who were unable to conduct business. Also, the senior center, animal shelter and library close when town hall closes. He felt they need to develop a policy if there isn't one in place.

Mr. Parker noted that Mr. Cadime started to review policies about a year ago. He would bring a few at a time to the Board.

Mr. Alexander felt Mr. Cadime might have been sidetracked by the bylaw study committee.

Mr. Viera said the policies are equally important.

Prior to Town Meeting, board members will assign articles to present.

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Mr. Viera was impressed with the soft opening of Chick fil-A.

A new home store will open at the former Sam's Club in July 2017.

Vice-Chairman Almeida said a resident who submitted a talent bank form for the Finance Committee hasn't heard.

Mr. Parker said it is a moderator appointment.

Mr. Viera suggested the sealer of weights and measures should be two individuals; a part time position and a per diem position.

He felt the new building inspector is doing a good job.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:41 p.m. Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Viera, 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 and to consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of February 8, 2017; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary