

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 5, 2011
REGULAR SESSION & JOINT WORK SESSION
WITH PLANNING BOARD

Members Present: David Parker, William Rice, Francis Cavaco, Robert McLintock

Absent: John Whelan

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. He advised the meeting was taped via audio and video. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star was taping video and audio and Mr. Justin Pacheco of The Patch was taping video.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CHANGE OF MANAGER

BUCA Restaurants, Inc., d/b/a Buca di Beppo, located at 353 Highland Avenue, from Jennifer Broderick to Joshua Gleason

Chairman Parker opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Gleason responded to questions. He has been with the restaurant for two years. He is not TIP certified but several employees are.

Mr. Cavaco suggested an agenda item for a future meeting to talk about an Administrative Policy for TIP certification.

Chairman Parker closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the change of manager for BUCA Restaurants, Inc.,
d/b/a Buca di Beppo from Jennifer Broderick to Joshua Gleason.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Seekonk Firefighters Union

Mrs. Nolan recommended the Board sign the agreement.

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No action was taken on a motion by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Rice (discussion).

On page 1, under 1., Mr. McLintock wanted to replace the word "may" to "shall."

Mrs. Nolan noted the document was prepared by two attorneys.

Mr. Rice did not like the fact that the union suggested the two individuals should be hired without EMT training.

The matter was deferred to a future meeting.

WORK SESSION JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING BOARD (No Public Input)

Review First Phase of Master Plan Update

Economic Development

Sustainable Energy

Town Planner John Hansen and Planning Board members were in attendance.

Mr. Hansen requested that the Board endorse these two sections (Phase I). They are currently working on three sections (Phase II): land use, transportation, public facilities and services. A public forum will be held on November 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Seekonk Public Library to discuss those sections.

The Master Plan is broken down into three different elements: baseline inventory, goals and objectives, and action plan.

The action plan attaches responsible parties to action items. A timeline is associated with it.

The Board of Selectmen has been identified as the possible responsible party for several action items.

Mr. Rice stated that before he was interested in becoming a member of the Planning Board a few years back he looked at the Master Plan. He was interested in several items that had not been done. He asked questions. He became a member of the Planning Board. He discovered that the Town had a great Planning Board and excellent Planner, who was bringing these issues before the Town Meeting. The action aspect is really important as a Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Hansen said the action items in Economic Development and Sustainable Energy share the same function and that is to form committees, which the Board is tasked with doing so. One is an Economic Advisory Committee. In Sustainable Energy, there are various energy efficient initiatives that this Town can continue to do so. There is no specific department focused on trying to accomplish the goals in these plans.

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An attempt was made two years ago to form an Economic Advisory Committee but the effort did not pass the Board of Selectmen at the time.

Mr. Hansen felt there are people who would be willing to serve on a Sustainable Energy Committee. He noted that the Board is responsible for appointing these committees.

He would like to have a Master Plan finalized by the end of this year or early next year and all action plans implemented within five years.

In response to Mr. McLintock's question about number of employees, Mr. Hansen said the table referred to is baseline inventory and comes from the Mass. Labor and Work Force Division. The Town Treasurer uses the same list for bond rating.

Mr. Cavaco referred to page 5 of Economic Development. RoJack Food Store has been out of business for years.

Mr. Rice noted that he asked the Board to create an Energy Committee. He is happy to see this as part of the Master Plan. He was interested to read the percentage of people who work in Seekonk live in Seekonk.

Mrs. Nolan and Chairman Parker commended Mr. Hansen on the work done.

Chairman Parker noted that people are not volunteering to serve on committees. He asked residents to come forward.

Planning Board Chairman Neil Abelson emphasized the need for informed people for these committees. Mr. Russell Horsman suggested an ad that outlines the requirements, goals and objectives and time involved in such committees.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen endorse the Planning Board's development and procedural steps towards developing a Master Plan; and, in cooperation with the Planning Board develop responsibilities and duties for two committees: Economic Development and Sustainable Energy and, once approved, go to the public to fill as soon as possible.

Mr. Rice pointed out on page 2 of the Sustainable Energy section, municipalities spend about 5% of total energy use. The Town of Seekonk only spends about 2.5%.

Mr. Hansen referred to page 10 of Economic Development. There is a table that shows the average residential tax bill compared to residential cost of public education. He noted that residents are getting a good deal because of commercial storefronts.

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Mr. McLintock said the gap between homeowners and business is as wide as it can get. The businesses on Route 6 have been good for the Town.

Chairman Parker noted that 65% of the Town's budget comes from the businesses. Seekonk exists the way it does because of the businesses on Route 6 and the volunteers. That determines the quality of life in this Town. The meals tax is generating a good return to the Town.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Robert DelRosso of 201 Miller Street started out by saying this was not a complaint. His disabled son had a diabetic seizure this past week. A 911 call was made at 4:56 p.m. Two police cruisers arrived at 5:02 p.m., fire engine at 5:05 p.m. and rescue at 5:10 p.m. He said the response time is not good and has got to improve. He said there are highly trained and highly paid people driving very expensive trucks, sometimes at great speed to get to the site. He felt they are in danger.

Mr. DelRosso said he spent 18 years as a member of the Board of Selectmen, and he watched the evolution from a volunteer Fire Department. He felt the department has got to increase whether it is call or career.

Chairman Parker said that he understands the concerns. The Board just recently authorized the Chief to hire four new people.

Mr. McLintock said he has been concerned for a long time about the service to the Town at the north and south ends of Town. He said those issues have got to be resolved. There's been no talk about the south end. The station is being used for storage.

Mr. Rice said he has had the rescue come to his aid and he wouldn't describe the response time as "poor."

Chairman Parker said there is only so much money and so many men. He felt the infrastructure needs to be fixed.

Mr. McLintock said an engineer does not need to go out every time the ambulance goes out. The Town should have call firefighters who can man stations at night.

Mr. DelRossi commended the people who do respond.

He talked about third party billing.

Chairman Parker replied that the Town does not third party bill. He asked Mrs. Nolan to check.

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Mrs. Ellie Wiseman agreed with Mr. DeRosso about the response time. She noted that the Town of Seekonk had sent the rescue out to RI four times, leaving the town with no coverage.

Mr. Donald Kinniburgh stated that going back to 2000 there was an agreement to hire two firefighters every year; but it didn't work due to economics. He felt this Board could work together and get it done right.

Mr. Michael Burke, a 23-year career firefighter, said the Fire Department is going in the right direction. The days of the call firefighters are gone.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan advised a dispatcher had resigned and the position will be advertised.

The 4th Annual Food for Fuel pasta night will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at Seekonk High School. Tickets have to be purchased in advance.

Veterans Agent Seth Bai announced that the Veterans Day observance (November 11) will be held at Town Hall at noon. Participants include Rev. Amaral, the Boy Scouts, Rep. Howitt, and the Police Honor Guard.

Mrs. Nolan advised a memorial service for Sharon St. Hilaire will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2011, at 10 a.m. at Johnson & Wales.

Mr. Rice said that flowers can be left at the library.

Chairman Parker said that donations in Ms. St. Hilaire's memory can be made to the Library Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Nolan advised that an Open Meeting Seminar will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Seekonk Public Library.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Chairman Parker noted that the Board agreed a vote of the Board is necessary in order to withhold bills.

Mr. Cavaco motioned, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To withhold an engineer's bill, an employee reimbursement for a conference prior to the conference, and a reimbursement for a department head signed by the department head.

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Mr. McLintock reported that the Bakers Corner project is moving along. He met at DPW with representatives from FEMA and District 5 relative to reimbursement. The Town will receive the 75%. FEMA wants documentation. Mr. McLintock felt that Mr. Cabral has a handle on it.

Mr. Rice stated that every time he drives through Bakers Corner he sees Mr. Cabral out there and Mr. McLintock also. He said that was commendable.

He said he has been reading the monthly reports. He felt the people who work for this town are doing a fantastic job. The variety of work and services is outstanding.

Chairman Parker said he received a complaint about the condition of Newman Avenue and the noise of trucks going by at night.

He suggested that residents call the Town Hall if they have problems viewing the meeting.

Chairman Parker showed off his new uniform ó a referee shirt. However, he didn't need it at this meeting.

Mr. Cavaco advised that he attended the Mass. Fire Academy graduation. Seekonk's Aaron Grillo graduated.

He received an e-mail regarding the opening celebration of Big Lots at Seekonk Crossing, 179 Highland Avenue, on Friday, October 28, 2011. The ribbon ceremony will start at 8:45 a.m. Big Lots will make a \$2,000 donation to the George R. Martin Elementary School.

He said that, during a tour in Boston with Rep. Howitt, he was introduced to Rosemary Powers, Senior Director of Government Affairs for legislative problems. She is the contact person.

He spoke to the Chairman of the Licensing Board in Boston regarding the overlay district. Total sales from mid 2010 to 2011 is \$60M. The State got 6%. The Town of Seekonk got around \$450,000.

Mr. McLintock said the State benefits more than the local government. In 2008, hotel taxes taken in here were \$368,000 and are now up to \$463,000. In 2011, meal tax, \$191,000 and this year \$407,000.

Mr. Cavaco is looking for more information about the generator at the public safety complex.

Mr. McLintock suggested contacting Mr. Tom Piquotte.

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Mr. Cavaco wants to talk about the guidelines for Mass. Highway standards.

He said that Mr. Lamoureux stated that 1,900 catch basins were cleaned. Last year 1,778 catch basins were cleaned. The number increased by six in three years. He questioned why this is done in the fall instead of in the spring.

Mr. Rice noted it is a one-year contract.

Mr. Cavaco suggested purchasing the equipment from the contractor who is retiring.

Chairman Parker noted the Town doesn't have the manpower.

Mr. Cavaco expressed concern about the Gas Co. Representatives attended the last meeting. The bylaw changed in 2010 to a five-year period for responsibility of the roads, so DPW had the correct paperwork.

Mr. Rice wanted a copy of road opening permits and also a copy of the bond and insurance from the sub-contractor.

He said that Mrs. Nolan indicated to him today that Mr. Lamoureux contacted the Gas Company. The company was upset about the request. In order to get the paperwork, they would need a vote of this Board to release the documents. This is part of major road projects in this Town. He asked Mrs. Nolan to get back to Mr. Lamoureux that he should notify the Gas Company that the Board wants those documents.

Mr. McLintock stated that contractors should not be allowed to start work unless the proper bond is on file with the treasurer.

Chairman Parker suggested a policy.

Mrs. Nolan noted that the Town requires insurance any time there is a contract.

An Administrative Policy will be on the agenda in two weeks.

Mrs. Nolan said that she is a certified public purchasing agent. Bonds are not required for projects under \$100,000 but that will change. She cannot change what happened in the past.

Mr. McLintock said the Town lost \$160,000 because there wasn't a bond.

Mr. Cavaco said that he will try to sit down with Dave Cabral and establish a spreadsheet to get road opening permits.

He said that action will be taken against any department head who intentionally withholds paperwork.

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Mr. McLintock talked about a similar situation at the capping of the landfill. The absolute arrogance of people in refusing to provide the Board with documents is unacceptable.

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

VOTED: To dissolve at 9:07 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Rice ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Mr. McLintock ó Aye; Chairman Parker ó Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary