

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 3, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Robert Richardson, David Parker, John Whelan,
Michael Brady, Francis Cavaco

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Executive Assistant: Anne Rogers

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

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

Abigail Crocker of the SeekonkPatch advised she will record video and take photographs.

LIQUOR LICENSE DISCIPLINARY HEARING

Seekonk Hospitality, Inc., d/b/a Ramada Inn

Prior to the start of the hearing, Mr. Whelan declared that he is an employee of a retail package store. He contacted the Ethics Commission and was told he could vote because he has no interest in this business.

Executive Assistant Anne Rogers provided documentation to support that Seekonk Hospitality is not in compliance with the license requirements of the ABCC. The name of the corporation changed in March 2010 from Seekonk Hospitality, Inc. to Seekonk Hospitality Group, Inc. There was a change of manager; however, the form has the incorrect name of corporation. The liquor portion of the license covers the cocktail lounge, dining room and conference room which are part of Ramada Inn. It does not include DePalma, the name of the restaurant.

Atty. William Rosa of Raynham, MA and Mr. David Darling, officer of Seekonk Hospitality, Inc., were in attendance.

Atty. Rosa said the owner entered into a lease agreement for food service. They were advised they could retain the license under Seekonk Hospitality, Inc. and enter into a management agreement. They moved forward on that basis.

As a solution, they had paperwork to transfer the license to Seekonk Hospitality Group, Inc. In order to protect the license, Darling Development would have a pledge of that license.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; To suspend the license and that all the liquor is removed from the premises within 48 hours, pending approval from the ABCC.

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

Mr. Brady preferred a 30-day suspension held for one year as long as there are no further violations.

Ms. Rogers explained the process with advertising in the newspaper. November 24th would be the earliest this matter could be heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Approval of Minutes for September 1, 2010 and September 22, 2010

Mr. Cavaco corrected page 7 of the September 1, 2010 minutes to read, “There was heated discussion between Mr. Whelan and Lt. Ulak and Mr. Whelan and Mrs. Ellie Wiseman relative to the status of career and call firefighters.

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of September 1, 2010, as amended.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the minutes of September 22, 2010.

The vote: Mr. Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Whelan – Abstained, Chairman Richardson – Aye.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Designate Planning Board Members as Special Municipal Employees

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To designate all Planning Board members as special municipal employees.

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

Mr. Cavaco said he would have no problem when there is a need for it, but this is premature.

Mr. Carroll explained they would be able to bid on RFPs in the future.

Mr. Cavaco requested that the Board receive a current list of special employees by December 1, 2010.

Mr. Carroll suggested the Board rescind all appointments for special municipal employees except those that come up now.

Discussion on “No Parking” Signs at Aitken School

Town Engineer David Cabral and DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux were in attendance.

Mr. Whelan said that he had been approached by a couple of residents and crossing guards regarding traffic issues at the school. He asked Mr. Cabral to look into what could be done.

Mr. Cabral said that Mr. Whelan asked about putting up signs similar to what is at the middle school. He is waiting for direction.

Mr. Parker said that Board members had agreed that all issues would come before the entire Board, and it should have also been brought to the attention of the School Committee.

Mr. Whelan said he wasn't aware of that; he thought he would relate the information to the proper person.

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School Committee Chairwoman Fran Creamer responded to questions from Mr. Cavaco. She said it is congested in that area.

It was the consensus to do a traffic study of all schools, starting with elementary and to bring the results to the Board and School Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Compensation of Elected Officials

Mr. Carroll referred to Article 18 of the draft warrant. It refers to reduced compensation for elected officials who are absent. Mr. Cavaco drafted the language in September 2009 but no action was taken.

The language will be rewritten for the Spring Town Meeting warrant.

Formula Grant Application – Human Services

Director Bernie Huck explained the grant would pay a social coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, and for attendance at conferences, travel, etc.

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

VOTED: To accept the grant application in the amount of \$16,590.

Other items could not be discussed because they are not on the agenda.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Parker reported that 55% of voters turned out in yesterday's election. He thanked the School Committee for scheduling an in-service day at the high school.

He received three e-mails from residents who felt the Reverse 911 system should not have been used to remind people to vote. He noted there were minutes available.

Mr. Carroll responded to Mr. Cavaco's questions. He met with a representative of Citizens for Citizens on Monday and provided a copy of the job description for the position in the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen office. He also spoke to department heads about utilizing CFC people.

The job descriptions prepared by the consultant were distributed to department heads and will be on the agenda for December 1.

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Mr. Cavaco got an e-mail from the Governor's Office for Policy Affairs. He suggested Mr. Carroll send a letter regarding the use of their services.

Mr. Cavaco noted that Sen. Timilty was in the office last Thursday. He made a few telephone calls and the liquid license conversion was done. He suggested the Board invite the Senator to present the licenses to the holders.

At the same time, Mr. Cavaco will inquire about additional licenses and more money for road repairs and a south end fire station.

Mr. Parker suggested the Town Administrator send a letter of congratulations to newly-elected Representative Steven Howitt.

In response to Chairman Richardson's request, the position in the BOS/Town Administrator's office will be on next week's agenda.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll said he followed up on the Comcast bill brought up at the previous meeting. The bill was not sent to the right address.

He noted that Krystal DeFontes, an employee of the Collector's Office, is a cheerleading coach. Her team placed first in their division. The trophy and team photo are on display in front of the Collector's Office.

Mr. Carroll advised that Mr. Paul Buckley has arranged for an informational program on warrant articles to be aired on cable TV.

Mr. Carroll said that and Mr. Lamoureux and he were on a conference call with the engineer and town counsel regarding the Administrative Consent Order on Lake Street. Weston & Sampson will make a presentation at the next meeting.

He distributed copies of instructions given to department heads on how to prepare a budget. A Tri-Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2010.

Status of Cable TV License

Negotiations on the license renewal with Comcast is 99.9% completed. He should have information for the next meeting.

Mr. Parker announced that Mrs. Kim Leinson has resigned from the Finance Board. She has an opportunity to work as a referee. He commended her for her service to the Town.

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Mr. David Pitassi requested that the Board reconsider the vote on the disciplinary action taken against Seekonk Hospitality.

Chairman Richardson noted the parties are not in attendance and that Mr. Pitassi had an opportunity to speak earlier.

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

VOTED: To accept the gift of a boot scrubber with gratitude to the Building Commissioner.

WORK SESSION

Goals and Objectives for Board of Selectmen

Deferred until the next meeting.

Set Warrant for Town Meeting

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

VOTED: To open the warrant to finalize articles.

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

VOTED: To eliminate Articles #4, 9, 14, 18, 25, 26, 28, and 29 and that the remaining articles be numbered consecutively.

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

VOTED: To close the warrant.

Mr. Cavaco noted that the legal bill is \$12,563.08 through September 30, 2010.

Mr. Carroll said that some of that is zoning violations.

Mr. Cavaco referred to a bill from the Fire Dept. for \$309.69 for parts purchased over the counter. He requested that the Town Administrator send a memo to department heads that necessary forms have to be completed.

Mr. Carroll said he spoke to Mr. Alexander about closer monitoring of bills to make sure there is pre-approval by the Town Administrator and that there is a contract on file.

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Regarding Seekonk Hospitality, Mr. Cavaco suggested the liquor should be removed by the close of business on Friday.

Mr. Cavaco noted that the tree dedication in memory of Sophia Smith was held on Friday at noon. The tree was purchased by members of the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Smith's family, town hall employees, and Selectmen Richardson, Parker, and Cavaco were in attendance.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk



Patricia Gamer, Secretary