

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 6, 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), Charter Study Committee (1), Conservation Commission (3), Energy Committee (2), Historical Commission (1), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (2), and Zoning Board of Appeals (1). All are Board of Selectmen appointments.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. William Clark of 71 Talbot Way asked for an update on the cannon at the library site.

Chairman Andrade advised that Mr. Viera, Mr. Cadime, Mr. Durkay, Mr. Fuller and he met last Tuesday. Mr. Durkay was going to bring information discussed to the members of the Board of Library Trustees.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Wendy Wagner to the Arts Council

Mr. Cadime advised that he talked to Ms. Wagner. He recommended the appointment.

Ms. Wagner said she is an educator. She is very interested in the arts and eager to bring arts to Seekonk.

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

VOTED: To appoint Wendy Wagner to the Arts Council for a three-year term to expire in June 2020.

Consider the Appointment of Kristin Kearney to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment. Ms. Kearney had served on the Commission awhile ago.

Ms. Kearney said it was a learning experience for her. She enjoyed working with residents.

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

VOTED: To appoint Kristin Kearney to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term to expire in June 2020.

Discussion Regarding a Charity Bicycle Ride – East Boston Ride – Coming through Town on Saturday, September 9, 2017

Chief Craig Mace noted the race has come through town for several years. This year's ride is in honor of two Boston police officers who were severely injured while on duty on October 15, 2016. Part of the proceeds will benefit Boston Police Officers. It benefits families of officers who died in the line of duty. Approximately 280 police officers will participate, including Chief Mace. About 30 police officers from Florida had to cancel due to the hurricane conditions there.

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

VOTED: To approve the East Boston Charity Bicycle Ride coming through Seekonk on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

Present Detective Sergeant David Enos with the Seekonk Police Department Selectmen's Award

Chief Mace read the Proclamation presented to Det. Sgt. David Enos in recognition of actions at an incident on November 22, 2015. He was also presented with a medal.

Chief Mace said that letters of commendation were issued to Lt. David Dyson, Sgt. Gregory Casper and Patrolman Benjamin Mello.

Consider the Appointment of Shandra Ferreira to the Position of Senior Secretary to the Building Inspector

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Shandra Ferreira as Senior Secretary to the Building Inspector, effective today (September 6, 2017).

Building Inspector Neal Abelson introduced Ms. Ferreira to the Board.

The order of business moved to:

Accept the Resignation of Daniel Murray as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department, Effective September 24, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Daniel Murray as Firefighter/Paramedic, effective September 24, 2017.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida noted there is a firefighter resignation at every meeting. He felt they need to do exit interviews to find out why they are leaving.

Mr. Cadime said there are several reasons. Other communities have 24 hour schedules. Also, most of the calls in Seekonk are EMS vs. actual firefighting. He added that you only get what the individual is willing to share with you in an exit interview.

Chief Healy said the work schedule is the biggest issue.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Adam Colaianni as a Probationary Firefighter Third Class

Chief Healy requested and Mr. Cadime recommended the Board approve a conditional offer of employment to Adam Colaianni of Cranston, RI. He has just become a licensed paramedic. He will replace Daniel Murray after September 24.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Adam Colaianni as a Probationary Firefighter.

Consider the Request of Tricia Belden to Conduct a One-Day Cycling Event to be held on October 1, 2017 to Support Susan G. Komen New England

A representative from Komen New England was in attendance. He explained they do 100 miles in one day.

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Mr. Cadime recommended approval.

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

VOTED: To allow the Susan G. Komen New England to conduct a one-day cycling event through Seekonk on October 1, 2017.

Accept the Resignation of Glenn Fraser from the Position of DPW Operator/Laborer

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the resignation.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Glenn Fraser as operator/laborer.

Consider Advertising the Position(s) of DPW Operator/Laborer and Driver/Laborer as needed to Fill the Vacant Positions(s)

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

VOTED: To advertise the position(s) of DPW Operator/Laborer and Driver/Laborer as needed to fill vacant positions.

OLD BUSINESS

Update Regarding the Attleboro Dye Works Pond

Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller provided an update on work done during the past two weeks. They met with the consultant on Monday and reached out to Mass DEP to discuss findings. Access along Pond Street, which is a private parcel, has to be restricted. Abutters within five hundred feet and the public along the north end will be notified that there might be contact with contaminants. She will have more information at the next meeting.

Vote to Post the Administrative Assistant Position for the Town Administrator/BOS Office

Chairman Andrade stated this is in lieu of an assistant town administrator position.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To post the position of Administrative Assistant in the Town Administrator/BOS office.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding the Need for a South End Fire Station

Fire Chief Michael Healy noted in the past few years, with the support of Mr. Cadime, the Board and the voters, they have increase staffing and replaced equipment.

The structure of the Fire Department is as follows: two stations – the Public Safety Complex and Banna on Pine Street. Chief, two administrative captains, four lieutenants (one in charge of each group of seven firefighters). His goal is to build the department to the level it should be at and to incorporate a south end fire station. He hasn't been able to keep four people at Station 2. The Town is paying overtime to keep that station open. This year's budget includes four new firefighters in January 2018. Once trained, he will increase the groups to nine and hopefully curb overtime.

There is only one fire truck manned 24/7 and runs from one side of town to the other. They need to look at getting an additional engine company in service in the north and south end.

Overtime in FY'15 was \$194,000. It increased to \$272,978 in FY'16. It is at \$248,448 in FY'17 with eight in each group. But, that is changing now with the resignations.

His goal for the future is to have eleven per group. That would allow for four at Banna, two at the south end and flexibility at headquarters. Engine and ladder would run off of headquarters and rescues from outside into the center. If there were three rescues, that would offset money lost to mutual aid.

Since 2014, there were 10,788 calls to service – 5,388 in the south end. There has been a large increase in the calls for service over the last three years. The department has become extremely busy. The new developments in town have an impact. The need for mutual aid increased in 2015. Over 500 pieces of apparatus have responded to Seekonk. This year there has already been 124 pieces from outside come in to assist.

Transports by surrounding communities revenue of \$213,000 was lost because the town did not have rescue available to handle those calls and that is based on the lowest billable amount. Some are higher than that.

They are good with response time of four minutes for fire suppression and emergency medical incidents. They are allowed eight minutes for advanced life support unit.

Chief Healy suggested School Street as a potential location for the south end fire station. He had possible designs.

The yearly cost to fully staff headquarters, Banna Station and a South End Fire Station with eight additional full time firefighters would be \$452,208.

The department would be able to increase the capability to conduct inspections, assess fees, and fines to potentially \$150,000 annually.

Mr. Viera commended Chief Healy on the presentation. He said there have been five structural fires this year and four were in the south end. He noted that mutual aid is not always available.

Mr. Almeida felt that some residents do not realize how many people are on Route 6 especially on weekends. There will be an assisted living coming into town and possibly a nursing home on Route 6. He commended Chief Healy for bringing this detailed information forward. They need to increase the level of staffing. He would like to see even more firefighters.

Chairman Andrade asked if there are any other potential savings in addition to what the chief mentioned.

Chief Healy said additional ambulance revenue.

Mr. Cadime noted that the town will be getting revenue from FedEx. There will probably be new businesses coming in on Route 6 with the new water line going in.

Update on Snow and Ice Preparation and Discussion of Snow Plow Application Requirements

DPW Superintendent David Cabral advised that the salt is ordered in October. They start to work on the equipment in mid September to the end of October.

He wanted to discuss the application for vendors. He had information from surrounding communities about insurance requirements.

Liability insurance in Seekonk cost vendors more money compared to some others. The town is requiring \$1M (\$250,000 bodily injury per person, \$500,000 bodily injury per accident, \$250,000 property damage per accident). He had contacted insurance companies for information and he also talked to vendors. The range in surrounding areas is \$500 to \$900.

The town is competitive with the snow removal hourly rates.

Mr. Cabral presented two options. He recommended Option A (drop insurance premiums to \$100,000/\$300,000/\$100,000, increase one ton rate to \$80, increase 6 wheel large to \$110, and increase 10 wheel to \$120). Last year they ended up with 13 vendors and one spare driver.

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He would like to get a 10 wheeler this year. He noted that landscapers would rather do private snow removal.

Ms. Hines would consider looking at what the town is paying vendors.

Mr. Viera said that vendors are complaining about the cost of liability insurance and also that they are being called out too late during a storm.

Ms. Hines asked why the rates increased.

Mr. Parker said two members of the Board at that time researched and it was also recommended by the insurance agent. Applications were down substantially the following year. He felt the town had enough vendors the last several years.

Mr. Cadime said this application is based on conversations with vendors.

On a positive note, the town's turnaround for payments is better than others.

Mr. Cabral said that Attleboro and Rehoboth are more attractive to the vendors.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; To use Option B on the applications.
Option B – Leave insurance requirements as is, Increase 1 ton rate to \$85, Increase 6 wheel small to \$95, Increase 6 wheel large to \$115, and Increase 10 Wheeler to \$125.

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

Mr. Viera felt the town should have a 10 wheeler.

Mr. Cabral said he would like to try one out with the DPW fleet. He might come to the Board to purchase one.

Ms. Hines asked about the early sign up bonus.

Mr. Cabral said the state give an extra \$5 per hour for early sign ups.

Mr. Cabral said that vendors are required to punch the time clock. It almost is considered that they are a town employee. He requested a legal opinion.

Mr. Cadime wanted to implement snow phones with GPS tracking.

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Mr. Cabral wanted to eliminate having vendors get four signatures. He suggested eliminating the finance director. He wanted to include on the application that when called it is at least a four hour minimum. He is trying to establish policy and will bring it back to the Board.

Mr. Almeida asked if vendors do a dry run on their route and report to Mr. Cabral if they have any questions.

Mr. Cabral said most of them are repeats. He usually puts inexperienced vendors with an experienced on the same route.

Mr. Parker had a question about John Alden Road and Mr. Viera about Windhamshire Drive

Vote on the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program for \$25,000 from the Town for a Feasibility Study/Schematic Design for the Aitken School Windows and Doors

Mr. Cadime advised this was requested at town meeting and submitted to the MSBA. The roof repairs are not eligible. However, the town qualified to use the accelerated repair program.

The School Department will use \$25,000 from its budget and \$25,000 will come from DPW funds. A transfer can be made at town meeting.

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

VOTED: (See attached).

Ms. Hines mentioned that the motion does not refer to feasibility study.

Chairman Andrade said that feasibility study and schematic design are the same for MSBA purposes.

Mr. Cadime said it was approved by the MSBA and the School Committee voted on the same motion.

Mr. Parker said this is going to cost \$50,000. He questioned why it wasn't brought up at town meeting.

Mr. Cadime explained it was submitted with additional projects. The roof and boilers were denied. It was suggested that this project would fit into the accelerate program.

Mr. Cadime clarified that this is upfront money that will be replaced at town meeting.

Consider the Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2017

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of August 9, 2017.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS - None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 40 Hours Before the Meeting

Chairman Andrade advised there is a mobile food cart permit for an event to be held on Saturday. The individual submitted documentation that wasn't fully completed.

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

VOTED: To approve the mobile food cart permit for Kim Fagundes for the Save-A-Pet event on Saturday, September 8, 2017.

Ms. Fagundes was in attendance. She has been doing this event for the past four years.

She mentioned that it is frustrating and inconvenient to get signatures from all department heads.

Mr. Almeida said he had previously suggested that the individual turn the form into the town administrator's office and it would be passed around.

Ms. Hines suggested a designated sign in each department.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime reminded residents of the special election on Tuesday, September 19, to fill the vacant state senator position.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORT

Veterans Memorial Park Committee Liaison Report

As previously mentioned, Mr. Viera said he met with Mr. Durkay, Mr. Fuller, Chairman Andrade and Mr. Cadime to discuss policy and procedure that may be put in place regarding putting any items at the Veterans Memorial Park. It will probably pertain to all properties owned by the town. He considered the meeting to be fruitful.

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Mr. Parker asked about the status of the generator.

Mr. Cadime said that Mr. Cabral has had several vendors check out the system.

Mr. Cabral said he might have information for the next meeting.

Mr. Parker inquired about the animal shelter.

Mr. Cadime said a meeting is scheduled for the next day to discuss the floor plan design.

Mr. Parker asked about the repaving of Route 6.

Mr. Cadime said work will not be done until the project is completed. There is additional work on Mason Street in Rehoboth.

Mr. Parker reminded residents that the 9/11 ceremony will take place at the Public Safety Complex on Monday, September 11, at 6 p.m.

Ms. Hines commended the firefighters who participated in the "Fill the Boot" at Bakers Corner.

She announced the Save-A-Pet vendor yard sale this Saturday at Hurley Middle School..

Chairman Andrade asked about the Greens Community program.

Mr. Cadime said it will not be on the Fall Town Meeting. It looks like the Spring Town Meeting.

Chairman Andrade suggested the public hearing dates be scheduled so that it will be ready for the Spring Town Meeting.

He said the e-mail received regarding the traveling basketball league is not within the purview of the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:26 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); DPW AFSCME Council 93 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); United Steelworkers of America Supervisors Unit Local 9517-09 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3); Dispatch AFSCME Council 93 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3); Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3); Fire Chief per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2); and Finance Director per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)

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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 August 9, 2017; to reconvene in Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

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Items Distributed at the Board of Selectmen Meeting on September 6, 2017

Talent Bank form for Wendy Wagner – Arts Council

Talent Bank form for Kristin Kearney – Conservation Commission

Police Chief Craig Mace re: East Boston Ride and Recognition of Detective Sgt. David Enos

Application from Shandra Ferreira – Appointment to the Position of Senior Secretary to the Building Inspector

Request to Conduct Cycling Event to Support Susan G. Komen New England

Resignation of Daniel Murray as Firefighter/Paramedic