

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of June 7, 2023
Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street
BOS Meeting Room**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Pam Pozzi, Chris Zorra, Michelle A. Hines, Michael P. Healy
Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime
Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director: Carol-Ann Days

Chair Healy opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Board and Committee Openings

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

Community Speaks – *The Board agreed to move Community Speaks after Item H.*

A. Consider the appointment of Lieutenant Gerard “Jay” LaFleur to the rank of Deputy Chief

Chief Enos stated interviews were held for the position of Deputy Chief on May 17, 2023. The interview panel consisted the Town Administrator, Shawn Cadime, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director, Carol Days, Chief Brian Clark from the Norton Police Department, and Chief Enos. The panel selected Lieutenant LaFleur to serve as Deputy Police Chief. Lieutenant LaFleur has been with the Seekonk Police Department for 23 years.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Police Chief.

Deputy Police Chief LaFleur was sworn in by the Assistant Town Clerk, Lorraine Sorel.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Lieutenant Gerard “Jay” LaFleur to the rank of Deputy Police Chief; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

B. Consider the promotion of Sergeant Sean Dowd to the rank of Lieutenant

Chief Enos stated interviews were held on May 24th by three outside ranking officers: Attleboro Deputy Police Chief Tim Cook; Rehoboth Deputy Police Chief Brian Ramos; and Taunton Captain Arnie Santos. Mr. Cadime and Chief Enos observed the interviews. The panel selected Sergeant Dowd to serve as Lieutenant. Sergeant Dowd has been with the Seekonk Police Department for 13 years.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Police Chief.

Lieutenant Sean Dowd was sworn in with the Assistant Town Clerk, Lorraine Sorel.

M. Hines made a motion to promote Sergeant Sean Dowd to the rank of Lieutenant; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

C. Consider the promotion of Officer Keith Perry to the rank of Sergeant

Chief Enos stated interviews were held on May 16th and 17th by three outside Lieutenants: Somerset Lieutenant Jay Borges; Taunton Lieutenant Glen Jackson; and Fall River Lieutenant McDonald. Officer Perry has been with the Seekonk Police Department for nine years and has served in the Patrol and Detective Divisions, as Student Resource Officer, Field Training Officer and the Department's first drone pilot. The panel selected Officer Perry to serve as Sergeant.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Police Chief.

Sergeant Keith Perry was sworn in with the Assistant Town Clerk, Lorraine Sorel.

M. Hines made a motion to promote Officer Keith Perry to the rank of Sergeant; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

D. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Nicholas Viveiros for the position of full-time Police Officer

Chief Enos stated the interview panel consisted of himself, Mr. Cadime, Captain Jardine, Deputy Lafleur and Detective Gardner. He asked the Board consider a conditional offer of employment to Nicholas Viveiros.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Police Chief.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Nicholas Viveiros to the position of full-time Police Officer for the Seekonk Police Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) completion of a satisfactory background check; 2) physical examination, with drug screening; 3) psychological screening; 4) execution of the Recruit Officer repayment agreement; 5) MPTC physical fitness test; 6) obtain and maintain a Massachusetts license to carry; 7) fulfillment of all statutory requirements set forth by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission to become a Certified Law Enforcement officer; 8) successful verification of the National Decertification Index; 9) successful passage of the civil service physical ability test; 10) completion and passage of an MPTC or approved ROC Police Academy; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

E. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for James Lonergan for the position of full-time Police Officer

Chief Enos stated the interview panel consisted of himself, Mr. Cadime, Captain Jardine, Deputy Lafleur and Detective Gardner. He asked the Board consider a conditional offer of employment for James Lonergan.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Police Chief.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint James Lonergan to the position of full-time Police Officer for the Seekonk Police Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) completion of a satisfactory background check; 2) physical examination, with drug screening; 3) psychological screening; 4) execution of the Recruit Officer repayment agreement; 5) MPTC physical fitness test; 6) obtain and maintain a Massachusetts license to carry; 7) fulfillment of all statutory requirements set forth by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission to become a Certified Law Enforcement officer; 8) successful verification of the National Decertification Index; 9) successful passage of the civil service physical ability test; 10) completion and passage of an MPTC or approved ROC Police Academy; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

F. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Emilson Abotsi for the position of full-time Police Officer

Chief Enos stated the interview panel consisted of himself, Mr. Cadime, Captain Jardine, Deputy Lafleur and Detective Gardner. He asked the Board consider a conditional offer of employment to Emilson Abotsi.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Police Chief.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Emilson Abotsi to the position of full-time Police Officer for the Seekonk Police Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) completion of a satisfactory background check; 2) physical examination, with drug screening; 3) psychological screening; 4) execution of the Recruit Officer repayment agreement; 5) MPTC physical fitness test; 6) obtain and maintain a Massachusetts license to carry; 7) fulfillment of all statutory requirements set forth by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission to become a Certified Law Enforcement officer; 8) successful verification of the National Decertification Index; 9) successful passage of the civil service physical ability test; 10) completion and passage of an MPTC or approved ROC Police Academy; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

G. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Adam Chalifoux for the position of Full Time Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher

Director Wunschel stated the interviews were held on May 25, 2023. The interview panel consisted of herself, Mr. Cadime, and Carol Days. Director Wunschel asked the Board consider a conditional offer of employment to Adam Chalifoux.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Director of Communications.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Adam Chalifoux to the position of Full-Time Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher subject to and conditioned upon her successful passage, as determined by the Town Administrator of a pre-employment background and CORI check, physical examination, drug screening, psychological evaluation; completion of all pre-employment paperwork; and successful completion of all required certifications to be a 911 telecommunicator for the Town; it was seconded by C. Zorra, was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

H. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Katrina Desroches for the position of Part Time Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher

Director Wunschel stated the interviews were held on May 25, 2023 for a part-time Emergency Telecommunication Dispatcher. The interview panel consisted of herself, Mr. Cadime, and Carol Days. Director Wunschel asked the Board consider a conditional offer of employment to Katrina Desroches.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as stated by the Director of Communications.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Katrina Desroches to the position of Part-Time Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher subject to and conditioned upon her successful passage, as determined by the Town Administrator, of a pre-employment background and CORI check, physical examination, drug screening, psychological evaluation; completion of all pre-employment paperwork; and successful completion of all required certifications to be a 911 telecommunicator for the Town; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Community Speaks

Brian Rawnsley of 20 Shirwood Drive provided the Board with a signed petition to address the noise, traffic, and parking along North Street, Coyle Drive, and Shirwood Drive. The noise is loud and continuous for the abutting residents of North School fields. The Flag Football league plays for six hours every Sunday. He shared a video of the noise which included whistles, horns, and yelling.

Bruce Swallow of 28 Sherwood Drive said his greatest concern was on-street parking from the league, as well as the church. He is concerned with kids running between the cars.

I. Public Hearing: To consider the request for an alteration of premises for an Annual All-Alcoholic Beverages On-Premises Consumption License to include the outside patio area in the front of the establishment for Costamar Restaurant, LTD, d/b/a d/b/a Toti's Grilled Pizzeria & Restaurant, Natercia Costa, manager, located at 373 Taunton Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771

M. Hines made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:36 p.m. it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Justin Sullivan-Aye; Pam Pozzi-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

Attorney Beau Akers from Brainsky Levinson summarized the application. Toti's currently has a Temporary License due to the COVID restrictions. They are before the Board to make the alteration permanent.

No one from the public was present to speak in favor or in opposition of the fees.

J. Sullivan made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Justin Sullivan-Aye; Pam Pozzi-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

P. Pozzi asked if any changes would be made from what was previously approved.

M. Hines asked where the patio was located.

Owner, Natercia Costa said the patio wrapped around the front and side of the building and there are no proposed changes.

J. Sullivan made a motion to approve the request for an alteration of premises for an Annual All-Alcoholic Beverages On-Premises Consumption License to include the outside patio area in the front of the establishment for Costamar Restaurant, LTD, d/b/a d/b/a Toti's Grilled Pizzeria & Restaurant; it was seconded by M. Hines, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

J. Public Hearing: To consider the transfer of an off-premise Annual Wines and Malt Beverages Liquor License from Seekonk Petroleum, Inc., to Priya Fuel Corp. for the business known as Seekonk Mobil located at 960 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA, Dipenkumar Patel to be Manager

M. Hines made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:41 p.m. it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Justin Sullivan-Aye; Pam Pozzi-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

Attorney Ian Hedges and Sole Principal, Dipenkumar Patel were present. They do not propose any changes be made to current location or operations. The request is for a Transfer of License, as well as an approval of a Pledge of license and alcohol inventory to Rockland Trust.

No one from the public was present to speak in favor or in opposition of the fees.

M. Hines made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:44 p.m. it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Justin Sullivan-Aye; Pam Pozzi-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

J. Sullivan made a motion to approve the transfer of an off-premise Annual Wines and Malt Beverages Liquor License from Seekonk Petroleum, Inc., to Priya Fuel Corp. and approval for the pledge of license and inventory to Rockland Trust for the business known as Seekonk Mobil located at 960 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA, Dipenkumar Patel to be Manager; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

K. License Hearing: To consider the request for a second hand/antiques dealer license for CSM USA Fitness to sell used/second hand fitness equipment

Jose Hernandez summarized the request for an Antique/Second-Hand license to sell used fitness equipment. He explained they buy and sell new and used gym equipment.

M. Hines made a motion to approve the request for a second hand/antiques dealer license for CSM USA Fitness to sell used/second hand fitness equipment; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

L. Consider accepting the grant from Walmart in the amount of \$950 towards fitness equipment for the Fire Department

Chief Lowery and Lieutenant Matthew Bradford were present. Lieutenant Bradford drafted the grant. The fitness equipment will be used at the Banna Fire Station.

M. Hines made a motion to accept the \$950 grant from Walmart to be used towards fitness equipment for the Fire Department; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

M. Consider accepting the donation of a Stereo Optical Optec 5000 Vision Screener/Tester for the Human Services Nurses Station

M. Hines explained this the optical equipment was donated to the School Department from the Lions Club. Since the school is no longer using the equipment, the Lions Club donated the equipment to Human Services.

J. Sullivan made a motion to accept the donation of a Stereo Optical Optec 5000 Vision Screener/Tester for Human Services; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

N. Consider accepting the donation of \$90 from the Stop and Shop “Bloomin’ 4 Good Bouquet Program”

J. Sullivan made a motion to accept the \$90 donation from Stop and Shop “Bloomin’ 4 Good Bouquet Program for Human Services; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

O. Consider the appropriation of \$90,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a one-time payment for the Seekonk Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1931 per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Chair Healy explained this was funded at Town Meeting for part of the contractual agreement for the Fire Union.

J. Sullivan made a motion to appropriate \$90,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a one-time payment for the Seekonk Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1931 per Collective Bargaining Agreement; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

P. Consider the appropriation of \$21,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a one-time payment for the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Unit, New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Local 126 per Collective Bargaining Agreement

Chair Healy explained this was funded at Town Meeting for part of the contractual agreement for the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Unit, New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Local 126.

J. Sullivan made a motion to appropriate \$21,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a one-time payment for the Seekonk Communications and Clerical Unit, New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Local 126; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Q. Discussion of the Medeiros Farm Committee

M. Healy proposed a Select Board member sit on the Medeiros Farm Committee since they were part of the Purchase and Sales Agreement. He thinks the intent of the committee was to have a sitting member on each of the Boards that was listed in the warrant.

P. Pozzi said she disagreed and thinks an independent resident should sit on the committee but a member from the Select Board could be a liaison.

M. Hines asked if the Select Board will be appointing other members from the designated Board and Committees.

J. Sullivan suggested having a representative from each board or committee. He said he would be interested in sitting on the Committee since he sat in on the negotiations and various other meetings.

Chairman of the Community Preservation, John Alves, stated the intent was to have a member from each of the committees.

C. Zorra said he understood it as a member of the BOS for the indebt knowledge. He understood it to be a member from each one of the Boards.

M. Hines made motion to make J. Sullivan a member of the Medeiros Farm Committee; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and the Board voted: 4 in favor/1 opposed (P. Pozzi)

P. Pozzi asked for a timeline for the Committee to be appointed.

Mr. Alves stated the Community Preservation Committee appointed Willet Mason to be on the Medeiros Committee. Mr. Medeiros was also in the audience and stated the family has also appointed a member.

M. Hines asked for an update from the other committee members at the next meeting.

R. Consider accepting the open meeting minutes of May 24, 2023

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the open meeting minutes of May 24, 2023; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was voted: 3 approved/2 abstained (J. Sullivan, M. Hines)

COMMUNITY SPEAKS:

John Alves asked if the title of the Board listed on the agendas will remain “Board of Selectmen” or “Select Board.”

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- A. South End Fire Station Building Committee (S. Cadime) – the construction documents are 95% complete. The ZBA voted 5-0 to approve the special permit for the station and tower.
- B. Department of Public Works Building Committee – A workshop was held today with the OPM, architect, the consultant of the architect, along with various members of the Committee. A site tour of the DPW building and transfer station were also completed. The next meeting is scheduled for next week.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant – Signed
- B. Bristol County Advisory Board (M. Healy) – A Zoom meeting is scheduled for next Thursday at 6:00 to amend the FY23 budget for a capital assessment item.
- C. Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (C. Zorra) – nothing new at this time.
- D. 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report (M. Hines) – The floors are expected to be completed next week. The painting and electrical work continues.

M. Hines and C. Zorra congratulated the Class of 2023.

P. Pozzi asked if the Fire Department will be hiring a Deputy Chief.

M. Healy said they expect to move forward with discussion at the end of August.

C. Zorra asked if the parade route in the future could be painted red white and blue. He also asked if additional Christmas trees could be added to the Veterans Memorial site this year. Mr. Cadime said he would speak with Mr. Cabral.

J. Sullivan said the Memorial Day Parade had a great turnout and thanked the Veterans Committee.

Adjournment

M. Hines made a motion to adjourn open session at 7:11 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to for potential contract approval to A) to conduct a strategy session with respect to negotiations with the United Steelworkers Supervisors Unit Local 9517-09 per MGL c 30A § 21(a) (3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town B) to conduct a strategy session with respect to negotiations with the United Steelworkers Clerical Unit Local 9517-10 per MGL c 30A § 21(a) (3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; C) to conduct a strategy session with respect to negotiations with the Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT

Massachusetts, AFL-CIO per MGL c 30A § 21(a) (3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; D) to conduct a strategy session with respect to negotiations with DPW AFSCME Council 93 per MGL c 30A § 21(a) (3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; and E) To act under authority of the Open Meeting Law, General Laws Chapter 30A, §22(f) and §22(g), and review and approve the executive session minutes of May 24, 2023 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(7); it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Justin Sullivan-Aye; Pam Pozzi-Aye; Chris Zorra-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle A. Hines, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the June 7, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Memo from Chief Enos – appointments and promotions
- Memo from Chief Enos – new hires of Officers Viveros, Lonergan, and Abotsi
- Memo from Director Wunschel – Conditional offer of employment for Adam Chalifoux
- Memo from Director Wunschel – Conditional offer of employment for Katrina Desroches
- Application for an Alteration of Premise for Toti's Restaurant, 373 Taunton Avenue
- Application for a Transfer of Off-Premise Annual Wine and Malt Liquor License for Seekonk Mobil, 960 Fall River Avenue
- Application for an Antique & Second-Hand License for CSM Fitness USA, LLC located at 1882 Fall River Avenue
- Email from Captain Dalessio regarding donation received from Walmart
- Memo from Human Services Director, Brittney Faria regarding donations
- Draft open session meeting minutes for May 24, 2023