

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2017**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

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

Absent: David Andrade

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Vice-Chairman Almeida opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the hurricane victims in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico and also for the victims of the shooting in Las Vegas.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20f, anybody recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE**

Ms. Hines announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Charter Study Committee (1 BOS), Conservation Commission (2 BOS), Energy Committee (2 BOS), Finance Committee (1 Moderator) Historical Commission (1 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (1 BOS).

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS** – None.

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

**Consider the Appointment of Chris Zorra to the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee**

Mr. Zorra was in attendance.

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment. He noted that Mr. Zorra would have to complete a disclosure form indicating he is an elected member of the Housing Authority.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Chris Zorra to the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee until June 30, 2020.

Prior to the vote, Ms. Hines noted the application was not totally completed.

Mr. Cadime and Mr. Zorro explained that he responded to questions during the interview.

**Discussion with Comcast Regarding Their Services to the Town**

Mr. Parker indicated residents have questioned why Comcast is the only provided. Comments have been made that the Board of Selectmen gave the contract to Comcast because they gave the town a new fire truck. He noted that Verizon was invited to come into town and refused. The contract with Comcast is not exclusive. Any company can come into town. Comcast pays a licensing fee of \$2,200 a year.

Mr. Cadime recalled that sometime last year Verizon had indicated the return wasn't worth the investment.

Mr. Viera noted the Cable Advisory Board negotiates the contract and the Board signs it.

Vice-Chairman Almeida said the closest Comcast office is in Fall River. He asked whether there are any stipulations about location.

Mr. Parker said it has to be a reasonable location. During negotiations in two years, the Cable Advisory Board should find out what is considered reasonable.

**Consider and Sign the Warrant for the Special State Election**

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

**VOTED:** To sign the warrant for the special state election on Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

**Consider the Acceptance of Donations Totaling \$1,262 to the Animal Shelter**

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the donations.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Vice-Chairman Almeida, and it was

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the donations to the animal shelter totaling \$1,262.

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

Vice-Chairman Almeida thanked everybody who donated.

**Consider and Sign the Benson Property Deed for 0 Read Street**

Mr. Cadime noted that the Board had requested additional title search which has been completed. He recommended the Board sign.

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Vice-Chairman Almeida explained the Board wanted to make sure there was access to the property in the future.

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

**VOTED:** To sign the deed for the Benson Property located at 0 Read Street.

**LICENSE HEARINGS** – None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion Regarding a Feasibility Study for a South End Fire Station**

Mr. Viera stated he would like to see a feasibility study on the town meeting warrant to determine whether there is a need for a south end fire station. He is talking about the School Street location.

Mr. Cadime said a feasibility study would cost about \$10,000 to \$15,000. He would include that in the warrant article.

Mr. Parker said the animal shelter and completion of the senior center should take priority.

Mr. Cadime didn't see a problem doing the three projects.

**Update on the Open Space Recreation Plan Working Group**

Town Planner John Aubin III, Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller, and Recreation Director John Pozzi had a power point presentation. Tom Webb and Steve Sloan, representatives from the Seekonk Land Trust, and John Alves, (CPC), were also in attendance.

They have been meeting on a monthly basis to develop a plan and establish goals.

Mr. Aubin said there will be outreach sessions at town hall on October 19 and October 25.

**Vote to Authorize Nelson Communications to Complete Phase II and Phase III of the Public Safety Radio Project**

Communications Director Chris Campbell was in attendance.

Mr. Cadime noted the cost was included in the warrant article.

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

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**VOTED:** To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract with Nelson Communications for completion of Phase II in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 and Phase III in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 of the public safety radio project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of September 6 and September 20, 2017**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of September 6 and September 20, 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** – None.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

#### **Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report**

Mr. Viera reported the committee will meet the next day. He will have an update on the bricks at the next meeting.

He received a number of calls from individuals who live at the south end of Bishop Avenue regarding talk about access to the rear soccer fields of the north school through the end of Bishop Avenue. There was access at one time that created a number of problems. That area is overgrown right now. Residents are concerned it will allow for vandalism. He noted that DPW does get in there through the rear of the north school.

He had calls about excessive speeding on Woodward Avenue.

He asked about moving the sign board on Newman Avenue near the school. Children are walking into the street to get around it.

Mr. Cabral said it will be moved to the area near West Avenue.

Mr. Viera asked for an update on the School Street problem.

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Mr. Cadime said there is only one vehicle left on that property.

Mr. Viera asked about the fence situation on Ledge Road.

Mr. Cabral said he will work with Building and Planning to establish criteria about installing fencing.

Ms. Hines asked for an update on stores that sell blue bags in the north end.

Mr. Cabral said Speedway. He is trying to find other locations. He would prefer not to sell the bags at the DPW office.

He said that Stop & Shop sells bags and a few other locations in the south end.

Ms. Hines reminded board and committee members that they have to be sworn in when appointed and then when reappointed.

Mr. Cadime noted that appointment letters are sent out indicating they have got to be sworn in. He is trying to put together a packet with responsibilities of each board and committee and the Roberts Rules of Order.

He contacted legal to find out whether any votes would have to be reaffirmed. The response was that they should be sworn in following reappointment.

Mr. Viera didn't like the comment from the attorney that if they took votes without being sworn in it is no big deal.

Mr. Parker felt the swearing in is strictly ceremonial for reappointments.

Ms. Hines is pleased that minutes are up to date.

She spoke to Mr. Cadime about a warrant article for the November Town Meeting to complete Phase II of the senior center.

She said ""Coffee with Cops"" was held this morning at the Country Kitchen. Several police officers, including the canine officer, and staff were there. If she knew about it, she would have announced it at the previous meeting. More people might have attended.

Open House at the fire station is on Sunday, October 15, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A lot of activities.

The special state election is on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Food for Fuel Pasta Fest is on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-12 and free for children under 3. Tickets are available from Ms. Hines, Town Clerk's office, and Human Services. It benefits the fuel and utilities fund of Seekonk Human Services.

Ms. Hines read a letter from a retired police officer from out of town whose family lives in Seekonk. He is upset that people want to remove the howitzer from its location.

Mr. Parker welcomed the new canine officer.

Ms. Hines said he is in his second week of training.

Mr. Parker inquired about a warrant article to increase the Town Clerk's budget in order to take care of the two cemeteries.

Mr. Cadime said the articles have not been prepared. There has been conversations about maintaining the two cemeteries.

Vice-Chairman Almeida suggested there should be regulations for placing and removing items from grave sites.

He reminded department heads, committees, and the public that the warrant will close on Friday, October 13.

He would like to see an open space joint committee to make use of a lot of properties purchased. He will not support purchasing any more property until the current land is used for recreational purposes.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:22 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), United Steelworkers of America Clerical Unit Local 9517-10 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), and 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 September 6 and September 20, 2017; to reconvene to Open Session, if necessary.

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

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The meeting reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

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

**VOTED:** To ratify the three-year contract with United Steelworkers of America Clerical Unit Local 9517-10.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the October 4, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Talent Bank Form for Chris Zorra for Municipal Capital Improvement Committee

Warrant for Special Election of October 17, 2017

List of Donors to the Animal Shelter

Proposal for Technology Consulting Services for Seekonk Radio Project Phases 2 and 3