

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 28, 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 30A, Section 20(f), any person recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Conservation Commission (3 BOS), Economic Development Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (1 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (2 BOS), and Zoning Board of Appeals (1 BOS).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Discussion with Comcast Representative Robert Sullivan Regarding Channel Availability

Mr. Sullivan announced that he met earlier with the chairman and town administrator. The Portuguese channel will be in Seekonk as of this coming fall. It will be channel 95 and will also be in Mansfield and Norton, MA. Mr. Farias of the Portuguese channel was also at the meeting.

Mr. Sullivan offered to meet with Verizon, Mr. Cadime, and public safety officials to get a better understanding of the poles in town.

Mr. Parker mentioned that utility companies have a certain amount of time to take care of double poles.

Mr. Cadime thanked Mr. Sullivan for assisting on this. He noted they have been trying to work with Comcast for 1 ½ to 2 years. Mr. Sullivan has expedited this in the short time he has worked for Comcast.

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Mr. Sullivan talked about rates. Comcast has to pay annual fees for license agreements. Also, Comcast made a considerable investment into the X-1 platform. Senior citizens have asked about decreasing their packages. It would cost more to drop the land line than the triple play.

Ms. Hines expressed her frustration when dealing with Comcast. The closest offices are in Fall River and Mansfield.

Mr. Sullivan mentioned Internet Essentials through Comcast which offers families that qualify the opportunity to have internet for \$9.95 per month.

Mr. Viera said at one time the government channel was free. He asked if that was negotiated out of the contract. He asked if they should negotiate a new contract in 2018. He asked Mr. Sullivan to check because the contract states the office should not be more than 50 miles away.

Mr. Almeida thanked Mr. Sullivan for helping Seekonk. He said that Portuguese Channel 20 is important to Seekonk because it is local. They do have RTP which is global.

He would like to see customers select the channels they want.

Mr. Sullivan felt there would be no additional charge for the Portuguese channel because it will go into all the packages.

Consider the Reappointment of Board and Committee Members - Board of Registrars, Community Preservation Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Human Services Council, Parks and Recreation Committee, Taxation Aid Fund Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Cadime recommended the following reappointments to three-year terms, effective July 1, 2017.

Board of Registrars – Frank Oliver
Community Preservation Committee – Willit Mason
Conservation Commission – Nathan Socha, Richard Wallace (Chairman)
Cultural Council – Sharon Clark (Co-Chair)
Economic Development Committee – John Dietel
Energy Committee – Carl Nielson (Vice Chairman), Charles Beauchamp (Chairman)
Historical Commission – Dawn Cordeiro, Eleanora Rezek
Human Services Council – Beverly Della Grotta, Guy Boulay
Parks and Recreation Committee – James Troiano, Jason Adamonis
Taxation Aid Fund Committee – Jane Damiani
Zoning Board of Appeals – Keith Rondeau

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They were in the audience.

Accept the Resignation of Diana Faria as Senior Secretary for the Building Department

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the resignation with regret.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Diana Faria as senior secretary in the Building Department, with regret.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera said it is sad to see someone like Diana move on. She carried that office for a considerable amount of time when there was no building official.

Ms. Hines said she will be missed at town hall. Other members agreed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider the Request for a New Annual All Alcohol Liquor License for KCs Burger Bar, LLC to be Located at 1379 Fall River Avenue, Catherine Cerrone, Manager

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing at 7:37 P.M.

Mr. Cadime advised this is a transfer from Tito's Cantina to KCs Burger Bar. Mrs. Testa has been working with the ABCC to allow a conditional acceptance upon surrender of the liquor license from Tito's Cantina. This was part of the special legislation of 2012. The ABCC has agreed to approve it.

Ms. Cerrone was in attendance. This would be a second location. There is one in No. Attleboro.

Mr. Richard Reavis, owner of Tito's Cantina and property at 379 Fall River Avenue, said it is a bittersweet decision for him. Seekonk has been good to him. He is confident Ms. Cerrone will do a good job.

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

VOT ED: To close the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Mr. Cadime recommended approval.

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

VOTED: To approve the liquor license for KCs Burger Bar, LLC, contingent upon surrender by Tito's Cantina.

Mr. Almeida said he visited the No. Attleboro location. Nothing but good reviews. He knows her dad has a family business. He appreciates her ambition and dreams.

Ms. Cerrone said her dad is her best friend and she has learned from him.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider and Sign the Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Benson Property on Reed Street

Mr. Cadime noted there were concerns about the right of way language. The seller has signed off.

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

VOTED: To approve and the purchase and sales agreement for the Benson Property on Read Street.

Set Date for Special Election

Mr. Cadime advised that Article 16 was voted and passed at the June 5, 2017 Town Meeting. There is 90 days to hold an election. The language for the ballot question was approved at the Board of Selectmen meeting of June 14, 2017. The town clerk has recommended August 8, 2017.

