

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 29, 2017
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera, David Parker

Absent: Michelle Hines

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 20(f), any person 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 Charter Study Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Conservation Commission (2 BOS), Energy Committee (2 BOS), Finance Committee (2 Moderator), Historical Commission (1 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), and Zoning Board of Appeals (1 BOS).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Leslie Clark of 71 Talbot Way thanked Board members for listening to both sides of the issue regarding the Howitzer. She was pleased today to see that it was removed from the library grounds. She hoped there should be some kind of compromise before it goes on the ballot. She emphasized that none of this has anything to do with veterans who cannot be thanked enough for what they did for our country.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Appointment and Swearing in Ceremony for Michael Puhacz as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic

Chief Michael Healy advised that Mr. Puhacz was interviewed in June. He took it upon himself to obtain his basic EMT license. Chief Healy requested and Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Michael Puhacz as Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic with the stipulation that he obtain his paramedic license within three years of the date of hire, as recommended by Chief Healy.

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Firefighter Puhacz was sworn in by Town Clerk Florice Craig. His wife and daughter pinned his badge.

At this time the order of business moved to:

2018 LICENSE RENEWAL HEARING

Alcohol, Class I, II, III Motor Vehicles, Entertainment, Amusement Machines, Antiques and Second Hand

Several license holders were in attendance.

Mr. Cadime advised this is a partial list. There are no issues with any of those on the list. Others will be brought forward at the next meeting.

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

VOTED: To approve the 2018 license renewals (see attached list).

PUBLIC HEARING

Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Classification Hearing

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

VOTED; To open the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Board of Assessors Chairman Paul Buckley had a slide presentation. For FY 2018, the total residential values increased at almost 6% and commercial values increased by 3.5%. New growth increased 17.5% at \$891,290. The average residential single family assessment increased from \$311,300 to \$326,000 or 4.7%. The Maximum Levy increased 5% at \$40,062,500. There are 51 commercial properties in Seekonk that qualify for Exemption with total 10% value at \$1,398,000.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

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

VOTED: To establish the residential factor at 0.786808 and maintain the 10% commercial exemption.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida said that senior citizens have reached out to him. They feel they are being squeezed out of Seekonk.

Mr. Viera said free cash could be applied to the tax rate.

Mr. Cadime cautioned about the use of one time monies for that.

LICENSE HEARING

Consider the Approval of a Mobile Food Cart Permit for Kim Fagundes, Fun on a Bun, to Sell Food at Hurley Middle School Fair

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

VOTED: To approve the request for a mobile food cart permit for Kim Fagundes, Fun on a Bun, to sell food at the Hurley Middle School Fair.

Mr. Parker said the process should be simplified.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept the Resignation of Patrolman Sean Peterson from the Seekonk Police Department

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Patrolman Sean Peterson from the Seekonk Police Department.

Accept the Resignation of Maria Balboni from the Position of Secretary to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Cadime advised that Mrs. Balboni has accepted a full time position.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Maria Balboni as Secretary to the Conservation Commission.

Consider Advertising the Position of Full Time Secretary for the Planning Board/Conservation Commission

Mr. Cadime advised this is the result of the resignation of Mrs. Balboni, He requested permission to advertise.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To advertise the position of full time secretary for the Planning Board/Conservation Commission.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Parker questioned that this is a full time position with benefits.

Mr. Cadime noted there is money due to positions that were vacant.

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of November 1, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of November 1, 2017.

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 said that letters went out to department heads that initial budgets are due on December 18. A quad-board meeting will be scheduled.

He pointed out there will be a giving tree in the lobby of town hall to support local families. Toys will go to Citizens for Citizens for distribution.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report

Mr. Viera advised that bricks from C group have been installed. The Howitzer will be on the ballot in April. He urged residents to vote.

Mr. Parker hoped everybody had a Happy Thanksgiving.

He asked about the town hall generator.

Mr. Cadime said the timeframe is the first week of December.

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Mr. Almeida said he distributed meals to needy families in Seekonk on Thanksgiving Day. Country Kitchen on Taunton Avenue provided the food.

He commented on the great job being done on the renovations at The Commons.

He congratulated the Seekonk High School football team who beat Dighton Rehoboth on Thanksgiving Day.

He said there is talk about an addition to one of the elementary school. He is concerned about new growth in town. He sees it as a loss comparing the amount of taxes paid to the per pupil cost.

Chairman Andrade added that he is curious to know why there is a shortage of space in the schools because enrollment has declined. There might be an increase in elementary grades but what happens when those students move on. The school will be left with empty space.

Mr. Parker noted that he, too, is concerned but the Board can't do anything about it.

Mr. Almeida felt it should be brought up at a tri-board meeting.

In response to the comment made in Community Speaks about a possible compromise on the Howitzer before the election, Chairman Andrade said that is always a consideration. A resident requested the ballot question. The Board of Library Trustees had asked for a survey but there wasn't enough time. The ballot question is a survey.

Chairman Andrade completely disagrees with the ballot question.

Mr. John Alves asked about the wording of the question because that could sway a vote.

Chairman Andrade said it is a "yes" or "no" – "Should the Howitzer be located at the Veterans Memorial Park?"

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:53 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Almeida, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), Dispatch AFSCME Council 93, per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), DPW AFSCME Council 93 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 October 18, 2017 and November 1, 2017; not to return to Open Session.

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

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Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

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Items Distributed at the November 29, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting

Classification report

List for annual license renewal