

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 7, 2018
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera,
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.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Charter Study Committee (3 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).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Ms. Doreen Taylor of 175 Bradley Street said she had items to discuss which might be lengthy. She will wait until the end of the meeting so the appointees in attendance will not have to wait.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Appoint and Swear in Andrew Cook as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Michael Healy requested and Mr. Cadime recommended the appointment.

Mr. Cook has three years to become a paramedic.

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

VOTED: To appoint Andrew Cook as Probationary Third Class Firefighter/
Paramedic with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Town Clerk Florice Craig sworn him in. His father, Robert, a retired Attleboro firefighter, pinned his badge.

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

Chief Healy requested the appointment providing certain stipulations are met. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by the chief.

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

VOTED: To appoint Jacob Novick as Probationary Third Class Firefighter/
Paramedic with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Justin Labonte as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic

Chief Healy requested the appointment providing certain stipulations are met. Mr. Labonte will be required to move within the 15 mile radius. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by the chief.

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

VOTED: To appoint Justin Labonte as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/
Paramedic with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Harrison McComb as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic

Chief Healy requested the appointment provided certain stipulations are met. Mr. McComb might also be required to move within the 15 mile radius. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by the chief.

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

VOTED: To appoint Harrison McComb as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/
Paramedic with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Kim Lallier to the full time position of Secretary to the Planning/Conservation Offices

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Aubin and Ms. Miller conducted interviews. He sat in during the second round. The decision was unanimous.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of appointment to Kim Lallier as full time
Secretary to the Planning and Conservation Offices.

Consider the Designation of Sharonlynne Hall as Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151

Mr. Cadime recommended all three animal control officer designations.

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

VOTED: To approve the designation of Sharonlynne Hall as Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151.

Consider the Designation of Andrea Russo as Assistant Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151

Although not required, Mr. Viera recused himself and left the room.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention: To approve the designation of Andrea Russo as Assistant Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151.

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

Consider the Designation of Nichole Wheeler as Assistant Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151

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

VOTED: To approve the designation of Nichole Wheeler as Assistant Animal Control Officer per M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider the Request for a New Annual All Alcohol on Premises Liquor License for NAI Entertainment Holdings, LLC, d/b/a Showcase Cinemas Seekonk Route 6, located at 100 Commerce Way, Seekonk, MA Joseph A. Cirelli, Manager

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Atty. Daniel K. Flaherty presented the Showcase Cinemas' request for a lobby bar.

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

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VOTED: To close the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Prior to the vote, Board members raised concerns about the number of drinks and the purchase of drinks for minors. Manager Joseph Cirelli advised that ushers will be checking. He said attendance at the No. Attleboro theatre increased with the sale of alcohol. Seekonk is in a similar situation. There is a two drink limit.

Ms. Hines said she has never seen a problem.

Mr. Viera expressed concern about people bringing in their own liquor.

Mr. Cirelli said they check; however, it is difficult to detect anybody having a small item in their pocket.

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

DEFEATED: 4 Nays; 1 Aye: To approve the request for a new Annual All Alcohol on premise liquor license for NAI Entertainment Holdings, LLC, d/b/a as Showcase Cinemas Seekonk Route 6, located at 100 Commerce Way.

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

Mr. Cirelli noted that theatre would probably close within a year without the liquor license.

Ms. Taylor asked if there is a policy to deal with disturbances.

Chairman Andrade suggested they come back with another plan. It would have to be a new application.

Mr. Parker did not like having alcohol to keep the theatre open.

Mr. Almeida suggested a lounge area. Chairman Andrade agreed.

Mr. Viera suggested a police officer on duty.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Cadime noted this project was Article 16 on the June 5, 2017 Town Meeting warrant in the amount of \$3,016,174. It was a ballot question at a special election. There were three bids. The winner is Eastern Bank at 1.55%. The town is looking to borrow \$23,250 in a one-year note at which time it will rollover. There are five documents to be signed.

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

VOTED: To approve signing the bond anticipation note for the Public Safety Radio Project.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Ms. Doreen Taylor said that two weeks ago the Board talked about Form A for the Veterans Memorial Park. She asked for an update on the process.

Mr. Cadime stated that the conversation was to put a non-binding question on the ballot as to the location of the cannon. The Memorandum of Understanding is tied into the cannon. It is more about the property itself and not the cannon. The question is what encompasses the Veterans Memorial Park. DPW could go out there and survey and outline it or the Board could enter into an agreement with the Board of Library Trustees. To remove the care and custody of the library and bring it back to the town would require a vote at Town Meeting. At that point, it would go to Planning and recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Ms. Taylor said she is here to protect that park. She questioned the Town Meeting vote of 2010 when the Board of Selectmen at that time put an article on Town Meeting that gave taxpayers' rights away on town-owned property. Taxpayers got nothing in return. That should have been a ballot question. She is challenging that. She got advice from the State and legal counsel. She will do what's necessary to protect the Veterans Memorial Park. She has never been a member of that committee. She is a volunteer.

Chairman Andrade said the Board is working to fix this. He added that she is speaking in a chastising tone to this Board.

Ms. Taylor said she attended a Concerned Citizens meeting about the ballot question and Chairman Andrade said he had to speak to Mr. Durkay.

Chairman Andrade corrected her. He said the Board of Selectmen and Board of Library Trustees are working together on a Memorandum of Understanding to resolve this issue.

Ms. Taylor said the Veterans Memorial Park was set aside because it is not big enough to sway voters.

Chairman Andrade said she would be happy if the town took back that parcel. He noted that he voted not to put it on the ballot because he felt it didn't belong there.

Mr. Cadime said the Board of Library Trustees cannot sell that property or give it to any other entity without coming before this Board or Town Meeting. Prior to this project, that property was identified as library property. Everybody knew the howitzer was going there. Form A never transpired.

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This Board has been very adamant this howitzer issue has created a lot of heartache.

He said Ms. Taylor never came before the Board before the howitzer

A vote was taken to transfer that property under the care of the Board of Library Trustees. Ownership is the Town of Seekonk.

Ms. Taylor questioned whether that was an illegal vote.

Mr. Parker compared that to the School Department and the schools.

Chairman Andrade indicated state law requires library control.

Ms. Taylor wanted to know what Chapter of the law.

She suggested the Board research the Town Meeting vote of 2010. She will challenge it even if she has to go to court.

Mr. Cadime felt that KP Law had reviewed the document as to legality. He agreed with Ms. Taylor about protecting the Memorial.

She said they are trying to get a statute of the wounded warrior. She questioned who they are supposed to ask.

Mr. Parker would like a ruling on whether the 2010 turnover was legal

Mr. Cadime advised that law is Mass. General Law Chapter 78 Section 11.

Ms. Taylor asked for reconsideration of the ballot question wording. It does not need to say "adjacent to the library." She wanted to see that on the next agenda.

Mr. Cadime said he has to confer with the town clerk

Ms. Taylor asked if the Board entered into a new contract with the town administrator.

Mr. Almeida advised a three-year contract was negotiated last year.

Ms. Taylor asked if it was an agenda item. She checked agendas back to August 29, 2017.

Mr. Cadime said they are not trying to hide anything. A simple telephone call to the office would have saved her time researching

She said it is difficult to get answers. She is still waiting for legal bills.

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Mr. Cadime said the problem is she doesn't like what she hears. The questions she asked have been answered. He cannot predict when legal decisions will be made. Other budgets are unsustainable but the focus is on legal. When there was a change in law firms, she suggested transferring all cases to KP Law. That would cost more money because KP Law would have to review all documents. There is no additional costs by having two attorneys.

He is not trying to be disrespectful and would appreciate the same from her.

He prepared a document and gave it to Mr. Alexander who gave it to the chairman. That is protocol.

Ms. Taylor said she wants costs to date for a particular item. She questioned the \$66,000 transfer into legal.

Chairman Andrade said she alluded that Mr. Cadime's contract was done under the table. She is grandstanding.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime said the annual report is on line. It will be printed within the next two weeks.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Parker asked for an update on the new animal shelter building.

Mr. Cadime said the committee met last week. They have drawings. The estimate from the architect is \$1.6M. They are talking about a module building. Town Meeting approved \$950,000 and an estimated \$200,000 in donations from Save-A-Pet.

Mr. Parker asked about generator.

Mr. Cadime advised it is in place and working.

Mr. Parker asked about the new website.

Mr. Cadime said they finally have a design they all agree on. They will meet with website developer.

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Mr. Parker advised that he reached out to the chairman of the Town of Rehoboth's 375 Anniversary about a float in the Town's parade. No response. He asked if someone could contact Rehoboth's Town Administrator to find out the process.

Ms. Hines announced the town election is on Monday, April 2, 2018. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office.

The Town Meeting is on Monday, May 14, 2018.

The 22nd Annual Taste of the Towns sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Seekonk, Inc. is on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Clarion Inn, 940 Fall River Avenue. Tickets are \$30.

The Save A Pet Auction is on April 10, 11, and 12 at the Ramada Inn on Taunton Avenue.

The rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Public Works building on Taunton Avenue. 2018 dog licenses will be sold. Licenses are due by April 1 and late after May 31.

Ms. Hines will attend a meeting at the Bristol County Agricultural School. In researching information, it came to mind that there are boards and committees that are appointed by the Board but the Board has no information on them at all. She suggested that about every three months a representative of each board or committee come before the Board to give a brief report. She noted that Bristol Aggie is looking for \$103M to build a new school. Seekonk will have to provide about \$200,000 as its contribution. He questioned if the Capital Improvement Committee and Finance Committee are aware of that.

Mr. Cadime said there is no information on that.

He noted that tuition money is under education but not included in the School Department budget. Bills are paid through the town.

Mr. Almeida suggested the Board not rely on the future of Route 6. According to the news, there will be a shrinkage on Route 6 due to Internet shopping and Amazon. Buildings will be vacant.

Mr. Viera noted that Ms. Hines and he have been attending School Committee meetings. There are serious issues that need to be addressed. The School Department is looking for an additional \$2M. They are facing a serious need for space. The Board needs to take more of a leadership role and partner with them. He suggested Ms. Hines serve as the liaison to the School Committee. .

Chairman Andrade said they should all be working together. He noted that Mr. Cadime has reached out to the School Department.

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Mr. Parker said several years ago the Board had suggested that the Town Administrator take part in School Committee meetings and negotiations.

Mr. Cadime said he has tried unsuccessfully to schedule quarterly meetings with School Department administrators. The School Department is unsustainable. They are constantly asking for more money. They have a budget gap of close to \$1M. They haven't negotiated increases. They need to get to a zero-based budget approach.

Mr. Viera felt there is a mistrust on both sides. This is the time for the Board of Selectmen to take a leadership role especially with the new administration going into the School Department.

Mr. Parker suggested the liaison appointment should be on the next agenda.

Chairman Andrade apologized for losing his cool. He doesn't like it when they are trying to work together and get knocked down. His goal is to work together.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To dissolve at 9:06 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the February 7, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting

John Aubin, Planning Director and Jennifer Miller, Conservation Agent – Recommendation for hiring of Kim Lallier as Secretary

Documents for All Alcohol on Premises Liquor License for NAI Entertainment (Showcase Cinemas)

