

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of August 16, 2023
Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street
BOS Meeting Room**

Members Present: Pam Pozzi, Michelle A. Hines, Michael P. Healy
Members Absent: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra
Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

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 –

Deborah Hoch, 220 Bradley Street, member of the Seekonk Cable TV9 Board of Directors for 15 years provided a packet to the Board that included statements made to her as well as the other female Board members. In summary, she stated she has been treated with hostility, discrimination, and harassment. She was also told to resign because she has been on the board long enough. She believes there has been misuse of funds and for the potential unauthorized use of the TV9 vehicle. She also questioned if the new Board as of the July 24, 2023 meeting is valid. Ms. Hoch asked the Select Board for a five-year forensic audit be done of all of Seekonk Cable Access financials and investment records.

Kristin Dobbs Montgomery, 89 Woodward Avenue, stated she was elected at the end of 2022. She has witnessed blatant harassment from the men on the Board. Her first meeting was in January 2023 and witnessed the hostile way they treated Ms. Hoch. She attended the February 2023 meeting and again witnessed accusations and abuse from the men. She stated it was a toxic and hostile environment and did not attend the March 2023 meeting. She felt comfortable attending the April meeting since Mr. Healy would be present. She stated she was screamed at and was told they never wanted her on the Board. Ms. Dobbs Montgomery stated she was also falsely accused of going to the Select Board. That meeting ended with a threat made to Ms. Hoch.

Denise Poliquin, 88 Woodward Avenue, has served on the Board of Directors since 2019. She was also not able to attend the July 24, 2023 meeting. On July 26th she was sent the agenda with the name of the people who attended. Two out of the six current board members and sixteen subscribers were in attendance. She said according the By-laws the term expirations the current board members were dismissed. She read the By-laws and amendments into the record. She also stated harassment and threats were made.

A. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Brandon Ferreri for the position of Firefighter

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of the following: 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Brandon Ferreri to the position of 3rd class firefighter/paramedic.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as presented by the Fire Chief.

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Brandon Ferreri to the position of 3rd Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage, as determined by the Town Administrator, of the following: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's physical ability test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts Firefighting Academy; 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from date of academy completion; P. Pozzi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

B. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Manuel Pina for the position of Police Officer

Chief Enos stated four candidates were interviewed on July 27, 2023. 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 Manuel Pina.

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

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Manuel Pina to the position of full-time Police Officer for the Police department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage, as determined by the Town Administrator, of the following: 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; P. Pozzi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

C. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Desima Bunnell for the position of Full Time Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher

Director Wunschel stated the interviews were held on July 17th and August 8, 2023. The interview panel consisted of herself, Mr. Cadime, and Carol Days. Director Wunschel asked the Board consider a conditional offer of employment to Desima Bunnell.

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

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Desima Bunnell to the position of full-time Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher subject to and conditioned upon her successful passage, as determined by the Town Administrator, of 1) a pre-employment background and CORI check, 2) physical examination, 3) drug screening, 4) psychological evaluation, 5) completion of all pre-employment paperwork, and 6) successful completion of all required certifications to be a 911 telecommunicator for the Town; P. Pozzi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

D. Public Hearing: Consider the request for an Earth Import Permit from Lynch Corp., located at 0 Taunton Avenue, Plat 12, Lots 500, 502 & 422

Present: Lawrence McCarthy, Vice President J. H. Lynch Corp.
James Manni, J. H. Lynch Corp.

M. Hines made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0 all in favor

Pam Pozzi-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

Chair Healy provided an update since their last meeting. Lynch Co. has met the following requirements from the Conservation Commission: berm has been installed, wetland area has been agreed to, vegetation has been planted. Signage has also been installed with hours of operation.

Mr. McCarthy stated they have established a line of communication with the abutters as well.

There was no one else to speak in favor or against the permit.

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

Roll Call Vote: 3-0 all in favor

Pam Pozzi-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

M. Hines made a motion to approve the request for an Earth Import Permit from Lynch Corp.; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

E. Show Cause Hearing: To consider whether the American Legion has violated or permitted a violation of any condition of their liquor license or any law of the Commonwealth which may have occurred on or near the licensed premises at 351 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA

Present: Attorney Alexander Weisheit, Town Council from KP Law
Kenneth Talbot, American Legion
Russell Bradley, Commander American Legion

M. Hines made a motion to open the show cause hearing at 6:45 p.m.; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0 all in favor

Pam Pozzi-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

Russell Bradley, 9 Winter Street, Rehoboth, MA stated he has been Commander of the Post for eighteen years and prior to that a bar manager for seventeen years. Since that time, they have never been asked to be before the Board. He stated their bartenders card anyone who looks under thirty, they offer to drive people home, and have taken keys away.

Kenneth Talbot, 10 Woodland Avenue, East Providence, stated he was Manager on the day and night in question. They had two functions going on. A Clam boil from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. After 4:00 pm there was a wedding party of 150 people. Sandy was bartender upstairs and Chris was the bartender downstairs after 5:00 pm. The bar was shut down at 9:00 pm. At 10:00 pm the music was still going and they dropped a cooler. They were told they needed to leave, the police came, and a report was filed. Mr. Talbot also stated they card people and shut people off. All bartenders are TIPS certified.

There was no one present to speak in favor or against the show cause hearing.

M. Hines made a motion to close the show cause hearing 6:59 p.m.; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0 all in favor

Pam Pozzi-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye

The Board advised the American Legion no further action would be taken at this time.

F. License Hearing: Consider the request for a Change of Manager and Officers/Directors for the American Legion, 351 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA, Michael Armington to be manager

Michael Armington of 30 West Drive, Rumford was present.

P. Pozzi made a motion to approve the change of manager and officers/directors to Michael Armington for the American Legion located at 351 Fall River; it was seconded by M. Hines, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

G. License Hearing: Consider the request from Brian Sadler, First Auto Group, LLC to relocate a Class II Motor Vehicle license from 18 Highland Avenue to 10 Highland Avenue

The owner and applicant, Brian Sadler, advised the Board, the Planning Board approved the site plan for 10 Highland Avenue. He was requesting to relocate his Motor Vehicle II License for First Auto Group, LLC to 10 Highland Avenue. He wanted to moved next door in order to have the ability of have more vehicles displayed.

P. Pozzi made the motion to approve First Group, LLC Motor Vehicle License to relocate to 10 Highland Avenue with the stipulation of 12 motor vehicles to be displayed for sale at any one time; M. Hines seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

H. License Hearing: Consider the request for an Annual Mobile Food Cart Permit for Robert Arruda, A+ Kettle Corn, to sell popcorn and nonalcoholic beverages

The owner and applicant, Robert Arruda, 37 Austin Avenue, East Providence, was present to request a mobile food cart permit to sell kettle corn at Fear Town Haunted House.

M. Hines made the motion to approve the annual mobile food cart permit for Robert Arruda, A+ Kettle Corn; P. Pozzi seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

I. License Hearing: Consider the request for a place of public amusement license for Fear Town Productions, LLC to operate Fear Town Haunted House at the Seekonk Speedway, 1710 Fall River Avenue

Mike Quill, 55 Lighthouse Lane, Easton (?) owner of Fear Town Productions, was present to request a Public Amusement License for a haunted house to be located at the Seekonk Speedway. This will be their 11th year. Police detail will be provided.

M. Hines made a motion to accept the request for a Place of Public Amusement License for Fear Town Productions, LLC as requested; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

J. License Hearing: Consider the request for a change of DBA for an Annual All Alcohol Liquor License for KC's Burger Bar, LLC., d/b/a Mack's Original Pizza Pub, located at 1379 Fall River Avenue

Katie Cerrone, 10 Jencks Road, Cumberland, owner of KC's Burger Bar, LLC, was present to ask for a change in d/b/a (Mack's Original Pizza Pub) for her alcohol license.

M. Hines made a motion to accept the request for a change of DBA for the alcohol license for KC's Burger Bar, LLC as requested; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

K. Consider approval of Police Department General Order 1.17 Recruitment and Selection

Chief Enos stated the reason for the change is to allow for lateral changes.

M. Hines made a motion to approve Police Department General Order 1.17 Recruitment and Selection; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

L. Consider accepting the donations to the Police Department for the National Night Out event

Chief Enos thanked those who contributed raffles, funds, donations, etc. for the National Night Out.

M. Hines made a motion to accept the donations to the Police Department for the National Night Out event; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

M. Consider acceptance of the Fire Department 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Chief Lowery was awarded the grant on August 7, 2023. The grant was written by Lieutenant Bradford.

P. Pozzi made a motion to accept the Fire Department 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG); it was seconded by M. Hines, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

N. Consider the approval of Seekonk Fire Department Rules and Regulations

Chief Lowery said the current Rules and Regulations have been in the making for a long time. They have been approved by the Union and reviewed by Legal Counsel.

M. Hines asked if the “Return in Service” should be in the Rules and Regulations.

Chief Lowery said she will include it will be in the Standard Operating Guidelines under Apparatus Response which are also being updated at this time.

M. Hines made a motion to approve the Seekonk Fire Department Rules and Regulations effective August 16, 2023; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

O. Accept the resignation of Elizabeth Santoro from the position of Firefighter effective August 13, 2023

M. Hines made a motion to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Santoro from the position of Firefighter; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

P. Accept the resignation of Shane Dillon from the position of Firefighter effective July 26, 2023

M. Hines made a motion to accept the resignation of Shane Dillon from the position of Firefighter; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

Q. Accept the resignation of Natalie Hayward from the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer effective August 15, 2023

M. Hines made a motion to accept the resignation of Natalie Hayward from the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

R. Consider accepting the donation of \$500 from Lacrosse towards the final cost of the net Parks and Recreation purchased for them

M. Hines made a motion to accept the donation of \$500 from Lacrosse towards the final cost of the net Parks and Recreation purchased for them; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

S. Consider accepting the donation of \$85 from the Stop and Shop Bloomin 4 Good Program

M. Hines made a motion to accept the donation of \$85 from the Stop and Shop Bloomin 4 Good Program; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

T. Consider accepting the donations totaling \$2,529.81 for the Animal Shelter

M. Hines made a motion to accept the donations totaling \$2,529.81 for the Animal Shelter; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

U. Consider waiving the strict mandates for Mobile Food Truck permits for the Town's Tree Lighting Event

P. Pozzi asked what mandates would be waived (i.e. insurance, abutter notification, etc.). She is most concerned about adding the Town to the insurance binder. She asked if this has been done before or if this is something the Board should discuss and consider for other Town events.

Chair Healy said similarly they waived the strict mandates for Ocean State Multi Sports. They will still be inspected by the Board of Health. The Board can discuss amending the policy for town events at a later meeting.

Mr. Cadime said they would still require a Hawker's and Peddler's License (fingerprinting) but they will not come back before the board or be required to go through the annual licensing process. They tried to do this last year but the mobile food cart owners were not willing to go through the lengthy and costly process for one evening.

M. Hines made a motion to approve the request waive the strict mandates for the application process for Mobile Food Truck permits for the Town's Tree Lighting Event; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

V. Consider accepting the minutes of June 21, 2023; July 12, 2023; and July 19, 2023

P. Pozzi made a motion to approve the open meeting minutes of June 21, 2023, July 12, 2023, and July 19, 2023; it was seconded by M. Hines, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 3-0 all in favor

COMMUNITY SPEAKS: *No one was present to speak.*

OTHER BUSINESS: Discuss other topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours before the meeting. *Nothing at this time.*

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- A. South End Fire Station Building Committee – the Bid will go out next Wednesday.
- B. Department of Public Works Building Committee – a meeting held last week.

Mr. Cadime said there has not been a lot of communication from Tri-County regarding their new building project. They were supposed to come to a Select Board meeting in March to discuss the project. They are now expected to attend the August 30th meeting. Tri-County is proposing to construct a \$283,000,000 new school. It will need to be approved by the MSBA (Mass School Board Association) and the vote will take place on August 30th. The MSBA will provide \$83M but the remaining money will be put on the communities. Seekonk’s portion of the \$200M is estimated at \$1.1M over the next 30 years. This will be a significant financial impact. The Town Clerk has been discussing this, and the lack of communication, with other town clerks. This will be a simple majority vote and will go to ballot on October 24. The election will only take place from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. If the communities approve this building project, it moves forward. The cost of the election will be borne by Tri County.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant – Signed
- B. Bristol County Advisory Board (M. Healy) – *nothing new to report at this time.*
- C. 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report (M. Hines) – stairway, glass installed, electrical box backordered.
- E. TV9 liaison (M. Healy) – A special meeting held on July 24th. Mr. Healy was unable to attend due to the Select Board meeting already scheduled. He asked the Chairman to change the time to earlier so he could attend but was told it could not be changed since the meeting was called by the membership. On July 26th he received the agenda, minutes, and the actions that took place during the meeting.

P. Pozzi asked if the Medeiros Farm Committee could be started even if they only have 6 out of the 7 committee members.

Mr. Cadime stated an email was sent stating the Historical Commission is expected to take place next week.

Ms. Pozzi asked for a status on the traffic light at the intersection of Ledge Road and Arcade Avenue.

Mr. Cadime stated a piece has been backordered which has caused the delay.

M. Hines read a thank you email from the Summer Kickball Program for the work DPW did on the fields. She also discussed how the “Leave Behind Narcan” protocol could help save lives. Ms. Hines

also provided an update on two upcoming projects near Mink Street; 1) street paving during overnight hours; and 2) the National Grid refurbishment project.

Adjournment

M. Hines made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to A) 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; E) to consider strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with Seekonk Communications and Clerical Unit, New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Local 126, 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 F) consider accepting the executive session meeting minutes of July 12, 2023, July 19, 2023, July 24, 2023; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was unanimously approved.

**Roll Call Vote: 3-0 all in favor
Pam Pozzi-Aye; Michelle Hines-Aye; Michael Healy-Aye**

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle A. Hines, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the August 15, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Memo from Chief Lowery (new hire)
- Memo from Chief Enos (new hire)
- Memo from Director Wunschel (new hire)
- Lynch Corp Placement of Fill application
- Memo to American Legion regarding their On-Premise Alcohol License
- Change of Manager Application from the American Legion
- Application for change of address for First Auto Group MVII License
- Mobile Food Cart Annual Permit for A+ Kettle Corn
- Public Place of Amusement License for Fear Town Productions, LLC
- Application for change of d/b/a for KC's Burgers d/b/a Mack's Original Pizza Pub
- Seekonk Police Department General Order 1.17 Recruitment and Selection for approval
- Donations made to the Police National Night Out Event
- Memo from Chief Lowery regarding 2023 EMPG Grant
- Memo with Animal Shelter donations
- Memo from Parks and Recreation Director regarding lacrosse netting
- Memo with donation from Stop and Shop-Bloomin' 4 Good
- Draft meeting minutes of June 21, 2023, July 12, 2023, July 19, 2023