

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Mrs. Saurette who was killed while walking on Newman Avenue.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21(f), any person recording 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 Board of Registrars (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Capital Improvement Committee (1 BOS), Economic Development Committee (4 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (4 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 3 BOS), Taxation Aid Fund Committee (1 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (1 regular and 3 alternates).

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS** – None.

**PRIORITY MATTERS**

**Reorganization of the Board**

Chairman Andrade advised he requested this agenda item. It seems there is talk that the Board is not getting all information.

Mr. Sullivan, who has been on the Board since April, said there is no intentional shutting people off. The Chairman addresses issues Board members might have. He felt it is presumptuous to reorganize the Board at this time. He encouraged Chairman Andrade to reach out to Board members. All Board members are ready to respond to residents. He also urged residents to contact any Board member.

Mr. Viera said it is disheartening. Any resident who has a problem should address it through Community Speaks prior to going to the press.

Mr. Almeida was disappointed to see this item on the agenda. It seems the resident who posted the letter has something personal with Chairman Andrade and also touched on the Town Administrator.

Mr. Viera recalled when the Board addressed concerns from the Concerned Citizens Group about 1 ½ years ago.

**Consider the Appointment and Swearing in of Robert Coreas to the Position of Patrolman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class with a Start Date of September 30, 2019**

Interim Chief David Enos noted the Board had approved a conditional offer of employment on July 24, 2019. He has fulfilled the conditions set by the Board and passed the background check and physical and psychological tests. Through Mr. Cadime, he recommended the appointment.

Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Enos. He said the swearing in would not occur at this time because Mr. Coreas is still working with the MBTA. He will be sworn in by the Town Clerk and come to a future meeting.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Robert Coreas to the position of Patrolman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, effective September 30, 2019.

In response to Mr. Zorra, Chief Enos advised there are 37 police officers. There are three pending officers.

**Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Christine Ribeiro to the Position of Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police**

Interim Chief Enos advised the Interview Committee consisting of Mr. Cadime, Mrs. Days, Mr. Alexander, and Chief Enos interviewed eleven candidates. Through Mr. Cadime, Chief Enos recommended the appointment of Christine Ribeiro. He noted she has extensive experience in the medical field but she will be able to transition into the municipal field within a short time.

Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Enos.

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To extend a conditional offer of employment to Christine Ribeiro as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Sullivan disclosed that Ms. Ribeiro had previously worked for him and his wife. He felt that Seekonk is lucky to have her as an employee.

Mr. Cadime added that Mr. Sullivan made it known Ms. Ribeiro might apply for the position. Mr. Sullivan has not been involved in the hiring process.

**Consider the Request from the Kiwanis Club for an Exemption of the Requirements of the One Day Special Event License to Hold the Tree Lighting Ceremony**

President of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Seekonk, Inc. Susan Chaisty requested the exemption for the tree lighting to be held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year. It is in honor of the founder, Morris Goldberg, who bought the first tree. DPW will provide additional lighting and post signs for parking. Recreation Director John Pozzi will provide a wireless speaker. Hot chocolate and cookies are provided by the Kiwanis Club.

Chairman Andrade noted the Board had talked about handling special permits on a case by case basis so they will know what the events are.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the Kiwanis Club request for an exemption of the requirements of the one day special events license for the tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 5, 2019.

**Consider the Request for a Mobile Food Cart for B. L. Catabia, d/b/a Zekes Catering to Sell Food and Soft Drinks at Fear Town Haunted House to be held at the Seekonk Speedway 1710/1782 Fall River Avenue**

Ms. Barbara Catabia was in attendance.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the request for a mobile food cart for B. L. Catabia, d/b/a Zekes Catering to sell food and soft drinks at Fear Town Haunted House to be held at the Seekonk Speedway at 1710/1782 Fall River Avenue.

**LICENSE HEARING**

**Consider the Request for a One Day Special Event License for Quantum Health and Wellness for an Outdoor Vendor Fair located at 549 Central Avenue**

Ms. Laurie Frazier was in attendance. She said there will be about ten vendors in the parking lot. She has permission to use the West Wind parking lot.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the request for a one-day special event license for Quantum Health and Wellness for an outdoor vendor fair at 549 Central Avenue on Sunday, October 20, 2019, pending submission of a letter from the landlord of West Wind authorizing the utilization of the parking lot for overflow parking. The rain date is Sunday, October 27, 2019.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Consider an Amendment to the Bylaw to Allow the Keeping of a Limited Number of Chickens on Residential Properties**

Town Planner John Aubin III and Animal Control Officer Sharon Hall were in attendance. Board members had a copy of the revised General By-Law Category 14B: Fowl and a memo from Mr. Aubin.

Mr. Viera felt comfortable going with the documentation and recommendation given at the previous meeting.

Mr. Sullivan appreciates the work Mr. Aubin and Ms. Hall did on researching this. He questioned adding the inspections portion. He could understand if there was a complaint. These are pets that will be kept in coops. Paying an initial registration fee and annual renewal fee should be satisfactory. He felt it would be an additional burden on Animal Control or possibly having to add another person to do the inspections.

Ms. Hall explained that Animal Control has to inspect all farm animals every year and provide the Department of Agriculture a count of how many and where they are. If they see the animals are not taken care of, they give the owner a certain amount of time to correct the situation. If not, it is reported to the Department of Agriculture and an inspector is sent out.

Mr. Viera said there will be people that have chickens and not report it.

Chairman Andrade asked about minimum lot size.

Mr. Aubin said the bylaw is written without minimum lot size.

Ms. Hall felt anybody who wants chickens should be allowed to have them.

Mr. Zorra researched and found out most people don't want 12 chickens. He suggested the maximum at 12 chickens, no roosters.

Mr. Viera said this is a start. The document can be amended at any time.

Mr. Sullivan asked about forwarding to the Planning Board for review.

Mr. Aubin said the Planning Board will review items for the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Viera asked why the Board of Health was not involved.

Mr. Aubin explained that residents have to apply to the ZBA. The Board of Health would get involved if it becomes a sanitary problem.

Mr. Cadime suggested referring to the Planning Board and the Board of Health.

Chairman Andrade talked about the fee when going to the ZBA for the special permit.

Mr. Almeida agreed with the maximum of twelve chickens.

Mr. Michael Neary, 195 Jacob Street, thanked Board members. He agreed with the twelve chickens.

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

**VOTED:** To forward the amendment to Planning for review and legal counsel. The enforcement authorities are Animal Control Officer, Police Department and Zoning Officer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Consider Opening the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting and Consider a Date to Close the Warrant**

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

**VOTED:** To open the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting as of this date (September 18, 2019) and close at the end of business on October 2, 2019.

Mr. Almeida urged department heads to get articles in on time.

#### **Presentation of South End Fire Station Proposals**

Mr. Cadime and Interim Fire Chief Michael Healy had a slide presentation prepared by Brewster/Thornton Group.

Mr. Cadime noted the Town appropriated \$50,000 for a feasibility study. Prior to that, Chief Healy and he had presented a study regarding the need for a south end fire station using the vacant administration building on School Street. The water line is being extended to Fed Ex on Route 6 which could mean future industrial and residential development.

Chief Healy presented updated statistics. The Public Safety Complex headquarters has one lieutenant and four firefighters, an engine, rescue, and ladder truck. The Banna Station has one lieutenant and three firefighters, an engine, rescue. Staffing at Banna has always been an issue. When it was originally built a lot of overtime money (\$248,000) was spent to keep it open. That has been reduced with the additional staffing. The department runs with four groups. If the south end station is built, they will need to hire in order to have eleven firefighters per group. Mutual aid in 2018 was 154. Mutual aid transports represent a loss of revenue for the town. Some of that could be recouped with a south end station. Transport cost from \$1,500 to \$2,800 depending on the service.

Mr. Viera said calling a mutual aid means a delay in response. That is more important than dollars and cents.

Mr. Sullivan asked how many pieces of apparatus at Public Safety and Banna.

Chief Healy said six at Public Service and two at Banna.

He showed a drawing of the new building. The cost is over \$2.7M. Salaries would be around \$418,000. There are lots of positives to this location. Total investment would be a little over \$4M.

Mr. Cadime said they need to be cognizant of the escalation costs.

He said this Board and prior boards have gone above and beyond to support Public Safety.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out the town has a little over \$13M in total debt. We have not issued bonds out for another \$12.7M. Other projects are being considered. It is up to the Board to prioritize.

He asked if the Town would still get revenue if we would privatize our medics.

Mr. Viera said the ambulance company gets the revenue. It would be a disservice to the Town.

Mr. Cadime said we are no way near capacity for bonding. He felt there should be a line item for debt services to avoid going to taxpayers all the time. He noted that CPC has the ability for bonding. There is also the Municipal Capital Stabilization account that could be used for bonding.

Mr. Viera added that prioritizing would deplete the number of firefighters.

Mr. Zorra asked Chief Healy if he would stay and see the project through.

Chief Healy said he is retired. He is back because the Town needed him. He was born and raised in Seekonk and has a lot of dedication to the Town. He is always ready to help and would find the time to make sure the station is built.

Mr. Cadime noted these are conceptual drawings. If Town Meeting approved, there would be designs and a building committee.

Mr. Almeida noted the new fire chief, firefighters, and communications director were in the audience.

Chairman Andrade felt the Board would want to see a breakdown of projects and what is retiring as well as a timeframe for the south end fire station.

Mr. Zorra suggested to bond together the fire station and DPW building.

Mr. Viera said every year the cost is escalating.

Mr. Almeida concerned about class size in the elementary schools. There needs to be discussion with the School Committee and Superintendent about the need for another school.

### **Discussion on Chapter 90 Road Improvements for 2020**

DPW Supt. David Cabral and Assistant Scott Olobri were in attendance.

Mr. Cabral presented a list of 11 roads identified for next year's road improvements. \$580,000 of Chapter 90 funds and an extra \$200,000 put aside to finish off Central Avenue. He is not sure if County Street will be done next year because of work going on there.

Mr. Cadime asked if there is a cost associated with each application. He asked about rubberized stone seal. It is up to the Board to decide to go with mill and overlay or rubberized stone seal. Less roadways would be done with mill and overlay due to the cost.

Mr. Cabral said stone seal is not favorable on high traffic areas.

Mr. Zorra would like to see mill and overlay on all streets.

Mr. Sullivan was not happy with rubberized chip seal on Cole Street. He gets calls about stone hitting cars. He will direct those calls to Mr. Cabral.

He said cars drive different on a mill and overlay road. He totally understands the cost.

Mr. Cabral said it takes a season to get rid of the stones.

Chairman Andrade said residents don't want to hear that.

Mr. Almeida said it is a pleasure to drive on Pine Street. He said there was nothing wrong with Ledge Road. Utility company came in and dug up the road. It was patched up. In the future, utility companies should take care of the entire road. It looks like a scene from a horror movie.

Mr. Cabral said they intend to do rubberized chip seal.

Mr. Almeida said workers were out there before residents got the notice.

Mr. Cabral said it was scheduled for next year. It was short notice when the Gas Company offered to do it now.

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

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; to approve the Chapter 90 Road Improvements for 2020.

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

#### **Discussion of Snow Vendors and Snow Removal Updates**

Mr. Cabral advised there were 12 vendors last year. They looked at the rates last year. Seekonk is competitive to surrounding communities. Ideally, he would like to get 16 to 18 vendors. Two vendors from Fall River have already called to work this year.

Mr. Almeida believed that Seekonk is competitive. The roads were good to almost excellent. He would like to see something different to boost those numbers. There is a lot of talk that vendors are being called at the last minutes. That is why they do not want to come to Seekonk.

Mr. Cabral said discussion came up last year. It depends on the forecast. DPW workers are out there pretreating roadways. They don't start plowing until there is 2 inches of snow on the ground. Vendors are called in.