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

VOTED: To set the date for the special election on August 8, 2017.

Update on the Status of Old Town Hall

Mr. Cadime advised that title search is still being done. There has been progress.

Chairman Andrade said a road ran through the property back around 1893. A vote was taken by the Board of Selectmen to abandon the road and that road was given to the two parcels. Currently waiting for research to be finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Awarding the Architectural Services Contract for the Animal Shelter

Chairman Andrade recused himself and left the room.

Mr. Cadime advised there were six bidders. Four firms were selected and one pulled out. A committee of Mr. Cadime, Lee Cassidy, Sharon Hall, and Pat Cloutier interviewed and rated the three remaining firms. It was unanimous to award the contract to Brewster Thornton Group, who did the senior center. They brought on an additional architect familiar with animal care facilities.

He recommended to award to Brewster Thornton Group.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To award the contract for architectural services for the animal shelter to Brewster Thornton Group and authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate a fee.

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

Consider the CAMA Contract

Assessor Theo Gabriel and Chairman Paul Buckley were in attendance.

Mr. Cadime advised that Mrs. Gabriel has been instrumental in securing the contract.

Mr. Buckley concurred. He advised the State agreed to fund the conversion of all CSC communities. The conversion will be done by the fall 2018.

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board approve. This system will be integrated into the financial system.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Tyler CAMA.

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

Mr. Almeida commended Mrs. Gabriel and the committee for looking out for the interest of the Town.

Consider Establishing Dates for Fall and Spring Town Meeting

Mr. Cadime recommended November 13, 2017 for Fall Town Meeting and May 14, 2018 for Spring Town Meeting.

Ms. Hines noted a School Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13th.

The Board is trying to be consistent with the second Monday of the month.

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

VOTED: To set Monday, November 13, 2017 as the date for the Fall Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To set Monday, May 14, 2018 as the date for the Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Cadime will reach out to the School Committee chairman about changing the date of the School Committee meeting.

Discussion Veterans' Commission

Mr. Cadime still researching other communities.

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone discussion on the Veterans' Commission.

Consider the Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2017 and May 31, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of May 17, 2017.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of May 31, 2017.

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Cadime advised the Seekonk Firefighters “Fill the Booth” event is scheduled for July 10. The request for toll road permit is before the Board at this time because the next Board of Selectmen meeting is on July 12.

Firefighter Timothy Goodwin explained it will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Commerce Way.

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

VOTED: To approve the Seekonk Firefighters’ request for a toll road permit to hold a “Fill the Booth” at Commerce Way on July 10, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Almeida said it is very upsetting that this group has to request permission to do a fundraiser while panhandlers are out there without permission. He definitely supports this.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Cadime said it is exciting to see the animal shelter project moving along. Mr. Cabral and he visited the animal shelter in Attleboro for ideas. Brewster Thornton Group was notified that they were selected as the architects. He will meet with them on Thursday. The building committee appreciates the Selectmen’s drive to get this building done.

He extended best wishes for a safe summer and urged caution with fireworks.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Park Committee Liaison Report

Mr. Viera advised they are working on placing bricks and repairing others. Should have the cannon shortly.

Mr. Cadime said they are waiting to get the Memorandum of Agreement.

Mr. Viera said the old fire station on County Street is badly in disrepair.

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Ms. Hines noted that she missed a couple of meetings but she watches on TV9.

She mentioned that some members of this Board are adamant about certain appointments being made. They have been very vocal. However, it is different when the shoe is on the other foot. She is not the only one who noticed. People have mentioned it to her. It hasn't gone unnoticed.

Chairman Andrade responded that is absolutely not true.

She announced that the Salvation Army will have a Seekonk Family Day on August 12 behind the Hurley Middle School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All activities are free.

Backpacks will be available to school age children. Herb Chambers of Seekonk is making donations. They are looking for other donations. The contact is timothy.veglas@use.salvationarmy.org or Ms. Hines. Her phone number is on the Town's website.

She told Mr. Cadime that a town employee told her that he is easy to talk to and reasonable. She will tell him the employee's name after the meeting.

Mr. Almeida was contacted by residents from the Banna Estates who are concerned it will be a cut through once Cumberland Farms is up. He asked if anything can be done.

He again commended Ms. Cerrone for following her dreams and opening KCs Burger Bar.

Chairman Andrade responded to comments made earlier by Ms. Hines. His decision has nothing to do with Ms. Hines. He doesn't think that she would do something to benefit herself at the financial impact of the Town. He is concerned about years from now. She asked if he would change his mind. He thought about it but decided to because of what might happen in the future.

He is supposed to abstain from conversations on projects his employer bids on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:31 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Ms. Hines, 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), DPW AFSCME Council 93 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), United Steelworkers of America Clerical Unit Local 16031 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), United Steelworkers of America Supervisors Unit Local 16031 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), and Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having 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 May 31, 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary