

**Board of Selectmen  
Open Meeting of January 18, 2023  
Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street  
BOS Meeting Room**

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Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio, Michael Healy, David Andrade  
Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 6:00p.m.

**Channel 6 and WPRI advised the Chairman they were recording the meeting.**

**Board and Committee Openings**

M. Healy read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

**Community Speaks** – N/A

**A. Consider accepting the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant in the amount of \$3,781 and the Senior SAFE Grant in the amount of \$2,077**

Chief Lowery summarized the grant received. Lieutenant Laprade drafted the grant. The grants are awarded for spending up to December 31, 2023.

**M. Healy made a motion to accepting the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant in the amount of \$3,781 and the Senior SAFE Grant in the amount of \$2,077; C. Zorra seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**B. Consider accepting the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$10,598**

Chief Lowery summarized the grant received. Lieutenant Bradford drafted the grant with the assistance of Captain Dalessio. They will purchase two battery powered saws which will replace to the two older gas-powered saws on the ladder trucks.

**M. Healy made a motion to accept the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$10,598; D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**C. Consider awarding the contract to Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. for the Traffic Signal and Pedestrian Curb Ramp Improvements at Arcade Avenue and Ledge Road and authorize the Town Administrator as Signatory**

Dave Cabral, Superintendent of Public Works, summarized the awarding contract for the traffic signal. The low bidder was Dagle Electrical Construction Corp in the amount of \$368,863. Mr. Cabral asked the Board to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract.

**D. Andrade made a motion to award the contract for the Traffic Signal and Pedestrian Curb Ramp Improvements at Arcade Avenue and Ledge Road to Dagle Electrical Construction Corp and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**D. Public Hearing: Consider the request for an Alteration of Premises of an Annual Wine and Malt Package Store license for Tony's Seafood, Inc., 1365 Fall River Avenue, Anthony Pirri, manager**

**M. Healy made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.; D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

Michael Healy-Aye; Adam Petronio-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; David Andrade-Aye; Justin Sullivan-Aye

Anthony Pirri, Owner and Manager summarized the application. This is a procedural request to remodel the store for additional storage space. It is not intended to increase liquor sales.

There was no one present to speak in favor or against the application.

**A. Petronio made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

Michael Healy-Aye; Adam Petronio-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; David Andrade-Aye; Justin Sullivan-Aye

There were no additional comments from the Board.

**D. Andrade made a motion to approve the request for an Alteration of Premises of an Annual Wine and Malt Package Store license for Tony's Seafood, Inc., 1365 Fall River Avenue, Anthony Pirri, manager at 6:24 p.m.; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**E. Update from the South End Fire Station Building Committee**

*The Architect was running late. The Board moved this item to be heard later in the meeting.*

**F. Consider the request from Lynch Corp. for an extension of time to complete Earth Removal and/or Earth Import applications**

*No one was present from Lynch Corp. at this time.*

***D. Andrade made a motion to table the extension of time to complete Earth Removal and/or Earth Import applications; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.***

***Vote: 5-0 all in favor***

*Lawrence McCarthy, III, Vice-President, General Counsel of Lynch Corp. arrived at 6:19 p.m.*

***D. Andrade made a motion to lift the motion to table the extension of time to complete Earth Removal and/or Earth Import applications at 6:19 p.m.; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.***

***Vote: 5-0 all in favor***

Mr. McCarthy advised the Board since the last meeting he has received clarification on how to proceed with both the importing and exporting of materials. He is requesting an extension for the permits until April 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he met with some of the abutters (on Carters Way) in December and discovered there was not a buffer at the rear of three properties when the subdivision was built. Lynch Corp. has since spent approximately \$70,000 on trees to offer a buffer from some of the dust.

***D. Andrade made a motion for the extension until April 1, 2023 to complete Earth Removal and/or Earth Import applications; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.***

***Vote: 5-0 all in favor***

**G. Consider the request for a Class II Motor Vehicle License for MassRI Auto Sales, LLC, 87 Taunton Avenue, Seekonk, MA, Gerard Disanto, Jr.**

No one was present from MassRI Auto Sales.

