

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 22, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Robert Richardson, David Parker, Francis Cavaco
Michael Brady arrived at 7:30 p.m.
John Whelan was absent.

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. followed by a moment of silence in memory of Sophia Smith, an employee of the Finance Department; Joseph Lima, father-in-law of the Conservation Commission Secretary, and Joseph Jamison, brother of the Assistant Treasurer/Collector.

Mr. Parker announced that, in accordance with the new Open Meeting Law, the meeting is being taped via audio and visual. He asked if anyone in the audience is recording the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of August 25, 2010.

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

VOTED: To accept the Executive Session minutes of August 25, 2010.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman, 12 Westdale Avenue, asked if residents would have an opportunity to comment at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Richardson noted that "Community Speaks" was moved up on the agenda so that people wouldn't have to wait until the end of the meeting to speak. The Board will discuss going to bi-weekly meetings, and he will try to keep them at no more than two hours. This agenda is lengthy so there might not be time for comments at the end.

He stated that six years ago he ran on a platform of open government and that continues. As Chairman, he would always allow residents to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Assistant Town Clerk Appointed Under M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 19

Town Clerk Janet Parker introduced Karen McHugh. She previously worked as Conservation Commission Secretary and will replace Christine Clancy, who resigned. The position was posted internally.

Mr. Parker apologized to Mrs. Parker for missing their 41st wedding anniversary.

Affirmation of Appointment of Recreation Director

Mr. Neal Rapp, Chairman of the Recreation & Youth Commission, introduced Ashley Pimentel.

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

VOTED: To accept the recommendation of the Recreation & Youth Commission to appoint Ashley Pimental as Director.

Appointment of Police Sergeant

Chief Ronald Charron and Police Honor Guard were in attendance.

Chief Charron said that Det. Matthew Jardine has received letters of commendation. In April 2005, he received the Police Chief Medal for rescuing a woman from a fire. He is a member of the Honor Guard and he is the field training officer for the department.

Mr. Parker motioned with pleasure, Mr. Cavaco said he is honored to second, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To promote Det. Matthew Jardine to the rank of Sergeant.

Sgt. Jardine was sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

Mr. Parker pointed out that the Seekonk Honor Guard is a fine representation of the Town of Seekonk.

Chief Charron introduced Det. Thomas Hedrick, Det. Nicholas Peterson, and Det. Charles Mello.

Report on Reverse 911

Communications Director Dennis LeClerc provided an update. He said the contract (Code Red) includes 18,750 minutes per year. A call is billed in six-second increments.

Mr. Parker noted that 4,900 calls were made during the floods in March. That was 2,500 minutes. He wanted to make sure that all the minutes are used. He suggested using it for town-wide activities. He suggested that all residents register their home phone numbers.

Update on Seekonk – Library Trustees

Chairman of the Library Trustees Michael Durkay advised that they obtained the post closure permit for the landfill on August 2 and the project can proceed to Phase II. Trustees have established procedures internally to ensure there is a formal budgeting process for the funds that have been raised. He requested that the Board of Selectmen accept a gift of \$55,000.

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

VOTED: To accept the gift of \$55,000 in cash to be used for the second phase of The Meadows development.

Addition to Animal Shelter

Animal Control Officer Sharon Hall stated that she has two gift accounts totaling approximately \$38,800 to be used toward the addition of the shelter, and Save-A-Pet will donate \$25,000.

Mrs. Patricia Cloutier, President of Save-A-Pet confirmed the \$25,000 donation. The gift would be ready to give upon the actual groundbreaking. She thanked Mr. Bowden, who prepared the drawings.

In response to Mr. Parker's question, Mr. Carroll advised the Town Moderator would appoint a building committee for this project.

Mr. Bowden suggested a small building committee because there isn't a lot of design work involved. The interior could be done on a volunteer basis.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$25,000 offered by Safe-A-Pet to be used exclusively for the expansion of the animal shelter, to be accepted upon groundbreaking

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

VOTED: To expend the \$23,000 and \$15,500 from the gift accounts to be used concurrently with the Safe-A-Pet donation.

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

VOTED: To open the Town Meeting warrant in order to pass a motion to allow the Town Moderator to appoint a three-member building committee for addition to the shelter.

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The project must stay within the \$63,000 budget.

Town Meeting Article to Take Land on Lake Street by Eminent Domain

Mr. Carroll advised that this requires action by Town Meeting and also appropriate funds for an appraisal of the property. He suggested taking the matter under advisement.

Mr. Cavaco cautioned that this is a matter for executive session. The individual is not in attendance.

Mr. Parker disagreed. He said this is a move by the Board to proceed by eminent domain, and the individual has been very uncooperative.

Mr. Brady noted that wasn't the case with the Central Avenue project.

Mr. Cavaco said that residents were invited to meet with the Town Engineer and MA Highway representatives regarding the Central Avenue project.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To proceed with a Town Meeting Article to take land on Lake Street by eminent domain.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Cavaco – Nay; Chairman Richardson – Aye.

Initial Review of Draft Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of November 30, 2010

The Board reviewed the draft copy.

Mr. Parker inquired about an update on Article 4 – Drainage on St. Laurent Parkway.

Mr. Carroll noted that the only thing on file is the first easement signed by the Chair of the Planning Board at that time. There will be an answer by Town Meeting.

Mr. Cavaco referred to Articles 14 and 15 (School Department articles). He said the Town cannot continue to use free cash.

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

VOTED: To include an article on the warrant to authorize the Town Moderator to establish a five-member building committee for the Banna Station, with one member from the CIC, one member from the Fire Department, and three members at large.

OLD BUSINESS

Job Description for Executive Assistant to BOS/TA

Ms. Rogers stated that several items need clarification.

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

VOTED: To defer for two weeks to allow the Town Administrator and Executive Assistant to meet and review the job description.

Review Temporary Moratorium on Portions of the Sign Bylaw

Mr. Carroll advised that Mrs. McNeil has recommended the continuation of the moratorium except for the section on the 30-day maximum period for political signs.

He noted that the sign bylaw focus group met last week and reviewed the commercial bylaw section and will meet again on October 7, 2010 to review the temporary bylaw section.

Mr. Cavaco motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To extend the moratorium until January 31, 2010.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Status of Legislation (H. 4518) Regarding Conversion of Liquor Licenses

Mr. Cavaco advised that the Bill was delayed because of a problem in wording. Senate legal counsel is rewriting it. Sen. Timilty has requested another week. There is a problem with two of the eight businesses involved and, if not corrected, those businesses will be deleted. Mr. Cavaco thanked Sen. Timilty.

Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Cavaco for his efforts.

Use of Reflective Safety Vests by DPW Employees

Mr. Carroll advised that Mr. Lamoureux has directed employees to wear the lime colored vests.

Mr. Brady noted that is a federal regulation.

Call Firefighter Payroll Summary

Payroll data as requested by the Board.

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Chief Alan Jack and Lt. Martin Ulak were in attendance. Lt. Ulak asked if the Board will take action after looking at all the figures to provide full time coverage, including nights and weekends, with career firefighters.

Chairman Richardson said that he intends to utilize career firefighters to provide two ambulances with fire coverage 24/7.

Legal Opinion Regarding Capital Improvement Committee

Presented from Kopelman & Paige.

Meeting Schedule

Board members agreed to a biweekly schedule beginning with October 6, 2010 through December 29, 2010.

Notices (Solar Panels on DPW Roof, Good News, other)

Mr. Carroll advised that the solar panels are in place on the DPW roof. A ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, September 23, 2010, at 12 noon.

Mr. Carroll advised that Mrs. Lorrie Thompson had sent letters of appreciation to Firefighters William George, Evan Akers, Charles Ransom, Shawn Whalen, Adam Dalessio, and Lt. Michael Bourque.

Mr. Carroll announced the YMCA will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Building Rededication on Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 11:30 a.m.

There is an article on the warrant to authorize the Board of Selectmen to allow certain liquor license holders to serve between 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

Workshop – BOS Vision and Strategic Plan for the Future of the Town

Mr. Carroll said that it is budget time, and the Board should create a vision for the future. It would be helpful to department heads. The Board will send their ideas to Mr. Carroll. It will be on the October 6th agenda.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Brady inquired about the additional part time position in the BOS/TA office. He noted that Town Meeting had appropriated the funds.

Mr. Carroll said that he is reviewing applications.

Mr. Parker will prepare a request to Cable TV to update the equipment in the BOS meeting room.

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Mr. Cavaco suggested that Tri County students might be able to make a board to post the agendas.

He intends to get a copy of the document from the City of Attleboro regarding maintaining foreclosed properties.

Mr. Cavaco suggested that the Town Clerk post the list of all candidates on the website.

Mr. Cavaco commended the people who run "Doorways." He noted that Human Services would like to start a "Brown Bag Program."

He requested that the Board consider compensating Mrs. Gamer accordingly during the times that she covers for Ms. Rogers.

Mr. Carroll said that Mrs. Gamer voluntarily assumes the responsibilities. He felt an adjustment might be more appropriate when the second part time person is hired.

A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

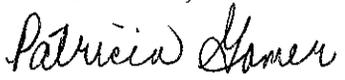
VOTED: To close the warrant and forward to the Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk


Patricia Gamer, Secretary