

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 9, 2014
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady,
David Parker, David Andrade

Town Administrator: Shawn Cadime

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

Chairman Almeida called the meeting to order at 6 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, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chairman.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mr. Brady nominated, Mr. Sagar seconded, and it was unanimously

VOTED: That David Parker serve as Chairman.

Mr. Parker nominated, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: That Nelson Almeida serve as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Brady nominated, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

VOTED: That David Andrade serve as Clerk.

Recognize and Welcome Newly Elected Members

Board members congratulated Mr. Almeida on his re-election and Mr. Andrade on his election.

SEASONAL LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

JCM Petroleum, Inc. d/b/a Crossroads Convenience Store

Executive Assistant Anne Rogers advised that Alex's Restaurant did not want to renew the seasonal license. He is no longer selling alcohol. JCM Petroleum is the only seasonal at this time.

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

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VOTED: To renew the seasonal liquor license for JCM Petroleum, Inc.
d/b/a Crossroads Convenience Store.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Issue Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Mr. Almeida read the Proclamation in recognition of the communication staff: Linda Lyons – 28 years, Ronald Rickey – 13 years, Roberto Costa - 7 years, Katharine Alves - 7 years, Katelyn Butterworth - 4 years, Jodi Pacheco - 4 years, and Nicholas Rondeau - 2 years.

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

VOTED: To adopt the Proclamation for April 13-19, 2014 as
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
with thanks to the Town's communication staff.

Mr. Sagar noted that Mr. Brady and he recognize the value of a good communication staff. They are the first link to police, fire and citizens. They have hired a capable communication director which will enhance the public safety operations.

Mr. Brady said that dispatchers can be a thankless job because they are the first contact in an emergency situation. Added stress has been placed on them over the years with the EMD program, 911 and other protocols implemented. They are in a difficult situation.

Mr. Almeida recognized the dispatchers.

Mr. Andrade thanked them. He had a personal experience with his dad.

Chairman Parker said he owed everything to them. Just about a year ago, he was reborn in a Seekonk ambulance.

Communications Director Chris Campbell expressed his appreciation. He said the crew is phenomenal. They do a good job and are highly dedicated.

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At this time, Chairman Parker expressed condolences to the families of Ed St. Laurent, a long time builder in the north end of Town, and Irene Vendetti, owner of the Seekonk Speedway, who died at age 94.

Mr. Sagar thanked the Seekonk Police Department for honoring these two residents.

Discussion on Board Goals and Objectives

Mr. Cadime said he identified some areas of focus – Government Structure and Operations, Finance, Capital Improvements, Public Safety, Public Works, Social and Cultural Issues, Town Property, and Community and Economic Development. He recommended short term goals (1-2 years), medium (3-5 years) and long term (6 to 10 years). He included drafts from Dedham and Arlington for review. Board members should have short term goals for discussion at the meeting in two weeks.

Mr. Brady said that he has been incredibly impressed with Mr. Cadime's performance, work ethic and organization. He is more convinced that the Board made the right selection.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of February 26, 2014 and March 12, 2014

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of February 26, 2014 and March 12, 2014.

The vote: Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Abstained.

Consider Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2014

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Special Meeting minutes of February 5, 2014.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Chairman Parker - Aye; Mr. Andrade – Abstained.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime advised the Annual Report is on line as of today. It is currently at the printer and should be ready within the next two weeks.

Mr. Sagar asked why it takes almost a year to get it done.

Mr. Cadime said they need to do a better job internally of coordinating the various parts. A reasonable timeframe should be around November – December.

Chairman Parker said department heads are instructed to get their annual reports into the Board of Selectmen's office. They need to do a better job to ensure it gets done.

Mr. Cadime advised that DPW interviewed about five applicants for the recycling coordinator position and made a recommendation to him. He sat down with the finalist. A determination should be made by next week. One candidate had recycling experience.

He asked Kopelman and Paige to provide the Board with pending litigation status. A representative from that firm is tentatively scheduled for executive session at the next meeting. He will forward the list to Board members once he gets it.

Mr. Cadime asked what specific cases the Board wanted to discuss.

He is looking for direction from the Board with regard to reserve fund advisories.

Chairman Parker said he would like to know what they are.

Mr. Cadime advised a meeting was held last week with Atty. Joe Fair to discuss the options with regard to appointed boards. Mr. Brady and Chairman Parker attended. He recommended a work session with various boards within the next couple of weeks to coordinate for the June Town Meeting.

Mr. Brady said they discussed the different options, issues and responses from the various boards. They felt potentially the best resolution and option would be to mirror the power of the Board of Selectmen with these other boards.

Under Article 6, the Town Administrator would make the same recommendations as to the Board of Selectmen and those boards would have the same appointing authority as this Board. The one board that came forward felt there would be too much power by the Board of Selectmen and that these boards or commissions have traditionally made the appointments. By doing it this way, they have the same authority as the Board of Selectmen. The Town Administrator will be responsible for core assignments (working conditions).

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Mr. Brady said he would question the motive if they wanted more than that.

Mr. Sagar recommended a change in the Charter for a super majority.

Chairman Parker said that could be discussed at the work session.

Mr. Cadime advised that several individuals complained about accessibility of meeting notices on the town calendar. He met with Town Clerk Janet Parker and Mr. Alexander. The new procedure would be that notices are posted to the calendar once received in the Town Clerk's office.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Almeida asked about the part time position in the building department.

Mr. Cadime said that is a matter for executive session. He will have Mr. Santos check on the signs.

Mr. Almeida asked about posting approved executive session minutes to the website. He asked about the delay in getting minutes.

Mr. Cadime noted that the secretary had been on vacation. Several minutes were included in the packet for this meeting.

With baseball and softball season approaching, Mr. Almeida suggested that residents be notified to park their vehicles off the street to avoid getting a ticket.

Mr. Cadime said that the fields are still closed. The grounds are still too wet for DPW to maintain.

Mr. Almeida said that it appears that some of the boards are not executing the by-laws properly.

Chairman Parker suggested that residents should be referred to the proper board.

Mr. Cadime said that any constituent complaints should be referred to him, and he will do the research and get back to them.

Mr. Almeida thanked the residents for giving him an opportunity to serve on the Board of Selectmen for another three years.

Mr. Sagar noted that 11% of registered voters had turned out to vote in the upcoming election. He questioned if there was anything the Board could do to get residents out to vote.

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He commended the fire and police departments for having representation at funerals for the firefighters in Boston and the Plymouth police officer all of whom died in the line of duty.

He asked Mr. Cadime to contact the State DPW about potholes on 114A in the area of Burrs Pond.

Board members agreed to continue to meet on a bi-weekly schedule.

Mr. Sagar asked about the School Department budget.

Mr. Cadime said they do not have it. Mr. Alexander has been in contact with the School Department.

As far as the rubbish contract, he advised that he has been in contact with other communities about costs and will meet with the owner of ABC this week. He is also waiting for a legal opinion from Kopelman & Paige as to the intent of Chapter 30B, Section 13A, with regard to recycling, composting, and transfer stations.

Mr. Sagar advised the Planning Board is drafting a new sign by-law.

Mr. Brady inquired about the full time building commissioner position.

Mr. Cadime said a conditional offer had been made to a candidate. However, the current commissioner had never resigned. This is a matter for executive session.

Mr. Brady asked for more information on the request for new roofs on two schools.

Mr. Cadime said he would do the research. Mr. Alexander seemed to think there is no warranty on those roofs. He said that contractors have to be held accountable.

Mr. Brady said the Town shouldn't be putting a roof on any building without a warranty.

Mr. Andrade asked if they do not use full book specs on those roof projects.

Mr. Almeida wanted information on call firefighters.

Mr. Cadime said that a motion for summary judgment has to be filed by either side. Atty. Fair will speak to it at the April 23rd meeting.

Mr. Brady said the motion to dismiss was denied. The judge indicated he would issue no further rulings prior to trial. A trial date was set up for fall or early next year. It is now in the discovery phase.

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Chairman Parker said he heard that some residents were disturbed because they were getting Reverse 911 calls on storm updates and the elections. He reminded residents that they can go on the police website and remove their names from general communication. It will still stay under Code Red. The Town had unlimited use – split into sections - emergencies and town information. There are two lists.

Mr. Cadime said that there is only one list. The 911 is unlimited and 17,500 minutes for town calls. It is 40 cents per minute after that. The Town has exceeded minutes as far as town business.

Chairman Parker said the Board was told it was unlimited.

Mr. Cadime said the issue was that everything was going out as emergencies. Code Red filters and determines which ones are non-emergencies.

He said that Mr. Campbell did an analysis and spoke to Code Red for more information.

Mr. Campbell explained the current contract with Code Red is five years and expires on June 30, 2015. The contract cost is just under \$8,000 per year for 17,500 minutes for general database calls. The Town has exceeded that amount. The Code Red representative told him that Seekonk was the first community in Massachusetts that drastically exceeded the amount. It is 7,000 minutes for every reverse 911. The problem with that is the more non-emergency calls desensitized the community as to what is an emergency. After the message went out re: kindergarten registration, he got 10 to 12 calls from residents to remove their names from the list. The kindergarten call used approximately half of the allowable minutes for the entire year. He is exploring other options.

Chairman Parker said that calls were supposed to be approved by the Town Administrator.

Mr. Cadime said that Mr. Alexander had raised concerns. He told him to do this call and then he would do an analysis to get a better understanding as to how the system works. It was after that call that he found out about the charge. There is a freeze until after June 30th. They need to do something else.

Mr. Campbell said that he is looking for complete information from the company.

Mr. Cadime said the School Department has its own system.

Mike Brady felt there might be other programs less expensive that Town Hall could contract and use just for emergencies.

Chairman Parker said it sounds like the Board was misled.

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Mr. Cadime said that Mr. Campbell has been very aggressive with this. He came to him and recommended they look at Plymouth County. They do the service for free. The Bristol County Sheriff's office does not do that.

Chairman Parker asked Mr. Cadime to contact the Atty. General's office to schedule an open meeting training in Seekonk.

Chairman Parker inquired about a report that was submitted awhile ago regarding Burrs Pond. The report indicated the rating was acceptable; however, repairs were strongly suggested. The report was submitted to Conservation.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Robert DelRosso, 201 Miller Street, continued discussion from the March 26th meeting regarding the tree on Hope Street and the width of the road.

He got a copy of the street inventory. Hope Street is 30 ft. wide which means the town engineer and he were both wrong.

He talked about Chapter 87 of the law on trees. He felt the tree warden is violating that section. The tree warden is the only one who can cut or trim trees on public property, but he must conduct a public hearing before the tree is removed. Trees on Hope Street and Miller Street were removed without a hearing. Signs are affixed to trees, which is in violation of the law.

Last August or September he watched with disbelief discussion at a Board meeting about a tree on Walker Street. The tree warden was in attendance. The resident was told to replace the tree. Mr. DelRosso urged that resident to appeal the decision.

Chairman Parker noted that he had made an appointment but never showed up.

Mr. DelRosso said no action should be taken until people are notified about Chapter 87.

Mr. Brady suggested a mailer to residents about this law and if there are any questions they should contact the tree warden.

Chairman Parker had a problem with the engineer saying the street is 40 ft. wide when it is 50 ft.

Mr. Cadime said he would set up a meeting with Mr. Lamoureux and Mr. Cabral.

Mr. DelRosso suggested the Town put money in escrow for call firefighters.

He said it might be time to remove the old dams.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:42 p.m. Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiation strategies with respect to AFSCME Council 93 Local 1701 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), discuss negotiation strategies with respect to USW Local 16031 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), discuss negotiation strategies with respect to AFT MA Library per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(3), and to consider approval of Executive Session minutes of February 26, 2014 and March 12, 2014; possibly to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Parker – Abstained. He stated that he does not participate in union negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary