

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 24, 2018
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Andrade, Michelle Hines, David Parker

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 recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Almeida announced that volunteers are needed on the Charter Study Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Conservation Commission (2 BOS), Energy Committee (2 BOS), Finance Committee (2 Moderator), Historical Commission (1 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), and Zoning Board of Appeals (1).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Mr. Donald Robillard as an Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Robillard was in attendance.

Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment. Mr. Robillard previously served on the ZBA.

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

VOTED: To appoint Donald Robillard as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Consider Accepting the Donation of \$1,000 from the Walmart Giving Grant

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the donation.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$1,000 donation from the Walmart Giving Grant to the Police Department.

Consider Accepting the Donation of \$2,648 to the Canine Gift Account from Gilly's Monster Bash

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the donation.

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

VOTED: To accept the donation of \$2,648 from Gilly's Monster Bash to the Canine Gift Account.

Introduction of Police Canine Team of Patrolman Adam Laprade and Mattis

Police Chief Craig Mace introduced Officer Laprade and Mattis. Mattis is 1 ½. He is trained as a patrol dog. The Chief hopes to send him back to the academy to train as a narcotics detection dog.

Chief Mace recognized Capt. Sean Dowd, who volunteered to oversee the canine teams.

He thanked the Board for the support. He said it is unique for a department this size to have two canine teams.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Andrew Cook as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic

Fire Chief Michael Healy requested the conditional offer under certain conditions. Mr. Cadime recommended as presented by the Chief.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Andrew Cook as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Jacob Novick as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic

At the Chief's request, a motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To indefinitely table the conditional offer of employment to Jacob Novick as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic.

Attleboro Dye Works Presentation by Tracey Costa from Ransom Consulting and Mary Ellen DeFrias from MassDevelopment

Ms. Costa had a presentation on the environmental assessment done with the MassDevelopment grant of almost \$200,000 awarded to the town. Phase II had to be completed by November to apply for an EPA Brownfields grant. The next step is Phase III – clean up. Most of the contamination was attributed to the Attleboro Dye Works. In the current assessment, they collected samples and drilled some borings. The good news is that over 24 species of critters are surviving in the river. No contamination in ground water. EPA awarded a \$650,000 site specific grant. More testing has to be done to verify how much cleanup has to be done and some wetland sampling. Most of the debris has to be disposed of in bulk waste. The lagoon materials would have to be dug up. They have to continue to monitor ground water. All cleanup has to be done in accordance with regulations.

Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller advised that a RFP will go out on Friday. There has been a lot of interest. Hope to award by the end of April.

LICENSE HEARING

Consider the Application for a Class III Motor Vehicle License for Robert J. Coelho, Jr. at Tri-Star Auto Body, Inc., 1849 Fall River Avenue

Mr. Cadime noticed the license lapsed five years ago. A previous Board put restrictions on the license.

Mr. Viera said he has known the Coelho family. There are no issues.

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

VOTED: To approve the Class III motor vehicle license for Robert J. Coelho, Jr at\ Tri-Star Auto Body, Inc. with the same restrictions as on prior license.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss the Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Library Trustees and the Board of Selectmen for the Veterans Memorial Park

Mr. Cadime and Board members discussed the Memorandum with Library Director Peter Fuller.

Mr. Cadime asked if the Board wants to incorporate the entire parcel or just the area of the Veterans Memorial Park.

Chairman Andrade felt it is for the entire parcel.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board is 3 to 2 (Mr. Almeida and Mr. Parker opposed) to accept the Memorandum with modifications to be made.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept the Resignation of Michael Tyler from the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Tyler accepted a position as Superintendent of Public Works in Attleboro.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Michael Tyler as Assistant Superintendent of Public Works.

Consider Posting the Vacant Position of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

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

VOTED: To post the position of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera felt the Board needs to discuss whether to keep that position.

Mr. Cadime stated if would put a lot of undue stress on the Superintendent of Public Works if that position was eliminated. That department has evolved.

Mr. Almeida was in favor of maintaining the position. He noted that the outgoing assistant superintendent did not meet his expectations. He will voice his opinion in the future.

Mr. Parker felt Mr. Almeida should have brought any concerns to the Board.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Kevin Hurst as Operator for the Department of Public Works

DPW Supt. David Cabral recommended the appointment. Mr. Cadime agreed.

Mr. Hurst was in attendance.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Kevin Hurst as operator for the Department of Public Works.

Consider Accepting the Donation of \$100 from Sandy Foulkes to the Human Services Fuel Account

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

VOTED: To accept the \$100 donation from Sandy Foulkes to the Human Services Fuel Account.

Consider the Non-Binding Ballot Question Regarding the Location of the Howitzer Cannon

There was no action on a motion by Mr. Viera, seconded by Ms. Hines, to approve the wording of the ballot question and include on the ballot.

Mr. Parker questioned why it is non-binding since the Board of Selectmen and Board of Library Trustees agreed to go by the decision.

Chairman Andrade felt the Board had voted 4 to 1 (he opposed) to put it on the ballot.

Mr. William Clark suggested that the address, 400 Newman Avenue, next to the library, should be included in the question.

Mr. Robert Blanchard said he heard it has to go through the state to get a binding or non-binding question on the ballot.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To amend the ballot question as follows:
“Do you agree with locating the M114 Howitzer Cannon that is on permanent loan from the Massachusetts Army National Guard on the grounds of the Veterans Memorial Park, 400 Newman Avenue, adjacent to the Seekonk Public Library.”

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To accept the ballot question, as amended.

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To place the question regarding the location of the M114 Howitzer on the ballot.

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

Consider the Ballot Question Regarding Town Charter Amendments

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; That the following question appear on the ballot:

Shall this Town approve the charter amendment proposed by the Town Meeting summarized below?

Article 3, Section 2 of the Town Charter currently prohibits an elected official from simultaneously holding more than one elected office. The November 13, 2017 Fall Annual Town Meeting voted to amend this section of the Charter to allow an elected official to also serve as an elected member of a Charter Commission established in accordance with General Laws Chapter 43B. If this question is approved, an elected official could run for and serve as a Charter Commissioner, but would continue to be ineligible to hold any other elected office.

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

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

VOTED: To approve notice to voters.

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

VOTED: To forward a copy of the Notice to Voters and the ballot question with summary to the Town Clerk.

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

VOTED: To refer the mailing of the Notice to Voters to the Town Clerk.

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of December 27, 2017 and January 10, 2018

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Abstentions; To accept the Regular Session minutes of December 27, 2017.

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

In the minutes of January 10, 2018, Ms. Hines questioned what account at Human Services the \$1,500 was applied to.

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of January 10, 2018 (proper account to be added).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Alves, 25 River Street, asked if Mr. Viera would be recusing himself from an executive session item concerning the purchase of 351 Fall River Avenue.

Mr. Viera said he absolutely would.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime advised that the Animal Control Officer has scheduled a rabies clinic for Saturday, March 10, at the DPW building from 9 to 12 noon. Dr. Truesdale is the veterinarian.

Mr. Almeida thanked Dr. Truesdale.

Mr. Cadime thanked members of the participating boards who attended the Quad Board Meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Park Committee

Mr. Viera advised nothing until March. The additional bricks purchased will be put in at that time.

As a candidate for re-election, he will have a coffee hour on Wednesday, January 31, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Honey Dew Donuts on Central Avenue.

He spoke about the Veterans Memorial Park Committee. They agreed to put the question about the howitzer on the ballot. Received an e-mail today that wording is not specific. The veterans in this town have paid enough and are still fighting to get what should be automatic. If he thought the howitzer was going to create this kind of turmoil, it wouldn't be here. They thought it was an excellent artifact and a piece of history. They will abide by the outcome of the ballot question. He hoped all people will honor the wishes of majority of people that come out to vote. He will.

Ms. Hines thanked members of the boards who attended the Quad Board meeting. She attended the recent School Committee meeting. She saw a presentation by a planning architectural designer. She encouraged residents to watch the presentation on U-tube and on the school site. She will be attending future meeting. Basically, enrollment is going up because more homes are being built in town.

She explained her vote against the ballot question for the charter change. She doesn't agree with that. She is satisfied with the Charter. The election is on April 9.

With regard to the howitzer, she said people in town are not against veterans. They love the park. They don't like the gun.

She announced the Taste of the Town sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Seekonk, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Grand Rose Ballroom at the Clarion Inn, 940 Fall River Avenue. The cost is \$30 per ticket. Tickets are available from Bev Hart, Bev Della Grotta, and the Town Clerk' office.

Mr. Almeida said it was nice to see all the boards together at the Quad Board meeting. He shared with the School Committee that the Board of Selectmen tries to keep pay increases to a minimum. It was dismissed. That is disappointing to him.

Chairman Andrade said the ten-year plan shows the School Department needs 8,000 sq. ft. of classroom space. He urged residents to keep in mind that although the need is up cycle right now it will eventually go down. He can't see building a 56,000 sq. ft. school that might sit quarter occupied in ten years.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

At 9:13 p.m. Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Viera, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Seekonk Firefighters Union IAFF, Local 1931, per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining positon of the town, to consider the purchase of 351 Fall River Avenue per M.G.L. Chapter 30Am, Section 21(a)(6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town and to consider the approval of Executive Sessions minutes of December 13, 2017 and December 27, 2017; not to return to Open Session.

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

Mr. Viera advised he would recuse himself during discussion on Item A II (consider purchase of 351 Fall River Avenue).

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary