

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of August 30, 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

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

Board and Committee Openings

P. Pozzi read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

Community Speaks – No one was present to speak.

A. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Alexander MacMillan for the position of Police Officer

Chief Enos stated Alexander MacMillan was interviewed for a lateral transfer on August 23, 2023. He currently works for the City of New Bedford and is POST certified. 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 Alexander MacMillan.

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

M. Hines made a motion to appoint Alexander MacMillan 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; C. Zorra seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

B. Public Hearing: Consider the transfer of an off-premise Annual Wines and Malt Beverages Liquor License from JCM Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Crossroads Auto Center to Global Montello Group Corp., d/b/a Global Montello Group Corp., #785 located at 822 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA Tanya Spencer to be manager

Present: Attorney Jon Aieta
Manager: Tanya Spencer

C. Zorra made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:06 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 Aieta summarized the application. It is a straight forward transfer with no changes to the sales of alcohol. The proposed manager, Tanya Spencer has been with Global Montello for twenty years and is currently going through TIPS certification. The staff is TIPS certified. Global Montello has not had any violations. More cameras will be added to the store.

There was no one present to speak in favor or against the transfer of license.

J. Sullivan made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:09 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

J. Sullivan asked if there were any bank contingencies involved in the transfer of this license.

Attorney Aieta answered no. Global Montello is owned by Global Partners, LP which is publicly traded.

P. Pozzi asked if the name would be staying Crossroads or if it was going to change.

Attorney Aieta said he has been advised by Corporate that at this time the name will be Global Montello Group #785.

J. Sullivan made a motion to approve the transfer of an off-premise Annual Wines and Malt Beverages Liquor License from JCM Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Crossroads Auto Center to Global Montello Group Corp., d/b/a Global Montello Group Corp., #785 located at 822 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA Tanya Spencer to be manager; it was seconded by M. Hines, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

C. Presentation of the proposed Tri-County Regional School Building

Present: Superintendent Karen McGuire
School Business Administrator, Dan Haines
Seekonk Tri County Representative Joanne LaFleur

Karen McGuire summarized the presentation. The building was built in 1973, has 1,000 students, 16 vocational programs, and an adult educational program. The building was originally purchased by the

State and funded with state and federal grants. Any capital improvements would have to be decided based on enrollment by eleven towns. The building has outlived its useful life. Ms. McGuire provided the link for the building website: Tri-Countybuilding.com. She also provided a summary of costs for a repair, remodel, or new build.

Dan Haines stated the Town of Seekonk has 85 students enrolled at Tri-County. The election will be held on October 24, 2023 from 12:00-8:00 p.m. It is a simple majority vote of all eleven communities (50+1 carries the vote). The next meeting for the Town Clerks will be on September 13th at Tri-County.

C. Zorra asked if enrollment numbers will be reviewed each year to determine the cost for each district.

Mr. Haines answered each year it will be based on student enrollment for the next thirty years.

Ms. McGuire clarified that there is currently legislation for regional schools that may change that to the average of every five years.

J. Sullivan asked how much the MSBA was contributing.

Mr. Haines answered \$80,751,000.

C. Zorra asked if that number would change due to change orders or price increases and inflation.

Mr. Haines answered \$80,751 is the final number they will contribute to the project.

Ms. McGuire said there is also legislation to increase reimbursement percentages.

P. Pozzi asked if there was a Plan B in place in case it did not pass.

Ms. McGuire said they would try again since \$165,000 is needed just to meet code and this figure does not include the needed repairs. If it does not pass, they lose the \$80,751,000 from the MSBA. She advised the Board they will continue notifying the public by mail and they will also provide flyers to the Town Clerks at the next meeting.

D. Accept the resignation of Zachary Woynar as Police Officer

M. Hines made a motion to accept the resignation of Zachary Woynar as Police Officer; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

E. Accept the resignation of Jason Valderrama as Police Officer

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the resignation of Jason Valderrama as Police Officer; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

F. Consider accepting the Bridge Academy Grant in the amount of \$9,000.00 offered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for the Police Department

Chief Enos stated the Bridge Academy was set up as a requirement of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). It mandates that an officer who attended part-time police academy will have to attend additional training to meet the standards a full-time police officer. The State offered a grant to deter the cost of \$3,000 per student.

M. Hines made a motion to approve the Bridge Academy Grant in the amount of \$9,000; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

G. Consider establishing a date for Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Cadime said the Annual Fall Town Meeting is typically is held on the second Monday of November.

M. Hines made the motion to set the date for the Fall Town Meeting on November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Seekonk High School; J. Sullivan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

H. Consider opening the Annual Fall Town Meeting Warrant to close on September 22, 2023

M. Hines made the motion to open the Annual Fall Town Meeting Warrant today and close it on September 22, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.; J. Sullivan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

I. Discussion of the Town Administrator's FY 23 Annual review

Chair Healy summarized the TA's evaluation. The rating scale is 1 (least favorable) to 4 (most favorable).

Section 1: Board Support and Relations average of 3.3

Section 2: Financial Management average of 3.6

Section 3: Personnel Management/Organizational Leadership average of 3.1

Section 4: Community Leadership/Public Relations average of 2.9

Section 5: Town Operations/Infrastructure average of 3.3

Section 6: Personal/Professional Individual Qualities & Professional Skills & Status average of 3.3

The process for the Town Administrator's FY23 evaluation will be discussed at the next BOS meeting.

M. Hines made a motion to approve the Town Administrator’s FY23 evaluation as presented; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote: 5-0 all in favor

M. Hines asked if the evaluation schedule/process could be reconsidered since it was difficult for new members of the Board to conduct an evaluation with on only three months of working with the TA.

J. Sullivan said it was decided by a previous Board to conduct the TA’s evaluation to be consistent with the fiscal year.

P. Pozzi suggested a 360 evaluation which would allow input from other people the TA works with, such as the community and department heads.

J. Sullivan said he would disagree with 360 evaluations since it could lead to a bias assessment and feels the Board is responsible for the TA.

J. Consider approving the minutes of July 24, 2023 and August 16, 2023

M. Hines made a motion to approve the open meeting minutes of July 24, 2023; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved. Vote: 5-0 all in favor

M. Hines made a motion to approve the open meeting minutes of August 16, 2023; it was seconded by P. Pozzi, and it was voted 3 in favor/2 abstention (C. Zorra and J. Sullivan).

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 – September 20, 2023 is the file sub bid due date. Close for general contracting bids is October 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Department of Public Works Building Committee – a meeting with the OPM and Architect was held last week. On Sept 6th they will have a site visit at the RI DOT’s Portsmouth facility.

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) – *nothing new to report at this time.*
- E. TV9 liaison (M. Healy) – A meeting was held on August 7th but Mr. Healy was not aware of the meeting until after it took place. According to their agenda, they reorganized the Board with a new President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Clerk; approval of minutes from their special meeting, and

discussion of their By-laws. Mr. Healy attended their August 21st meeting. In summary, they had 12 new productions; the new servers, that were approved, will be installed; their website will be updated; discussion of changing their By-laws; and how they will be paying for those who attend BOS meetings.

They also discussed the sound system for town meeting. Some repairs were done but they believe it was a grounding issue but the USB port on stage has not been repaired. TV9 will conduct a test before town meeting.

The Board of Library Trustees asked for a member of the Select Board to sit on the committee for the cost analysis for the library. Chair Healy asked for a volunteer. P. Pozzi said she will volunteer on the committee on a trial basis.

**J. Sullivan made a motion to nominate Pam Pozzi to sit on the Library Committee as discussed; C. Zorra seconded; and it was unanimously approved.
Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

P. Pozzi said the Historical Commission posted their meeting to appoint a member to the Medeiros Farm Committee. She also asked for updates on: 1) a completion date for the Arcade Avenue; 2) discussion for a Deputy Fire Chief; 3) discussion with the Town Clerk regarding the usage of poll pads; and 4) repair for the Whittaker softball field.

C. Zorra said there will be a September 11th remembrance ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex.

M. Healy said an email was sent to the Board in July with the TA's goals and objectives. He asked the Board to email him their suggestions for the September 13th meeting.

Adjournment

M. Hines made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. to reconvene in open session for potential contract negotiations 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; and 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; it was seconded by J. Sullivan, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Contract Approval

J. Sullivan made a motion to enter back into open session at 8:59 p.m.; it was seconded by C. Zorra, 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

There was no discussion or approval of contract.

J. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn open session at 8:59 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

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle A. Hines, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the August 30, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Memo from Chief Enos (new hire)
- Application from McDermott, Quilty & Miller LLP for a transfer of an off-premise annual wine and malt liquor license for Global Montello Group Corp.
- Memo from Chief Enos regarding the Bridge Academy Grant
- Draft open meeting minutes of July 24, 2023 and August 16, 2023