***D. Andrade made a motion to table the request for a Class II Motor Vehicle License for MassRI Auto Sales, LLC; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.***

***Vote: 5-0 all in favor***

**H. Consider the annual designation of Andrea Russo as Animal Control Officer per MGL Ch 140, §151G.**

**D. Andrade made a motion to approve the annual designation of Andrea Russo as Animal Control Officer per MGL 140, §151; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**I. Consider the annual designation of Jessica Blake as Assistant Animal Control Officer per MGL Ch 140, §151**

**D. Andrade made a motion to approve the annual designation of Jessica Blake as Assistant Animal Control Officer per MGL 140, §151; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**J. Consider the annual designation of Natalie Hayward as Assistant Animal Control Officer per MGL Ch 140, §151**

**D. Andrade made a motion to approve the annual designation of Natalie Hayward as Assistant Animal Control Officer per MGL 140, §151; C. Zorra seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**K. Consider accepting the Animal Control Officer's Warrant**

Andrea Russo, Animal Control Officer, presented the January Animal Control Officer's Warrant for April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

**D. Andrade made a motion to accept the Animal Control Officer's Warrant; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**L. Accept the letter of resignation from Timothy Houde from the Fire Department**

**C. Zorra made a motion to accept the resignation of Timothy Houde from the Fire Department; A. Petronio seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**M. Accept the letter of resignation from Jennifer Miller from the position of Conservation Agent**

**M. Healy made a motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer Miller from the position of Conservation Agent effective January 13, 2023; A. Petronio seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**N. Consider accepting the donation from Karen Stutz in the amount of \$300 to the Seekonk Human Services gift account**

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$300 from Karen Stutz to the Human Services gift account; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**O. Consider accepting the donation from Mary McLaughlin in the amount of \$100 to the Seekonk Human Services gift account**

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$100 from Mary McLaughlin to the Human Services gift account; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**P. Consider accepting the anonymous donation in the amount of \$100 to the Seekonk Human Services gift account**

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept the anonymous donation in the amount of \$100 to the Human Services gift account; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**Q. Consider approving the minutes of December 21, 2022**

**A. Petronio made a motion to approve the Open Session minutes of December 21, 2022 as amended; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and it was unanimously approved**

**Vote: 4 in favor/1 Abstention (A. Petronio)**

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS:**

Chris Pfeffer from Faith Christian Center stated he was present to show his support, as well as represent members from his church in support of Chief Isabella. He said the police presence in the community has never been greater. Chief Isabella has demonstrated a ministry alliance by bringing churches together to

help the community. He said by continuing with Chief Isabella it will show the community stability in the public safety department.

**OTHER BUSINESS** - N/A

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

- A. South End Fire Station Building Committee – as discussed above.
- B. Department of Public Works Building Committee – The Committee met last Tuesday with the OPM. They discussed the process and clarified the responsibilities of the Architect and the General Contractor. A site visit was completed and they will proceed with procurement of design and services.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant
- B. Bristol County Advisory Board (M. Healy) – No new updates at this time.
- C. Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (C. Zorra) – No new updates at this time.
- D. 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – There are outstanding issues with the elevator and generator.

*Chair Sullivan called for a five-minute recess at 6:27 p.m. for the South End Fire Station Building Committee to set up their presentation.*

**E. Update from the South End Fire Station Building Committee**

Chair Sullivan reconvened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Tusino, Chairman of the South End Fire Station Building Committee  
Ted Galante with TGAS (The Galante Architecture Studio)  
Dan Tavares, OPM with CGA (CGA Project Management)

Chairman Jim Tusino summarized the time frame of the project. Town meeting approved the project in June 2020 to design a South End Fire Station. A committee was organized. CGA is the project manager and TGAS is the architectural firm.

