

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 28, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Robert Richardson, David Parker, John Whelan,
Michael Brady, Francis Cavaco

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

In accordance with the new open meeting law, Mr. Parker advised that the meeting is being recorded both audio and visual.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2010 Open and March 24, May 26, and June 23, 2010 Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Open Session minutes of March 24, 2010 as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Executive Session minutes of March 24, 2010 as presented.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Chairman Richardson ó Aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Executive Session minutes of May 26, 2010 as presented.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Chairman Richardson ó Aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Executive Session minutes of June 23, 2010 as presented.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Chairman Richardson ó Aye.

Mr. Brady was not in attendance at the time of the above votes.

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Consider Reappointment of Marjorie Chapman to Property Tax Work-off Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Marjorie Chapman to a three-year term on the Property Tax Work-off Committee, to expire June 2013.

Consider Reappointment of Warren Leach to Conservation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Warren Leach to a three-year term on the Conservation Committee, to expire June 2013.

Sign Contracts for Fire Chief, DPW Superintendent, and Assistant DPW Superintendent/Engineer

A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the three-year contract for Chief Alan Jack.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To approve the three-year contract for DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux.

The vote: Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Nay; Chairman Richardson ó Aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To approve the three-year contract for DPW Assistant Superintendent/Engineer David Cabral and that he make his best effort to submit documents to the State for certification in Massachusetts within six months.

The vote: Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Nay; Chairman Richardson ó Aye.

Mr. Carroll noted that the signature page was amended to correct the spelling of Mr. Cavaco's name.

Mr. Brady was not in attendance at the time of the above votes.

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NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of One-Day Alcohol License to Compassionate Care Hospice

Ms. Carla Kerrigan, Liaison for Compassionate Care Hospice of 183 Central Avenue, Seekonk, was in attendance. The affair will be held at the office.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve a one-day alcohol license to Compassionate Care Hospice for wine only at a private wine and cheese reception.

Consider Acceptance of Chapter 133, Section 33B to Allow Establishments to Serve Alcohol from 10 A.M. on Sunday

Mr. Parker noted that this will be on the warrant and no action is needed at this meeting.

Update Virtual Town Hall and Cable Access Broadcast Public Meetings

Finance Director Bruce Alexander advised that the new town website should be ready for the week of August 9.

There was discussion about digital equipment used by the Towns of Rehoboth and West. Yarmouth to record minutes of meetings.

Mr. Alexander noted the equipment cost \$5,000-\$6,000.

Update on Document Management Software

Mr. Alexander said this is similar. It is new technology.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion on Year End Transfers

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To move to Item B under "Old Business" "Year End Transfers."

Mr. Alexander explained that the transfers are a result of increases at the Tri-County Regional Vocational High School, Bristol County Agricultural High School, and step increases in the

Board of Health payroll. He has instructed all departments that they have to stay within budget this year or make up the difference through layoffs or furloughs.

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A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the year end transfers as submitted by the Finance Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Chapter 90 Funding to Develop Plans and Specifications for Replacement and Repair of Culverts Damaged in March Flood

Town Engineer David Cabral explained that a request was submitted to FEMA for \$25,000. If approved, those funds would credit the Chapter 90 funds expended.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the expenditure of Chapter 90 funding to develop plans and specifications for replacement and repair of culverts damaged in March flood.

Discussion on Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (Carol Bragg, SRPEDD Representative)

Mr. Carroll presented this item on behalf of Ms. Bragg, the Board of Selectmen representative to SRPEDD. Ms. Bragg and he attended the kick off meeting on this earlier today. SPREDD is pursuing a grant opportunity from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare a plan for the entire region that considers sustainability on workforce development, transportation, economy, public health, environment, energy use and climate change. A vote of the Board is necessary to support this.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To support the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development proposed by SRPEDD.

Discussion on Banna Station Blue Plans

Chief Jack advised that Sgt. Araujo and Gary Sagar were unable to attend. The plans submitted were prepared by the Building Commissioner because the original architect was unavailable. A few concessions were made to respond to a neighbor's concerns. The Building Commissioner has to make changes regarding ADA compliance.

Mr. Parker was adamant that residents should know when to expect completion.

Mr. Carroll felt that groundbreaking could be in December; however, he could not estimate when the project would be completed but anticipated within a year.

