

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 4, 2018
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), anybody who wanted to record any portion of the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Zorra 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).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Elaine Paquette of Heaven and Earth Café and Catering presented a petition signed by more than 200 people requesting a BYOB license for the restaurant at 184 Taunton Avenue.

Chairman Andrade said someone called him and he outlined the steps to apply for an all alcohol liquor license. There are no beer and wine available. A request for a BYOB would have to be an agenda item for discussion at another meeting.

Ms. Hines would like legal advice.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Reorganization of the Board

Chairman Andrade congratulated Mr. Zorra on his election to the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Viera on his re-election. He thanked Mr. Parker for his many years of service.

Mr. Almeida nominated Mr. Andrade as Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Viera. Nominations closed.

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Mr. Viera nominated Mr. Almeida as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Ms. Hines. Nominations closed.

Mr. Almeida nominated Mr. Viera as Clerk. Seconded by Ms. Hines. Nominations closed.

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

VOTED: That David Andrade continue to serve as Chairman, Nelson Almeida as Vice-Chairman, and David Viera as Clerk.

Consider the Reappointment of Christine DeFontes as Tax Collector/Treasurer

Mr. Cadime recommended the reappointment.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Mrs. Christine DeFontes as Treasurer/Collector.

Chairman Andrade presented Mrs. Defontes with a Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Selectmen in recognition of her 15 years of service as Treasurer/Collector.

Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

Communications Director Chris Campbell was in attendance to request the Board of Selectmen recognize the dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week from April 8-14, 2018.

Chairman Andrade read the Proclamation presented to Mr. Campbell.

The order of business moved to:

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding the Location of the Howitzer Cannon

Board of Library Trustees Chairman Michael Durkay and Director Peter Fuller were in attendance.

Chairman Andrade said the vote was 72% to 28% in favor of returning the howitzer to the Veterans Memorial Park. The Building Inspector has determined that the concrete structure is not in violation of the restrictions put on the parcel. The only question is whether to put it at the original place or to the left side pointing back toward The Meadows. The Veterans Memorial Committee would accept either location. The howitzer is being refurbished. The Memorandum of Agreement will be drawn up and hopefully on the next agenda.

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Mr. Durkay thanked voters for making a solid statement. In September 2017, the Board of Library Trustees voted to consider placing the howitzer back at the site as long as the vote referenced the MOA. He hesitated to say yes or no on behalf of his board. Trustees continue to feel there has to be some kind of procedure going forward for everyone's protection and peace of mind. He will try to get feedback from the Board of Library Trustees as soon as possible. Personally, he doesn't see any issue with the alternate spot.

Chairman Andrade clarified that the howitzer will be going to that area pending final decision by the Board of Library Trustees.

Mr. Viera stated that the Board of Selectmen did everything asked. The question was put on the ballot and the people spoke loud and clear. It was an overwhelming vote that the howitzer will be placed back at the original site at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Durkay said he couldn't speak for the other trustees. He felt they would say the howitzer will be placed on the alternate site at the location.

Ms. Hines felt the Board of Library Trustees has to take a formal vote. The MOA has to be signed and decision made about where the howitzer will go on the site.

Chairman Andrade said the MOA is not tied into the howitzer.

Mr. Viera said the howitzer should be on site and dedicated during the Memorial Day Parade.

Ms. Doreen Taylor, President of the Friends of the Seekonk Veterans Memorial Park, said that group is paying for the refurbishing. It is not taxpayer money.

Chairman Andrade clarified that "Friends" would be making a donation to help pay for that.

The order of business moved to:

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Request for a Road Opening Permit for Daniel Simas at 189 County Street while under the Moratorium

DPW Superintendent David Cabral advised the moratorium ends in 2021. He met with Mr. Simas today at the location.

Mr. Simas said he is requesting a road cut in order to install a gas line to his home. He purchased the home in April 2017.

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

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VOTED: To deny Mr. Simas' request for road opening at 189 County Street.

In discussion prior to the vote, Ms. Hines said she was out there today. She asked if the cut would be at the crack in the road.

Mr. Cabral said along the road about 30 ft. away from the crack.

He explained there were opportunities before the roadway was done. However, Mr. Simas did not own the home at that time. The heating system in the house is oil. Mr. Simas wants to convert to gas.

Chairman Andrade explained to Mr. Simas that there are other options.

PUBLIC HEARING

FY'19 Budget Hearing

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing on the FY'19 budget at 7:52 p.m.

Mr. Cadime advised the presentation is on the website. He said it was challenging trying to meet the needs and requirements submitted by department heads. Four years ago, the emphasis was on public safety staffing. Smaller departments were neglected. He commended all department heads.

Board members acknowledged and thanked department heads for being in attendance.

Mr. Cadime explained the budget in the amount of \$55,068,594, a 4.6% increase over this year. The School Department budget is \$26,506,398. Tri-County portion is \$1,026,514 and Bristol Aggie at \$21,170.

Ms. Hines asked if assessments are included in the amounts for Tri-County and Bristol Aggie.

Mr. Cadime said those are not included. Looking at a future fiscal year for that.

Ms. Hines inquired about other legal services in addition to KP Law.

Mr. Cadime said the Assessor's office has legal services for abatements.

Mr. Viera asked about the salary account for police and fire.

Mr. Cadime advised the figures reflect the increases, the Quinn Bill, and overtime for police. The Fire Department requires a Town Meeting vote.

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Mr. Zorro asked about the DPW operating budget.

Mr. Cadime said decreases negated actual increase.

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

VOTED: To continue the public hearing for two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the Approval to Proceed with Negotiating a Contract with Ransom Consulting Engineers and Scientists for the Attleboro Dye Works Site Specific Environmental Protection Agency Assessment Grant

Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller and Town Planner John Aubin were in attendance. Ms. Miller said that ten proposals were submitted of which three were selected as finalists. They all gave strong presentations. However, it was felt that Ransom was the best fit for the town and the Attleboro Dye Works projects. They have a specific timeline which is helpful in terms that this is the first time with an EPA grant. Ransom has a lot of experience in Region I and Southeast Massachusetts. They have a strong record of leveraging additional funding and working with the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Mr. Aubin added that the Steering Committee agreed to go with Ransom.

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

VOTED: To negotiate a contract with Ransom Consulting Engineers and Scientists for the Attleboro Dye Works Site Specific Environmental Protection Agency Assessment Grant.

Ms. Hines said she is part of the Steering Committee and she 100% supports Ransom.

Consider Acceptance of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development (SRPEDD) 2018 District Local Technical Assistant Grant

Mr. Aubin advised the grant in the amount of \$17,500 will be used for the development of an Economic Development Element of the Seekonk Master Plan. He has had a good working relationship with SRPEDD and looks forward to continue that going forward.

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

VOTED: To accept the SRPEDD 2018 District Local Technical Assistance grant in the amount of \$17,500.

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Consider Replacing Administrative Policy #10 – “Handicap Grievance Procedure” with the “Americans with Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure”

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

VOTED: To replace Administrative Policy #10 – “Handicap Grievance Procedure” with the “Americans with Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure.”

Consider Replacing Administrative Policy #7 – “Town Personnel Records” and Administrative Policy #58 – “Personnel File Access” with the “Personnel Records Procedure”

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

VOTED: To replace Administrative Policy #7 – “Town Personnel Records” and Administrative Policy #58 – “Personnel File Access” with the “Personnel Records Procedure.”

Consider Adopting an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

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

VOTED: To adopt an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy.

Consider the Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2018

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the minutes of March 21, 2018.
March 21, 2018.

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours before the Meeting

Chairman Andrade advised that the School Committee requested via e-mail a possible Quad-Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, to provide an update on plans for additional

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space and how they will deal with immediate issues with the schools. Chairman Andrade told the School Committee chairman that they could meet even if it is not a full Quad-Board meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cadime welcomed Mr. Viera back to the Board and Mr. Zorra as a new member. He thanked Mr. Parker for his many years of service and his support. He said that Mr. Parker has always had the best interest of the town.

He was pleased to see the interest in the election, particularly the School Committee race.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Committee Liaison Report

Mr. Viera advised there are a few more bricks to put in place. Hopefully, that will be done by Memorial Day. Anyone who wants to purchase a brick should contact the Veteran's Agent. Those bricks will also be in place by Memorial Day.

Mr. Viera thanked the voters no matter who they voted for. He especially thanked those who voted for board members and those who voted to return the howitzer to the Veterans Memorial Park where majority feel it should stay.

He told residents that it is important to have house numbers displayed on their mailbox. It is especially important in an emergency during the middle of the night.

Chairman Andrade said it definitely should be on the house and on the mailbox.

Mr. Viera urged residents to license their dog and have the proper certificate for rabies.

Mr. Zorra thanked those who voted for him. He asked to have more liaison reports, especially the School Department.

Chairman Andrade stated that he is the liaison to the School Committee.

Mr. Zorra asked about a left turn only at the YMCA on Rte. 44.

Mr. Cabral said that Mass. DOT has plans for improvements and he has been working with SRPEDD.

Mr. Zorra wanted a meeting with Capital Improvement Committee.

Mr. Cadime will try to set it up for the next Board meeting.

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Ms. Hines announced the Town Meeting is on May 14, 2018. The Save-A-Pet Auction is on April 10, 11, and 12 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Ramada Inn on Taunton Avenue.

McDonalds has increased its education awards - \$150M to employees over five years. The eligibility rate for employees has been reduced. Information is on line at www.mcdonalds/education. It's tied in with President Trump's tax cuts.

Mr. Almeida said the "Y" has a promotion for veterans. He was told a veteran went to sign up and was told he needed to prove he was qualified.

He congratulated Mr. Viera and Mr. Zorra and all candidates who put their name out there. He thanked residents who voted.

Mr. Almeida thanked Mr. Parker for his many years of services. He is knowledgeable and helped him out when he was a new member of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Andrade also thanked Mr. Parker for his many years of service to the Town of Seekonk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:17 p.m., Ms. Hines motioned, seconded by Mr. Viera, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with DPW AFSCME Council 93 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), negotiations with Dispatch AFSCME 93 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, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) as having discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (Old Town Hall – 624 Taunton Avenue) and to consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of February 21, 2018; not to return to Regular Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by:

David Viera, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the April 4, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting

SRPEDD \$17,500 DLTA grant to update Economic Development Element of the Seekonk Master Plan

Request from Daniel Simas to open roadway at 169 County Street

Americans with Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure Policy

Personnel Records Procedure Policy

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

FY 2019 Budget