

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 14, 2018
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present Nelson Almeida, David Viera, Chris Zorra

Absent: David Andrade, Michelle Hines

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Vice Chairman Almeida opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for all fallen veterans and Richard Veader, a retired School Department employee. His wife, Loretta, worked at town hall for many years. The meeting was held at the Senior Center, 540 Arcade Avenue, Seekonk, MA.

Vice-Chairman Almeida 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

Vice-Chairman 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), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Parks and Recreation (1 BOS), Property Tax Work-Off Committee (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 4 BOS), Taxation Aid Fund Committee (1 BOS).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Acceptance of a Gift of a Portrait of Retired K-9 Kilo from Karlene Grady to the Police Department

Mrs. Grady presented Chief John and K-9 Officer Adam Laprade with a framed portrait of Kilo.

Mr. Viera thanked her. He said she and her husband, Paul, have always been supportive of public safety and the town. Her dad did the same thing. He would like to see it hung in the lobby of the Public Safety Complex where everybody can see it.

Chief John said he is proud to accept the portrait on behalf of the Police Department and the K-9 unit. It will hang in an appropriate place.

The Chief said Officer Laprade and Kilo came to Seekonk from Maryland. At that time, the Chief was doing background investigations. The first thing Kilo did was to bite him.

Chief John said the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, and the entire community has embraced the K-9 units.

Officer Laprade expressed his appreciation for the support.

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

VOTED: To accept the portrait of retired K-9 Kilo from Karlene Grady to the Police Department.

Consider the Appointment of Amy Petronio to the Parks and Recreation Committee

Mr. Cadime advised he met with Ms. Petronio. He recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Amy Petronio to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a three-year term, retroactive to July 2018.

Consider the Appointment of Taylor Cordeiro to the Position of Dispatcher in the Communications Department

Communications Director Chris Campbell noted he had previously requested a conditional offer of employment for Ms. Cordeiro. The background check is completed. Through Mr. Cadime, he requested the appointment of Ms. Cordeiro as dispatcher.

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

VOTED: To appoint Taylor Cordeiro as Dispatcher in the Communications Department, effective December 3, 2018.

Consider the Appointment of Louis Alves to the Position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Department of Public Works

DPW Supt. David Cabral advised he had requested a conditional offer of employment at the meeting of September 5, 2018.

He requested the appointment of Mr. Alves. Mr. Cadime recommended as presented by Mr. Cabral.

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

VOTED: To appoint Louis Alves as Truck Driver/Laborer with the Seekonk Department of Public Works, effective November 15, 2018.

In response to Mr. Viera's question, Mr. Cabral said there are two vacancies right now. Two applicants are going through the background check.

Mr. Viera thanked Mr. Cabral and the crew for the work done at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Consider the Donation of \$500 from the East Providence/Seekonk Rotary Club to Human Services Fuel Account

Consider the Donation of \$700 from Herb Chambers Honda of Seekonk to Human Service Fuel Account

Consider the Donation of \$50 from Robert and Deborah Bostian to Human Services Fuel Account

Consider the Donation of \$25 from Steven Howitt to Human Services Fuel Account

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

VOTED: To accept donations to the Human Services Fuel Account as follows:
\$500 from the East Providence/Seekonk Rotary Club
\$700 from Herb Chambers Honda of Seekonk
\$50 from Robert and Deborah Bostian
\$25 from Steven Howitt

Read into the Record the Town Moderator Appointments of Normand Duquette and Phillip Yan to the Finance Committee

Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil announced the following appointments to the Finance Committee: Normand Duquette for a term to expire on June 30, 2019 and Phillip Yan for a term to expire June 30, 2021.

The Finance Committee is now full.

LICENSE HEARING

Consider the Request for Two Amendments to an Existing All Alcohol Liquor License for a Change of DBA from Plaza Azteca Seekonk, Inc., d/b/a Plaza Azteca Seekonk to Plaza Azteca Seekonk, Inc., d/b/a Rebeco Mexican Bar and Grill, and a Change of Manager to Timothy Collins, located at 353 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA

Mr. Collins was in attendance.

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Mr. Cadime noted that all documents are in order

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

VOTED: To approve the change of DBA from Plaza Azteca Seekonk, Inc., d/b/a Plaza Azteca Seekonk to Plaza Azeca Seekonk, Inc., d/b/a Reboco Mexican Bar and Grill and the change of manager to Timothy Collins.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the Right of Way Opening for 16 Milton Street

DPW Supt. David Cabral noted he came before the Board on August 8 with a resident request for gas service. He contacted Columbia Gas to find out if the work could be done without impacting the road. He received an e-mail on August 22 that the work most likely could be done. On August 30, he was on Milton Street looking at the dead end portion of it. He noticed the gas line had been installed. Columbia Gas is apologetic and will try to find out how that happened. Mr. Cabral felt the work was done without a permit when the engineering crew went out there and saw the work could be done without impacting the road. Columbia Gas now has a checklist. Work will not be done until the permit is signed.

Mr. Cabral said he has always had a good relationship with Columbia Gas. He noted no one will live in the house until March 2019.

Karen Lane-Newell and Mike from Columbia Gas were in attendance. Mrs. Lane-Newell indicated it was miscommunication. The crew didn't know they were supposed to pull a permit. Fortunately, they did not upset the road.

Mr. Viera said nobody should be doing work without a permit in hand, including Columbia Gas.

Mr. Zorra said he is satisfied that Columbia Gas acknowledged the mistake.

Mr. Cadime is pleased with the reassurances that this would not happen in the future. He appreciates the relationship with Columbia Gas.

Mr. Cabral had an update on the generator connection at the senior center. The State Department of Public Utilities has ordered Columbia Gas to stop work except for emergencies. He felt this is an emergency because the center would be used as a warming center.

NEW BUSINESS

Department Update Regarding Conservation Commission from Jennifer Miller, Conservation Agent

Ms. Miller said permitting and enforcement is 50 to 60% of her time and also remediation of 36 Maple Avenue. She is also responsible for conservation area management, open space and recreation plan, public education, public outreach and storm water management. She had a slide presentation.

She talked about expanding access to trails. She is a big supporter of scout projects but they can only do so much. They need to have a person checking these sites on a regular basis. She said that DPW needs more workers to take care of this on a regular basis.

Ms. Miller would like to have a fishing platform at Gамиno Pond.

Mr. Viera asked what will be done at Pond Street Bridge.

Mr. Cabral said there is maintenance that can be done now.

Fire Department Update on New Work Schedule (24 Hour Schedule)

Chief Michael Healy stated that on July 1, 2018, the department shifted to a 24-hour work schedule as a result of negotiations between the Town and Seekonk Firefighters Local 1921. They now work a 24 hour shift, 2 days off and come back for a 24 hr. shift and four days off on a rotating basis. It didn't change the number of groups or the number of firefighters in the group. For a few years, he has had a concern about the number of firefighters to staff two stations. The department has used overtime money to keep both stations open. During the budgetary process, he has been pushing for a staffing commitment to get to a proper level to offset overtime. The manning has grown to nine per group. He is looking to having eight firefighters on duty at all times. Pine Street has two firefighters on duty.

Discuss the New Job Description for Full Time Parks and Recreation Director

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

VOTED: To approve the job description for full time Parks & Recreation Director and strike out that the director will report to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Consider the Approval of Communications Department General Order #3 – “Employee Prohibitive Conduct”

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

VOTED: To approve the Communications Department General Order #3 – “Employee Prohibitive Conduct.”

Consider the Approval of Communications Department General Order #9 – “Absence, Leave & Injury”

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

VOTED: To approve the Communications Department General Order #9 – “Absence, Leave & Injury.”

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of October 10, 2018

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

VOTED: To accept Regular Session minutes of October 10, 2018 as submitted.

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of October 24, 2018

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

VOTED: To accept Regular Session minutes of October 24, 2018 as submitted.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Update on the Status of the Maple Avenue Project

Mr. Cadime said they continue to edit and fine tune the property survey and wetlands delineation. They worked with QEP to determine the alignment for additional ground water monitoring wells. They staked vegetation clearing areas and reviewed with the Fire Chief for forestry crew work. They secured additional access from abutters and coordinated with TV9 to produce a short video. A third quarter report was submitted to the DEP. Site specific quality assurance project plans were done for approval by the EPA. Samples were submitted to DEP in November.

Update on the Status of the Animal Shelter

Mr. Cadime said bids were solicited for the second time. The contract is just under \$1.4M. There was a place holder on the warrant in the case additional funding is required. The request is for \$460,000. If approved at Town Meeting the project can move forward.

Update on the Status of the Radio Project

Bids were due today. They have been working with town counsel for lease agreement with Verizon on Fall River Avenue. A request was made to the City of East Providence to use the Dover Avenue water tank as a radio site.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Veterans Memorial Park

Mr. Viera apologized for not attending the Veterans Day ceremony. He had to work.

He commended the Boy Scouts for repairing some of the bricks.

They are now determining which ones have to be restenciled or repaired.

Mr. Viera thanked the Veterans Agent for a job well done for the Veterans Day observance.

He extended best wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Viera urged residents to visit the animal shelter to see firsthand the deplorable condition of that building.

Mr. Zorra said the Veterans Day ceremony was well attended.

He asked about the fire truck and generator sitting behind the County Street Station.

Mr. Viera said the brush truck and generator are surplus and will have to go back to surplus.

Mr. Zorra urged residents to attend Town Meet on Monday, November 19, at 7 p.m.

Mr. Almeida advised that 6,107 votes were cast at the recent state election - 4,200 were residents who voted, 124 write in and 1,709 were blanks. He would hope that 10% of these residents show up at Town Meeting. It was a big turnout. People complained about traffic. He suggested the next state election be held at Town Hall or the high school have a professional day to help with parking.

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Retirement party for chief mace. He was aware of this two weeks prior to the date. Either it was quick planning or last thought to invite us.

Would open in the future the board is notified in plenty of time so at least have the opportunity to attend. With the last meeting invite it looks like the boss isn't care enough to show up.

Veterans memorial services on Monday, it takes place on the 11 month, 11 day and 11 hour. It was very short notice. He was aware of the time and place and could not attend.

Mr. Almeida extended best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Viera suggested early voter. It was very popular, especially with older people.

Mr. Cadime advised that about 600 people voted early.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Vice-Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamar, Secretary

Items Distributed at the November 14 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Talent Bank form for Amy Petronio – Parks & Recreation Committee

Application for employment for Louis Alves to the position of DPW truck driver/laborer

Copies of checks – Donations to Human Services

Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil – Appointment of Phillip Yan to Finance Committee

Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil – Appointment of Norman Duquette to the Finance Committee

Documents for amendments to existing all alcohol liquor license for the d/b/a Plaza Azteca Seekonk, Inc. to Rebeco Mexican Bar and Grill and change of manager

Job Description for Parks and Recreation Director

Communications Department General Order #3 – Employment Prohibitive Conduct

Communications Department General Order #9 – Absence, Leave & Injury