

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 22, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera,
Justin Sullivan, 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), 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. Sullivan announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Commission on Disability (5-13 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 (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Charles Beauchamp, 127 Allen Avenue, commended the Board on discussions at the January 8th meeting regarding the Charter. He felt it is a very, very, very bad idea to have language in the Charter that could be misconstrued that an individual selectman has the authority to interact direct or indirect with a department head. Each department head would have six bosses (Town Administrator and five Selectmen). If that's the case, Mr. Beauchamp suggested language that says, as a collective body, the Board of Selectmen has the authority to interact with department heads. They can only direct as a collective body. The Charter should be clear that the Board of Selectmen has authority as a collective body. From what he heard, it sounds like individual selectman had the authority to act direct or indirect with department heads.

Chairman Andrade noted this will be an agenda item for discussion within the next few weeks.

Mr. Beauchamp opposed the idea to vote by precincts. There might be a situation in which no one was running from one precinct. He said precinct lines would have to be drawn after every census to make sure there is an equal number of residents in each precinct.

Keith Perry, resident and a member of the Seekonk Police Department, was in attendance with other police officers to convey a message on behalf of the Police Union.

Detective Perry said the Police Department was forced to endure multiple, significant, and sudden changes within the administrative components of the department. Over the past few years, the department witnessed the abrupt departure of two police chiefs which has left the department in a precarious position. There were legitimate concerns and very real doubts. He is proud and happy to report they weathered the storm and have come through it much better than could ever have been expected under the circumstances.

The men and women of the Seekonk Police Department want to recognize the people who are largely responsible for the extraordinary advances made in spite of serious challenges the Police Department and community have overcome.

He thanked the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator for the unwavering support. It has made it possible for the Seekonk Police to be without question one of the best law enforcement and public safety agencies within the area. Their continued support is a crucial component of the continued future success of the department.

Detective Perry said it was the leadership of the department that was questioned. About a year ago, Deputy Chief Enos was thrust into current role as Interim Police Chief. He experienced trial by fire. Chief Enos has taken the helm. Thanks to his familiarity with the department and his personal drive and commitment, Interim Chief Enos elected to sail full speed ahead. He has drafted a level-funded budget, directed the hiring of what will be five new officers, streamlined police training department-wide, completed multiple FBI courses, which command staff will also attend, instituted a new traffic enforcement division, assigned additional personnel to become firearms and defense tactics instructors and made physical changes in the building. Those are a just a few. This has strengthened officer moral and confidence.

Detective Perry respectfully requested that the Board consider Interim Chief Enos for the position of Chief. The entire membership of the union is unanimous in the support of Interim Chief Enos for the position of Chief.

Mr. Adam Petronio of 45 Mabel Drive announced he is a candidate for the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Beverly DellaGrotta, 24 Pleasant Street, talked about the Kiwanis Club Taste of the Town to be held on March 3, 2020. The food is from local restaurants. Tickets are \$30.

Mrs. Susan Chiasty of 10 Harts Ct., President of the Kiwanis Club, explained some of the activities of the club. She had handouts.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Annual Designation of Animal Control Officers for Sharonlynne Hall, as required by M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151

Mr. Cadime stated that this appointment and the following is an annual requirement. The deadline is February 1, 2020.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Sharonlynne Hall as Animal Control Officer.

Consider the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' Annual Designation of Animal Control Officers for Andrea Russo as required by M.G.L. Chapter 140 Section 151

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

VOTED: To reappoint Andrea Russo as Animal Control Officer.

Read into the Record the Town Moderator Appointments for the Seekonk Connolly Field Turf & Renovation Building Committee

Mr. Cadime read a letter from Town Moderator Peter R. Hoogerzeil with the following appointments to the Seekonk Connolly Field Turf & Renovation Building Committee: Noah Escaler, Bart Lush, Joseph Mello, Victor Pereira Sr., Robert "Bubba" Petersen, Stephen Prew, and Justin Terrien.

LICENSE HEARING

Consider the Request to Amend a Class I Motor Vehicle License for Motorsports Nation to add Both the Suzuki Motor of America and Can-Am as Additional Franchises to the Dealer License at 3-5 Progress Street, Seekonk

Mr. Bruce Brightman apologized for not attending the previous meeting.

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

VOTED: To approve the request to amend a Class I Motor Vehicle License for Motorsports Nation to add both the Suzuki Motor of America and Can-Am as additional franchises to the dealer license at 3-5 Progress Street.

Mr. Viera said the property is cleaned up.

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OLD BUSINESS

Consider the Renewal of a Class II Motor Vehicle License for Paul Medeiros, New England Collison, Inc. located at 45 Old Fall Rive Avenue

Mr. Cadime advised the applicant has a Class II and Class III license. On December 18, 2020, the Board voted on the Class III and extended the Class II until the Planning Board meeting of February 1. The Planning Board approved the site plan on January 14. The plan allows for six vehicles.

Mr. Abelson said he checked today. They are in compliance with the number of vehicles.

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

VOTED: To approve the renewal of a Class II motor vehicle license for Paul Medeiros, New England Collison, Inc., with the same stipulations as noted in the Planning Board decision of January 14, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider and Sign the Grant of Easement for Massachusetts Electric Company to Install Underground Electrical Conduits for the New Animal Shelter located at 100 Peck Street

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

VOTED: To sign the grant of easement for Massachusetts Electric Company to install underground electrical conduits for the new Animal Shelter.

Mr. Viera asked why it took so long.

Mr. Cadime explained it is challenging to work with National Grid. It seems to be a 6-8 month delay.

Consider Approving the Regular Session Minutes of December 18, 2019

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of December 18, 2010, as distributed.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Radio Project

Mr. Cadime noted the lease agreement was signed for one of the properties. Waiting to hear from Verizon on the second site. Should be before the end of the month. There is a concern about this site because of the ospreys that are out there.

DPW Facility – None.

Senior Center Phase II/540 Arcade Avenue

Mr. Cadime submitted RFQ to Chairwoman Hines. The committee will meet on Monday.

Animal Shelter

Hopefully, wiring will be completed by the end of the month.

South End Fire Station

Will be a future agenda item to discuss some changes.

Old Town Hall

Mr. Zorra advised the site visit is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Cable Contract – None.

Policies and Procedures

Some policies are under review by K P Law.

ADW/Maple Avenue Project – None.

Dam Projects/Remediation

Mr. Cadime reported that Mr. Cabral, Ms. Miller, and he are working with the State to remove the dam.

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Online Permitted

Mr. Cadime commended the staff who has taken this on.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised that eagles built a nest on site.

Mr. Cadime said it is a federally-protected bird. Fines and jail time are associated with it. There are sufficient ramifications.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report

See Mr. Cadime's report.

Veterans' Council

Mr. Viera reported a meeting will be scheduled by the middle of February to plan for the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Zorra and Chairman Andrade received an e-mail regarding a fee for use of the senior center.

Mr. Cadime said at one time there was a \$40 fee. Currently, there is no fee. However, it might be time to revisit the policy. The director is getting more and more requests for use of the building.

Mr. Zorra assured residents that, in the case of a threat, residents would receive a 911 call. Social media does not always have the correct information.

Mr. Cadime said residents would be notified in the case of a dangerous situation.

Mr. Viera said there are times when they cannot give any information. That is why they should have a public information officer. He knows that Mr. Cadime is working on that.

Mr. Cadime advised that he met with the two Chiefs, Communications Director, and Superintendent of Schools regarding emergency management.

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Mr. Sullivan asked if there would be any information following the executive session with the School Committee.

Mr. Cadime said a meeting has been pushed out to the first week in February.

Mr. Sullivan suggested an agenda item to discuss a date for Spring Town Meeting.

He reminded residents to return census forms to the Town Clerk's office. Also, to register their dogs before the March 31st deadline.

Mr. Viera asked about surveillance cameras for speeding, etc. He asked if Mr. Cadime had an opportunity to send a letter to Rep. Howitt on this.

At 7:45 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Viera, to take a five-minute recess and reconvene in open session.

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

The meeting reconvened at 8 p.m.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Assessors Chairman Paul Buckley and Joyce Solomon were in attendance.

At 8 p.m. Mr. Buckley motioned, seconded by Ms. Solomon, to go into executive session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual or discuss the discipline or dismissal, of or complaints or charges against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; not to return to open session.

The vote: Mr. Buckley – Aye; Ms. Solomon – Aye.

At 8:02 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Zorra, to go into executive session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual or discuss the discipline or dismissal, of or complaints or charges against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) as having the discussion in open meeting would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town, and to consider the approval of executive session minutes of December 18, 2019; not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the January 22, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources – re: designation of Sharonlynne Hall and Andres Russo

Moderator Appointments

Documents for Motor Vehicle License – Motorsports Nation

Documents for Renewal of a Class II Motor Vehicle License for New England Collison – Paul Medeiros

Grant Easement – National Grid