He will be sending out letters to all previous vendors. It will be advertised in the Sun Chronicle, Seekonk Reporter, and message boards.

Mr. Almeida suggested social media.

Mr. Viera asked about a ten-wheeler.

Mr. Olobri said they can't find a vendor with a ten-wheeler and it isn't worth buying one to sit in the yard.

Chairman Andrade suggested increasing the payment for a ten-wheeler.

Mr. Zorra said the ten-wheeler vendors go to the State because the pay is better.

Mr. Viera suggested storing sand half way on Newman Avenue to prevent going back and forth to DPW.

Mr. Zorra suggested the School Department could assist with those vehicles.

Mr. Olobri said that would be in an emergency situation.

Mr. Cabral said a sander went out for service and is back. The other is out for service right now.

The new trucks should be here at the end of October.

Mr. Almeida said vendors are being paid almost \$100 an hour to clean our streets.

**Consider the Donation from Herb Chambers in the Amount of \$194.94 for School Supplies for the Human Services' Back to School Event**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the donation from Herb Chambers in the amount of \$194.94 for school supplies for the Human Services' Back to School Event.

**Consider the Donation from Memorial Baptist Church in the Amount of \$207 to the Human Services Gift Account**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the donation of \$207 from Memorial Baptist Church to the Human Services Gift Account.

Board members thanked both of the above for the donations.

**Consider Approving the Regular Session Minutes of August 7, 2019**

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

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of August 7, 2019.

The vote: Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Abstained. Mr. Zorra not in the room at the time of the vote.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mr. Cabral advised he talked with Mr. Cadime regarding concerns about crosswalks in town. There was an appearance that some of the crosswalks are not completed. That seemed to be associated with the blue color. Crosswalks have been done in white and interior in blue. A memo from the Federal Highways Administration dated August 15, 2013 refers to appropriate colors for crosswalks.

Mr. Almeida said the white lines were faded. The crosswalks were not done during the summer when kids were out of school.

Mr. Cabral said they are trying to eliminate the blue color all together.

Mr. Sullivan emphasized there has to be better communication to the Board.

Mr. Viera added that goes along with the snow plow list. The Board should not have to ask for that.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Bristol County Advisory Board**

Mr. Sullivan advised the Bristol County Agricultural High School will have ground breaking for the new Center for Science at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 20, 2019.

**Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report**

Mr. Zorra said a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 6 p.m. in the library at Aitken School.

**540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report**

Mr. Viera advised the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2019, at the senior center.

He suggested they look into the cost of placing cameras in school zones, especially on Arcade Avenue near the high school.

He suggested the Board look into doing something for employees. An employee who goes above and beyond in each department quarterly would potentially get his/her birthday off.

**Veterans' Council**

Mr. Viera advised the next meeting is on September 24<sup>th</sup> to talk about banners and Veterans' Day ceremony.

Mr. Almeida noted that Mr. Viera and he were appointed to the ZBA. He is enjoying it. The Chairman recommended the alternate become a permanent member and to reconsider an individual who was not appointed. They are active and attend all meetings. Mr. Viera and he have to attend the September 23 meeting for a vote on a special permit for Aitken School. Mr. Viera and he would remain as alternates.

He said he knew the victim of the recent hit and run in town. It is the third woman involved in a hit and run with death resulting. He suggested installing additional cameras throughout the town.

Mr. Almeida stated a new page "Seekonk Scoop" got launched. It posts announcements throughout the Town.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:30 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Fire Chief per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), Seekonk Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1931 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), and the Fraternal Order of Police MASSCOP Local 215 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having discuss in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town and to consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of August 7, 2019; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the September 18, 2019

Christine Ribeiro - Application and Resume for Position of Executive Assistant to Police Chief

Kiwanis Club of Greater Seekonk, Inc. – Sue Chaisty – Request for exemption of the special events policy

Barbara Catabia – Request for Food Cart Permit

Bylaw Amendment for Keeping of Chickens

List of Street Improvements for 2020

Herb Chambers – Check \$194.94

Memorial Baptist Church – Check \$207

Quantum Health and Wellness – One-day Special Event License