

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 3, 2019
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera,
Chris Zorra, Justin Sullivan

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), any person in attendance who wanted to record the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is taping 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), Economic Development Committee (2 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 4 BOS), Taxation Aid Fund Committee (1 BOS, Veterans Council (5 BOS).

Chairman Andrade welcomed Mr. Sullivan, newly elected-member of the Board of Selectmen.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

Chairman Andrade stated it is customary to reorganize following the town election.

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

VOTED: To nominate David Andrade to serve as Chairman.

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

VOTED: To nominate Nelson Almeida to serve as Vice-Chairman.

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

VOTED: To nominate David Viera to serve as Clerk.

Consider the Appointment of Krystal Dos Santos to the Position of Clerk in the Assessor's Office

Mr. Cadime noted the Board had previously voted for a conditional offer of employment. There are no issues with the background check. He recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes, 1 Nay; To appoint Krystal Dos Santos to the position of Clerk in the Assessor's Office, effective April 22, 2019.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Sullivan noted that she had many jobs in a short amount of time.

Assessor Theo Gabriel explained she is one of ten applicants interviewed. She has background experience essential to the department. She graduated college in 2013 and is probably looking for a position suited to her.

Ms. Dos Santos explained her previous experience was in title companies then she decided to try something else. She does like to work with titles and real estate.

Mr. Viera asked if she would pass an exam.

Mr. Cadime said the requirement is just for the assessors. There is no state requirement that clerks must have that certification.

Consider the Appointment of David Roderick to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Cadime advised that he interviewed Mr. Roderick a few months ago. He recommended the appointment. Mr. Roderick attended Conservation Commission meetings to make sure it would be a good fit for him as well as the Town.

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

VOTED: To appoint David Roderick to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Viera wished him luck.

Mr. Almeida thanked Mr. Roderick.

Consider the Appointment of David Viera to the Veterans Council

Mr. Cadime stated there were several candidates. He has four recommendations. A fifth candidate withdrew.

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment of Mr. Viera. He noted that Mr. Viera was instrumental in the establishment of this committee. He also has been chairman of the Memorial Day Parade for over 32 years.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To appoint David Viera to the Veterans Council.

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

Consider the Appointment of Ralph Travers to the Veterans Council

Mr. Cadime noted there are a lot of fresh faces that are passionate about veterans and giving back to the community.

He recommended the appointment of Mr. Travers.

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

VOTED: To appoint Ralph Travers to the Veterans Council.

Consider the Appointment of Kevin Kugel to the Veterans Council

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

VOTED: To appoint Kevin Kugel to the Veterans Council.

Consider the Appointment of Ken Scolaro to the Veterans Council

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

VOTED: To table indefinitely.

Mr. Viera explained that this will be an active committee to assist the Veterans Service Officer.

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Andrew Galvao as a Special Police Officer

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Steven McKenna as a Special Police Officer

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Scott Robbins as a Special Police Officer

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Joseph Robitaille as a Special Police Officer

Consider a Conditional Offer of Employment to Paul Strollo as a Special Police Officer

Deputy Chief David Enos advised there are currently 14 special police officers. Specials haven't been added in a number of years with the exception of officers who have retired. There are times they have to go to other communities to hire special police officers for details. Two of the above are Seekonk police officers. The others are from out of town. They all work in Seekonk.

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointments.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Andrew Galvao, Steven McKenna, Scott Robbins, Joseph Robitaille, and Paul Strollo as Special Police Officers.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera asked how this was advertised.

Deputy Chief Enos said there are a few ways. Those who take the test can choose full time or special. Most of them have to be trained which costs thousands of dollars. Trained officers are also hired. These five work in town so they were aware of the openings. He felt the chief wanted to get them on board and go through the process to build the list.

Mr. Viera said the Sheriff's Department cannot make arrests. He would like to advertise in town and start an academy, if needed.

Deputy Chief Enos agreed they definitely want town residents to apply.

Mr. Zorra asked if these five officers are included in the recent order for guns and ammunition.

Deputy Chief Enos said "yes."

Mr. Viera asked about using the Town's weapons on another job.

Deputy Chief Enos said all departments have their own weapons.

LICENSE HEARINGS

Consider the Request for New Class I Motor Vehicle License for New England Golf Cars, Inc., to Sell New "Low Speed Vehicles" at 62 Industrial Way, Seekonk, MA

Mr. Cadime advised these golf cars are street related.

Mr. Almeida noted the original packet contained an expired insurance policy. Mrs. Testa replaced it with a current insurance certificate.

Owners Scott and Karen Cookson were in attendance.

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

VOTED: To approve a new Class I Motor Vehicle License for New England Golf Cars at 62 Industrial Way, Seekonk, MA for up to 20 of the new low speed vehicles.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera asked how many will be on the lot.

Mr. Cookson said only four of this particular model for now.

Mr. Zorra said he can come back to the Board if he needs to increase the number of vehicles.

The order of business moved to:

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Request to Rezone Property located on 102 Burnside Avenue and forward to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing

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

VOTED: To approve the request to rezone property located on 102 Burnside Avenue and forward to the Planning Board for a public hearing.

Mr. Aubin advised the public hearing would be held on April 23, 2019 at Human Services.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consider the Request to Amend an Underground Storage Tank License for Three (3) 12,000 Gallon Gasoline Tanks for Colbea Enterprises, LLC, located at 430 Taunton Avenue, Seekonk, MA

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. Cadime said this item came before the Board two different times. They are looking to go back to three 12,000 gallon tanks.

Mr. Steve Pedro represented Colbea Enterprises, LLC. He said the client has not moved forward with proposed improvements. The request is to go back to the original three 12,000 gallon storage tanks.

No comments.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the request to amend an underground storage tank license for three 12,000 gallon gasoline tanks for Colbea Enterprises, LLC, located at 430 Taunton Avenue, Seekonk, MA

Consider the Request for an Alteration of Premises for an All Alcohol Package Store License for Araujo Liquors, Ltd., d/b/a Regency Liquors, Jose N. Araujo, Manager, located at 301 Taunton Avenue, Seekonk

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

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Mr. Nuno Araujo explained the plan is to expand the business into the next two bays to provide more of a selection and to keep up with the times.

Mr. Cadime said the plan has to be approved by the Board and forwarded to the ABCC for approval.

No comments.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the request to make alterations of premises for an All Alcohol Package Store license for Araujo Liquors, Ltd., d/b/a Regency Liquors, Jose N. Araujo, Manager, located at 301 Taunton Avenue, Seekonk, MA.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET HEARING

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Cadime acknowledged the work done by department heads in preparing the budget.

The FY 2020 budget is balanced at \$58,914,762 and reflects a 7% increase over FY'19 or a \$3.8M increase.

Both Police and Fire Departments are at the goal of 40 employees.

They need to start looking at additional stabilization accounts, especially in infrastructure.

The payroll will be based on 52.4 weeks according to how the calendar falls.

There is a completely different demand and shift on DPW services. Staffing will be realigned. The quality of fields will be improved.

The FY 2020 Budget Summary is as follows:

General Fund	\$57,689,250
General Government	\$15,457,878
Education	\$29,864,470
Fixed Cost and Debt Service	\$12,366,902
Sanitation Enterprise Fund	\$1,225,512 (1% increase over FY 19)

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State Aid

\$8,160,300

General Unrestricted Local Aid - \$1,495.804

Chapter 70 - \$6,664,496 (\$1,210,496 – includes full day kindergarten)

Tax Levy - \$43,543,747

Local Receipts - \$2,735,000

Motor Vehicle Excise - \$2,800,000 (10% increase over FY 19)

Other Revenue Sources - \$1,693,854

Mr. Cadime noted there is no use of free cash.

School Committeewoman Kim Sluter asked for clarification about taking items out of Capital Improvements.

Mr. Cadime proposed a separate line item for capital items. The school budget would remain the same.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 8:48 p.m.

Mr. Cadime said they need to create a new stabilization account specifically for building infrastructure. He is cautious about the use of recreational and medical marijuana monies.

Chairman Andrade challenged Mr. Cadime to establish three versions of the budget 2 1/2 % decrease, level funded, and 2 1/2% increase for next year.

Mr. Sullivan asked about the strategic plan previously shared with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Cadime said he would share it with him. It is a three-year document.

Mr. Almeida agreed with Chairman Andrade about different versions of the budget. He asked how much of an increase with the meal tax.

Mr. Cadime said the meal tax was only 2%.

Mr. Almeida asked about the leases for the North and Pleasant Street Schools.

Ms. Sluter said they are in the third year of the contract.

Chairman Andrade felt there is a better relationship with the School Committee and administration.

Mr. Almeida wanted to make sure the K-9s are budgeted. He is 110% in support of that.

Mr. Cadime noted the town's K-9 assists in other areas.

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Mr. Viera concerned about the elderly getting tax breaks.

Mr. Cadime said there are some resources available for qualified elderly.

Mr. Zorra wanted to make sure purchasing the K-9 vehicles does not take away from the front line vehicles.

He asked why the Opticom system is in DPW instead of Communications.

Mr. Cadime responded that DPW services the street light signals.

Mr. Zorra questioned the use of the fleet of vehicles.

Mr. Cadime said Assessor and Building vehicles are used all the time. He noted there is a need for new vehicles. Some employees do not feel safe in the vehicles.

Mr. Zorra asked about a new DPW building.

Mr. Cadime said the land will be purchased from the American Legion. Will have to go to Town Meeting for a facilities study. They have to make sure the transfer station is where they want to go.

Chairman Andrade noted the plan is to build four buildings in five years.

Mr. Almeida commended Mr. Cadime for the detailed budget presentation and department heads for attending. He also commended employees for understanding our budgeting and needs.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Amendment to Section 2.8, 3.2 and 6.10; 4.2; 4.3 and Section 5 of the Zoning Bylaws and forward to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing

Town Planner John Aubin explained the amendments for Spring Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To forward to the Planning Board the Amendments to Section 2.8, 3.2, and 6.10; 4.2, 4.3 and Section 5 of the Zoning Bylaws.

Mr. Aubin advised a public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019. It was advertised in anticipation of the Board's action tonight.

Consider Closing the Spring Town Meeting Warrant on April 5, 2019

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

VOTED: To close the warrant for the Spring Town Meeting on April 5, 2019 at noon.

Consider Accepting the Minutes of February 20, 2019 and March 6, 2019

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the regular session minutes of February 20, 2019 and March 6, 2019 as presented.

The vote: Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Abstained.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Ms. Sluter congratulated Mr. Sullivan.

She said the School Committee met last Monday. They will reorganize next week. She felt the collaboration this last year went well. She would like to continue the quarterly meetings; perhaps one before the May Town Meeting.

The School Committee has submitted two warrant articles –expansion place holder for \$10.7M for Aitken School and add alternate air conditioning \$2M. Both figures will probably be less.

Ms. Sluter asked if both articles pass, would it be separate issues or combined on the ballot vote.

Mr. Sullivan said it should be two separate ballot questions.

Ms. Sluter suggested the ballot vote should be on June 11, 2019. She had opinion from School Committee attorney.

Mr. Cadime clarified that legal counsel determined the ballot vote has to be after 35 days of the Town Meeting but would have to be before September 15. He is waiting additional clarification from legal for discussion at a future meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised the next meeting of the building committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

He said the Cole Street baseball fields look amazing.

Chairman Andrade advised that Mr. Cadime and Mr. Cabral will be getting an e-mail regarding concerns with some of the fields.

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Pozzi will be at the April 17th meeting to talk about lighting at Cole Street.

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Mr. Zorra extended best wishes to Ms. Hines on her “Wednesday retirement.” She is very involved with the 540 Arcade Avenue Expansion Project.

Mr. Viera inquired about the old town hall.

Mr. Cadime said Atty. Klein is not getting any response from the tribe’s attorney. DPW will take care of the broken windows.

Mr. Viera advised the 540 Arcade Avenue project is underway. At some point, that committee will bring recommendations to the Board. One option is to relocate the School Administration offices to the center.

Mr. Almeida thanked residents for voting and he congratulated the winners. He congratulated and welcomed Mr. Sullivan.

He thanked Ms. Hines for her three years as a member of the Board of Selectmen. It was a pleasure working with her.

Mr. Almeida attended the groundbreaking of the animal shelter. He suggested that such events should be held on a day and time that Board members and residents can attend.

Chairman Andrade noted that many people have contributed to the shelter.

He strongly suggested that for future events consideration be given to people who work.

Mr. Almeida referred to a news story and social media that portrayed a former employee as guilty. He said shame on the individual who decided to release information. He assured residents that the town is safe.

Chairman Andrade noted the announcement was made by the District Attorney’s office.

Mr. Sullivan commended Ms. Hines for her commitment to the town and her service on the Board of Selectmen.

He has been looking forward to being able to serve. He encourage people to volunteer their time. He is looking forward to working with each and every one of them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:16 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by 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) 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: Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye;

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the April 3, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Application and Resume of Krystal Dos Santos for the position of Clerk in the Assessor's office

Talent Bank Form and Resume from David Roderick for the Conservation Commission

Talent Bank Forms for David Viera, Ralph Travers, Kevin Kugel, and Ken Scolaro to the Veterans Council

David Enos, Deputy Chief – Appointment of Andrew Galvao, Steven McKenna, Scott Robbins, Joseph Robitaille, and Paul Strollo as special police officers.

Documentation to amend License for an underground storage tank at 430 Taunton Avenue

Documentation for alterations at Araujo Liquors, Ltd., d/b/a Regency Liquors, 301 Taunton Avenue

Documentation for New Class I motor vehicle license for New England Golf Cars, Inc., 62 Industrial Way

Request to rezone property at 110 Burnside Avenue

FY 2020 budget