Ted Galante from TGAS provided the slide presentation. The Site Plan, Furniture Plan, Dimension Plan, Elevations, Schedule, and Cost Breakdown were discussed. Total square footage of the building is 8,305 (4,125 sq. ft. fire suppression area, 2,695 sq ft living quarters, and the dispatch area is 1,485 sq. ft.

Project Budget (costs are approximate and subject to change):

- Preconstruction Services through contractor bidding: \$ 425,000
- Estimated construction “hard” cost: \$7,200,000
- Estimated “soft” costs (fees/contingencies/FF&E): \$2,000,000

- Total Estimated Project Budget: \$9,625,000
- **Estimate Bond amount needed for construction: \$9,200,000**

Schedule Bullet Points for Construction Documents:

CD's Progress Set	January 19, 2023
100% CD's-Bid Documents	March 13, 2023
Bidding & Negotiations	Mid-March to end of April 2023
Town Meeting	May 2023
Contract Award	May 2023
Building Construction	June 2023-July 2024
Project Close Out	August-September 2024

J. Sullivan asked him to explain the changes made to the dispatching area.

S. Cadime said the area has increased. The new station will allow for four dispatchers opposed to two, offices for the Communications Director office and Telecommunications Specialist, breakroom, and isolated access points for dispatch area.

C. Zorra asked who greet citizens walking into the building.

S. Cadime said there will be a report room in the front with a transaction window at the entrance. It will operate similar to the Banna Station. Public interaction should be taking place at Headquarters.

A. Petronio asked about the \$2M in contingency.

Mr. Tavares, OPM, stated 20-22% is standard. It includes, 10% construction, 5% soft cost, designer fees, third party inspection fees, OPM fees, etc.

C. Zorra stated the apparatus costs (approximately \$1M) is not included in this estimate.

J. Sullivan said in 2019 this project was estimated at \$4-\$4.5M and now it has doubled and does not include apparatus and staff. He asked the Board if the committee should continue moving forward with the project.

D. Andrade said since they are 50% through with construction documents. If we hit pause, they are entitled to paying for services.

M. Healy said the costs will continue going up. We don't have a plan in place to staff the building and what that cost will be. Asking the residents to pay for the building apparatus and staffing is a lot as a board we have to discuss how we manage what is coming forward. The residents have to fund it not just support it.

D. Andrade suggested continuing with the project since some materials are a year out and construction may be two years out. If the project goes out to Bid, we will have real costs. The decision at that time can be made whether or not to continue with the project.

S. Cadime stated that if the Town sees a need in having a South End Fire station in 5-10 years then he would suggest the project move forward because the costs will increase. If the Town does not see a need in 5-10 years then it may not make sense to move forward. The longer delayed, the more it will cost.

J. Sullivan said he would agree with moving forward with CD and go out to BID to find out real costs. If we go to town meeting, we will need to have plan for staffing, equipment, and operational budget to explain to the residents.

**The Board agreed to proceed with the project.**

**Chairman Sullivan stated that Item A. scheduled for executive session would be held in public during open session at the request of the Police Chief.**

**A. To discuss the dismissal of an employee pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(1).**

Chairman Sullivan summarized the process for the hearing and read a statement into the record. In summary, as employment contracts reach their expiration, the Board is often faced with the difficult decision of pursuing alternate opportunities for the Town and employees. These decisions are never dealt with lightly and require a great deal of scrutiny. Recent media reports have not influenced any consideration by the Board or Town Administrator.

**D. Andrade made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

Michael Healy-Aye; Adam Petronio-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; David Andrade-Aye; Justin Sullivan-Aye

Attorney Eric Brainsky with the Law Firm of Brainsky Levinson in Seekonk was present on behalf of Chief Isabella. Attorney Brainsky stated his client is under contract until December 2, 2023. He stated the Charter does not give the Town the authority to rescind or abrogate the Chief's contract. Attorney Brainsky said he believes this is unnecessary, the Town has not given a reason other than going in another direction, and said the Town is trampling on his client's rights under the contract, law, and constitution.

Chief Dean Isabella thanked all those who have reached out to him to show their support. He said being named Chief of Seekonk has been one of the greatest honors of his life. He stated he was before the Board to address their statement regarding the direction, performance, community engagement, department brand, and staffing of the Department. He said he was not asked what his plans were for the department or what he has accomplished. Since 2021, crime in the Town has reduced, he added bike and ATV patrols to reduce crime and increase police visibility, and policies and procedures were updated. Community engagement opportunities include National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, Autism Eats, and Faith in Blue. He started a Police intern program, public safety program, and added a comfort dog. The department has only received one civilian complaint. He stated he proposed a staffing proposal and operational changes, but none had been adopted. The department held a recruit drive and has had more lateral transfers. The department also added, new vehicles, equipment, and additional training



opportunities. A new call response code was created, a new vehicle pursuit process and use of force investigation process were added. He helped pass a nuisance by-law and with the Town's emergency response plan. He has saved money in the budget, obtained approximately \$1M in grant money, started a drone program, and introduced the Flock camera and the Narcan program. He said all of this has been a team effort.

J. Sullivan opened the meeting for public comments.

John Pfeffer, Sr. Pastor of Faith Christian Center stated during a time of racial tension, the Chief and Officers brought understanding and peace between members and the community.

Mark Mancino, 796 Arcade Avenue, met Chief Isabella at the Faith and Blue night. He feels the Town is fortunate to have him as their Police Chief. He said he was suspicious of the timing of the GoLocal article. He asked the Board not govern based on reactionary measures. He thinks the Town's reputation will be perceived for having a revolving door. He asked the Board retain him as Chief.

Kevin Dacon from Faith Christian Center said he is responsible for community connections and testifies to his community engagement. The church has worked with Chief Isabella at a number of events. The Faith and Blue had approximately 350-400 people at the event, National Night Out had over a thousand people, and they also worked with the department for the Shop with a Cop event held at Dick's Sporting Goods. Mr. Dacon said h He

There were no further comments. Chair Sullivan asked for final comments from Mr. Isabella.

Chief Isabella thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as Police of Seekonk. Nothing would have been done without the public safety team and he is very proud of each of them.

There were no further comments from the Board.

**A. Petronio made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

Michael Healy-Aye; Adam Petronio-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; David Andrade-Aye; Justin Sullivan-Aye

**M. Healy made a motion to rescind the appointment and employment of Dean Isabella as Police Chief effective Friday, January 20, 2023 and authorize the Town Administrator to issue the Chief written notice of that effect on the Board's behalf; D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

Michael Healy-Aye; Adam Petronio-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; David Andrade-Aye; Justin Sullivan-Aye

## **Adjournment**

**A. Petronio made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:36 p.m. for Item B: Consider approving the Executive Session minutes of December 7, 2022, and December 21, 2022; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was unanimously approved.**

### **Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

Michael Healy-Aye; Adam Petronio-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; David Andrade-Aye; Justin Sullivan-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:

Kristen L'Heureux

## **Items Distributed at the January 18, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- Correspondence and proposed contract for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant in the amount of \$3,781 and the Senior SAFE Grant in the amount of \$2,077.
- Correspondence and proposed contract for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$10,598.
- Awarding Authority Prequalification Confirmation for Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. for the Traffic Signal and Pedestrian Curb Ramp Improvements at Arcade Avenue and Ledge Road.
- Application for alteration of premise for Tony's Seafood, Inc./Anthony Pirri, Manager.
- Correspondence from Lawrence McCarthy, III, Vice-President/General Counsel of Lynch Corp.
- The Galante Architecture Studio presentation
- Application for Class II Motor Vehicle License for MASSRI Auto Sales/Gerard DiSanto, Jr.
- Annual designation request for Animal Control Offices per MGL Ch 140, §151.
- Animal Control Officer's Warrant.
- Letter of resignation from Timothy Houde, Fire Department.
- Letter of resignation from Jennifer Miller, Conservation Agent.
- Correspondence from Human Services Director with donations.