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Chairman Richardson brought up the possibility of a pre-fab building, which would be a significant savings.

Chief Jack said that Mr. Carroll will look into that.

Discussion Requiring All New Hires to Fire Department be Paramedics

Mr. Carroll noted that a number of years ago the Board of Selectmen had voted that all firefighters hired would be paramedics. That directive was waived for several candidates who were working on it. In pursuing the recruitment of a firefighter the Chief had adhered to the Board's policy. Mr. Carroll recommended that the town not have a policy, but rather consider the best possible candidate who could become a paramedic.

Chief Jack stated that all surrounding towns mandate that new hires are paramedics.

Robert Doar, paramedic/firefighter, spoke in support of hiring paramedics.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: That all new full time firefighters must be paramedics
(Administrative Policy).

Mr. Carroll advised that Article 5, Section 4 of the contract with call firefighters indicates that the Town may sponsor two call firefighters per year to attend EMT school.

Discussion on Performance Corrections (Disciplinary Action Form)

Board members discussed how long a disciplinary action form should remain in an individual's file.

Mr. Whelan suggested on a case by case basis.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion on Authorization for Senior Center Building Committee to Expend Funds

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

VOTED: To authorize the Senior Center Building Committee to spend up to \$4,999 per expenditure without prior approval of the Board of Selectmen.

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Continued Discussion on Drainage Issues - Kent Drive, Eleanor Drive and Bloomfield Street

Town Engineer David Cabral updated the Board on these issues.

Mr. Brady had a problem with Kent Drive. It is private property and he felt the owner should be responsible for maintaining it.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Parker inquired about the problem with the animal shelter telephones. It has been three weeks without a telephone and that is not acceptable.

Mr. Carroll responded that a work order has been issued to get a wireless telephone network. Mr. Alexander has been in contact with the company.

Mr. Parker said he checked last week and the seasonal liquor license transfers are still in the third reading at the State House.

Mr. Parker questioned why members of boards and commissions did not attend the open meeting training.

Mr. Carroll said the Executive Assistant was supposed to notify them via e-mail. He will ask her for a copy of the e-mail. He noted that it was taped by Cable 9.

Mr. Parker inquired about the status of the law suit on the 75% submittal re: Central Avenue.

Mr. Carroll said that the company is out of business.

Mr. Cavaco reminded the Board that warrants need at least three signatures. Members who are unable to come into Town Hall should call and give authorization to use their signature stamp.

Job Description Executive Assistant

Mr. Carroll presented a draft job description for the Executive Assistant, which is part of the reorganization of the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen office.

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Schedule for Fall Town Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To schedule the Town Meeting for November 29, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the high school, subject to availability of the room.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To open the warrant tonight and close at the end of business on August 27, 2010 and submit to the Finance Committee by September 27, 2010.

Notices and Announcements

Kiwanis Night at Chardonnayø Restaurant is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2010. Fifteen percent of purchases from 4 p.m. to closing will be donated to the Kiwanis Club.

Seekonk Police Department will have an open house on Saturday, July 30, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Mass. Department of Public Health has issued a notice of EEE. The Board of Health has put out a warning.

Mr. Brady suggested contacting the School Department to request that Bristol County Mosquito Control spray over the fields in town.

Copies of Seekonk Cable Access financial statements for the year ending October 31, 2009 were received today regarding royalty as designated by the Board of Selectmen. Copies are available for public inspection in the Town Administratorø office.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Firefighter Sean Whalen commended the Board on the vote to hire paramedics. He is disheartened to hear that the Board wants the Town to pay for call firefighters to become paramedics.

Linda Coffin of 363 Ledge Road spoke about irregularities in a vote concerning the ZBA and Town Counsel regarding a common driveway.

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Firefighter Robert Doar said the Town is taking on a financial liability.

Lt. Al Grocott complained that the hiring practice for the Fire Department was recently manipulated.

Mr. Carroll stated that the by-laws require that all jobs are posted and all town employees who apply shall receive an interview.

Mr. Parker said the Personal Policy does not cover union people.

Mr. Carroll said that sections of the Personnel Policy are superseded by the bargaining union.

Mr. Cavaco stated that Planning Board meetings will be held in the Planning Board room. Public Hearings will be conducted in the Board of Selectmen meeting room.

Chairman Richardson advised that repair work on the County Street Bridge will not be completed until 2013.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary