

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 6, 2019
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera,
Michelle Hines, Chris Zorra

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Andrade opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), anyone who wanted to record the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Almeida announced that volunteers are needed on the Charter Study Committee (up to 6 Board of Selectmen appointments), Conservation Commission (3 BOS), Cultural Council (2 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 4 BOS), Taxation Aid Fund Committee (1 BOS), 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee (2 BOS), Veterans Council (5 BOS).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Promotion of Sergeant Eric Chalifoux to the Rank of Lieutenant

Chief Frank John advised that Sgt. Chalifoux has been with the Seekonk Police Department since August 2003. He was promoted to Sergeant in February 2015. There are two vacant budgeted positions – one for sergeant and one for lieutenant.

Chief John respectfully requested the promotion of Sgt. Chalifoux to Lieutenant, effective February 20, 2019. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief John.

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To promote Sgt. Chalifoux to the rank of Lieutenant with the Seekonk Police Department, effective February 20, 2019.

Consider the Promotion of Patrolman Adam Laprade to the Rank of Sergeant

Chief John advised that Patrolman Laprade came to Seekonk from Maryland in July 2013. He was responsible for reorganizing the K-9 Program with his partner, Kilo. He is now part of the expanded program with his new partner, Mattis.

Chief John respectfully requested the promotion of Patrolman Adam Laprade to the rank of Sergeant, effective February 20, 2019. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief John.

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To promote Patrolman Adam Laprade to the rank of Sergeant with the Seekonk Police Department, effective February 20, 2019.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Krystal Dos Santos for the Position of Clerk in Assessor's Office

Town Assessor Theo Gabriel was in attendance.

Mr. Cadime noted that the Board had extended a conditional offer to another candidate, who did not pass the background check.

Mr. Almeida felt he could not support the request because the candidate has moved from job to job.

Mrs. Gabriel said she is confident about the recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Zorra, and it was

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To extend a conditional offer of employment to Krystal Dos Santos for the position of Clerk in the Assessor's Office.

The vote: Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Ms. Hines – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Nay.

Consider the Appointment of Michelle Hines to the 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee

Mr. Cadime noted there were five openings – three by the moderator and two by the Board of Selectmen. Moderator has made his appointments.

He recommended the appointment of Michelle Hines.

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Zorra, and it was

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To appoint Michelle Hines to the 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee.

The vote: Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye; Ms. Hines – Abstained.

Consider the Appointment of Brittney Faria to the 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Zorra, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Brittney Faria to the 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee.

Update from Steven D’Amico, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Representative

Mr. D’Amico said the Town of Fairhaven has appointed a study committee to look at doing a fiber optic municipal broadband network in town. There is only one provided in Seekonk so there is no competition. Internet access is as essential as gas and electricity. The FCC is expected to rule that the money Comcast gives the Town to run Channel 9 can be deducted from the free services provided to the Town from the statutory amount of money contributing to Channel 9. The other model would be for a municipality to wire the Town with fiber optics and invite as many internet service providers (ISPs) as possible to ride on those pipes. It would reduce the cost of internet service. He talked about a town in Idaho that is similar to Seekonk. There are a lot of benefits of laying a pipe down. It can be funded in several different ways. Mr. D’Amico had handouts. He offered to have a representative from SRPEDD come to talk to Board members. A high speed, low cost fiber optic backbone in Southeastern Massachusetts that allowed for direct private network would be a big boom to bring businesses into our region. Fiber optic in some states is illegal but not in Massachusetts.

Mr. Viera asked who would be responsible for maintaining the fiber optics.

Mr. D’Amico said it would be up to the Town. One possibility would be to hire somebody or put out a request for quote. The cost would be built into the maintenance.

Mr. Zorra noted the Comcast contract is coming up soon. He mentioned using the School Department fiber optic.

Mr. D’Amico noted that SRPEDD provides 30 hours of planning time.

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Public Announcement of a “Notice of Proposed Acquisition” from Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Proposing to Purchase an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on Farmland Owned by Richard and Marie Pray, Jr., located at North Wheaton Avenue

In accordance with the requirements, Mr. Cadime advised the notice was posted in the lobby at Town Hall and this meeting serves as the public announcement. Chairman Andrade read the Notice.

A motion was made by Ms. Hines, seconded by Mr. Viera, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reduce the 120 day notification period to 60 days.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Trees Including Priority Lists

DPW Supt. David Cabral had an extensive tree removal list showing the location and reason for removal during the last fiscal year. About 156 trees were removed or trimmed out. The budget was increased a few years ago to address trees removed on an annual basis. Some were removed by the contractor and some by National Grid. DPW did a few smaller ones. He also had a list of downed logs for log truck, standing stumps, and stump grinding. He starts in April to reevaluate for the coming year.

There is a problem at 95 Hammond Street. The standing stump is right at the street. A very large oak tree at the corner of Walnut and Prospect Streets will be ground down.

Mr. Almeida commended DPW on the work done on Newman Avenue near the library at the entrance to the walking trails.

Mr. Cabral said 40 trees were removed at that location this year. People never knew about the trailhead there.

Mr. Viera said the Board of Selectmen should send a letter of commendation to DPW employees.

Consider Signing the Bond Anticipation Note for the Public Safety Radio Project

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Ms. Hines, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To sign the Bond Anticipation Note for the Public Safety Radio Project in the amount of \$3,016,174.

General Discussion of Special Town Meeting

Board members were glad to see almost 1,000 people there for that particular issue. However, it would be great to see about a quarter of those people at the Town meeting on the budget. The meeting was extremely well organized. Chairman Andrade commended those involved.

Chairman Andrade and Mr. Cadime mentioned that Mrs. Testa and Officer Keith Perry came back to town hall and the police department to make 1,500 copies of a handout.

Chairman Andrade said there is a lot of criticism on social media. Unfortunately, the expense of that meeting cannot be put on the petitioner. The cost is about \$8,500.

Mr. Viera said it was good to see majority of town hall employees there to check people in.

Mr. Cadime said they intend to work with the moderator, fire chief, and building commissioner to identify how many seats in the auditorium with an overflow in the gym and cafeteria.

Chairman Andrade said the town meeting has to be held in town.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Alves of 25 River Street felt the town meeting went smoothly. He took the bus from the high school. He was amazed at the number of people there - close to 1% of the voting population. He thanked Police and Fire and employees who were there to check people in. His only disappointment is that the petitioner did not show up and he disabused townspeople by doing that. He thanked Mr. Cadime for the amount of work done to accomplish that.

Mr. Zorra agreed it was a huge success for the town. He commended the moderator.

Mr. Almeida commended the assistant town clerk.

Mr. Viera said it is typical of this town to stand together when necessary.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours before the Meeting – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON EPORTS AND COMMENTS

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Aitken School. A Facebook page is set up – Aitken School Expansion. Residents can include concerns and comments.

Ms. Hines announced the Kiwanis Club's Taste of the Town will be on March 5, 2019, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Clarion Inn. Tickets are \$30.

The Save-A-Pet Auction will be held on April 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ramada Inn on Route 44. It will be different than in the past. They have a website – Seekonk Save-A-Pet.org.

Mr. Almeida suggested the town should have an in-house plumber and electrician to save money.

Mr. Cadime said it would require a RFP.

Mr. Viera said maybe should have someone onboard working out of DPW.

Chairman Andrade inquired about a quad board meeting.

Mr. Cadime said one is scheduled for March 20, 2019 at the library.

Chairman Andrade said the subject will be budget and updates on the Aitken School.

Mr. Viera did not want to go an entire month without a meeting of the Board.

Chairman Andrade said he attended a meeting of the Bristol County Advisory Board. The intent was to move monies between accounts to make up for shortfalls in other areas. They did not have a quorum. They saw a presentation on the expansion of the Bristol Aggie School. The campus will be much larger than it is now. Fifty percent of all municipalities involved represents a quorum - 49.1% were in attendance.

Chairman Andrade said right now Bristol Aggie is capped at the number of students. They are trying to keep teacher to student ratio down.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:18 p.m. Ms. Hines motioned, seconded by Mr. Zorra, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Parks and Recreation Director, per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Deputy Police Chief, per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), and to conduct

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negotiations with Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; not to return to open session.

The vote: Ms. Hines – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the February 6, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Memo from Police Chief Frank John re: appointments of Eric Chalfoux and Adam Laprade

Resume from Krystal Dos Santos for position of Clerk in the Assessor's Office

Talent Bank Form for Michelle Hines appointment to the 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee

Talent Bank Form for Brittney Faria appointment to the 540 Arcade Avenue Phase II Building Committee

Notice of Proposed Acquisition from Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources proposing to purchase an agricultural preservation restriction of farmland owned by Richard and Marie Pray, Jr., located at North Wheaton Avenue

Tree removal lists

Planning Board – Application of RI Seekonk Holdings, LLC to amend zoning map and rezone a portion of property located at 800 Fall River Avenue, AP 8, Lot 3