

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 8, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, David Viera, Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio

Town Administrator Shawn E. Cadime was absent.

Finance Director Bruce Alexander was in attendance.

Chairman Andrade opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, the public is not allowed to physically access the meeting. The meeting will air live on TV9 and can be assessed through the Zoom teleconference. Instructions on remote access is on the town's website.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Mr. Petronio announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Cultural Council (1 BOS), Economic Development Committee (5 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

PRIORITY MATTERS

Reorganization of the Board

A motion was made by Mr. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Petronio, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Justin Sullivan as Chairman, Chris Zorra as Vice Chair, and David Viera as Clerk.

Mr. Andrade noted he served as chairman for four years.

Mr. Petronio felt it is healthy for the Board to change Chairs. It is a good opportunity to develop leadership skills. He thanked Mr. Andrade for his leadership. He noted it is a thankless job. Everyone brings something different to the table.

Mr. Andrade felt the Board has done a good job with Covid-19.

Mr. Viera thanked Mr. Andrade for the many years as Chairman. For those who do not understand how town government works, Mr. Viera noted the Chair works with the Town Administrator in setting the agenda. The chair cannot make decisions without the entire Board.

July 8, 2020

-2-

Mr. Viera said he will miss Mr. Almeida. He served on this Board for 7 1/2 years.

Mr. Andrade said, going back over the last six years, the Board has worked together as a team and with the Town Administrator as a team. Mr. Almeida was a good part of that. It is important that they continue to work as a team with Mr. Petronio.

Mr. Viera said at one time the Town Administrator's office had a revolving door. When he was elected to the Board, he set out to bring some stability to that office so that the town administrator was not changing every two or three years. This Board gave Mr. Cadime a contract with additional money because they didn't want to lose him. He was offered a position in nearby Somerset and it looked like he was going.

Chairman Sullivan also thanked Mr. Andrade for his service as Chairman. He has done a great job. He has learned from working with him. It is important that they listen and work with each other.

Mr. Zorra also thanked Mr. Andrade. He thanked Mr. Almeida for 7 1/2 years of service. He will miss him. He welcomed Mr. Petronio.

Consider the Appointment of Lori Trenteseaux to the Position of Clerk in the Assessor's Office

Asst. Assessor Lydia Cordeiro advised there were nineteen applicants. Six were interviewed and it was down to two finalists. Ms. Trenteseaux is the right fit for their team.

Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Lori Trenteseaux as Clerk in the Assessor's Office.

Mr. Zorra noted she has had three positions in two years.

Mr. Viera felt it is not a fair question to ask Mrs. Cordeiro. Maybe it could be clarified when Ms. Trenteseaux comes in for the actual appointment.

Moderator Appointments

Town Moderator Peter Hoogerziel made the following recommendations.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Matthew Salisbury and Michael Healy to the Finance Committee. and Nicholas Amaral to the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee.

July 8, 2020

-3-

Mr. Hoogerzeil advised he is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee. He plans to interview next week.

Accept the Resignation of Arthur St. Hilaire as Special Police Officer

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Arthur St. Hilaire as Special Police Officer.

PUBLIC HEARING

**Consider the Request from National Grid and Verizon to Install Pole 2019-50 and
Underground Laterals, Cables and Wires for New Service at Mildred H. Aitken
Elementary School, 165 Newman Avenue, Seekonk, MA, Plat 21, Lots 55, 56-74, 185' South
of the Intersection of Woodward Avenue and Newman Avenue**

Chairman Sullivan announced that, pursuant to Gov. Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, the public is not allowed to physically attend this public hearing. It is being conducted by remote participation. Members of the public attending virtually will be allowed to comment utilizing the Chat function of Zoom.

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing at 7:26 pm.

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

DPW Asst. Supt. Scott Olobri, Michael Fraser from National Grid, and Michael Quinlan, Owners Project Manager, were in attendance.

Mr. Fraser explained National Grid is looking to install a new pole (2019-50) on the left side of the driveway.

Mr. Zorra said they ran the conduit.

Mr. Andrade said the easement was done in February.

Mr. Quinlan said they received notification from Mrs. Testa that the easement was sent to National Grid.

Board members suggested the project move along since school will start in the fall.

Mr. Fraser said he can't make any promises.

There were no further comments.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

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

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

VOTED: To approve the request from National Grid and Verizon to install Pole 2019-50 and underground laterals, cables and wires for new service at Mildred Aiken Elementary School, 165 Newman Avenue, Plat 21, Lots 55, 56-74, 185' south of the intersection of Woodward Avenue and Newman Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Consider Applying for the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant

Conservation Agent Jen Miller said this is the first time the Town was able to apply because we are far enough with our open space and recreation draft as far as the state is concerned.

The application is under the retail project status. The Town would be limited if we applied for small town grant because Seekonk's population is under 35,000. If 100 parking spaces can be accommodated, the town qualifies under the retail portion. It would have to be a warrant article at the November Town Meeting. It is a reimbursable grant at the rate of 54% of the \$1.2M. CPC will also be submitting a grant application. There's language in there that the town would not move forward with the project if the grant is not approved. The deadline is July 15, 2020. The proposed project will be on Pleasant Street.

Mr. Olobri said John Pozzi and he met with representatives from Weston and Sampson for rendering at the Pleasant Street School site. It will start with tennis, basketball and pickle ball. The lease for the school has another year. Phase I of the project could start even with the school in session. Phase I is \$1.2M. The entire project cost would be a little over \$2M.

Mr. Viera said the school should be demolished.

Mr. Petronio asked if there might be anything unfunded.

Mr. Viera asked about getting materials out of the ballfields.

Mr. Olobri said they are not digging down.

Mr. Zorra said the building is a good practice facility.

Mr. Olobri said it is not in good shape.

Mr. Viera congratulated them and wished them well.

Town Planner John Aubin suggested the motion contain language authorizing him to contact legal re: dedicated area for recreational use.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrade, second by Mr. Viera, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Administrator to apply for the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant and to consult with town counsel regarding dedicated area for recreational use zoning.

Consider Accepting the Various Donations to the Animal Shelter Totaling the Amount of \$1,745.00

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

VOTED: To accept the various donations to the Animal Shelter totaling the amount of \$1,745.00.

Consider Accepting the Donation of \$500 to Human Services Gift Account from Seekonk Youth Soccer

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

VOTED: To accept the \$500 donation to the Human Services Gift Account from Seekonk Youth Soccer.

Consider Approving the Minutes of May 13, 2020, June 10, 2020, and June 17, 2020

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept Regular Session minutes of May 13, 2020, June 10, 2020 and June 17, 2020.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Andrade talked about an incident that took place over the weekend near Taco Bell and The Paper Store on Commerce Way. There were approximately 100 to 150 cars. He noted there are procedures in place to put these type of events together. The town continues to go through safety procedures regarding COVID-19. The police dispersed the crowd. The Taco Bell manager was contacted. Waiting to get an update.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised updated photos and information are on Facebook.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report

Mr. Viera said contract with architect was signed.

Veterans' Council

Mr. Viera said the council will meet at the end of the month to discuss plans for the Veterans' Day Parade.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Chairman Sullivan read questions from Mr. Tom Benoit of 80 Ferncliffe Road. He asked about permitting to hold events on public land. He asked about the process at town hall to monitor what is turned back by the Attorney General and will a list be published.

Executive Assistant Christina Testa responded that there is a process in place that addresses disapprovals by the Attorney General. The Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen work with counsel to correct any wording turned back by the Atty. General. Those are then resubmitted at a subsequent town meeting. Since 2016, eight have been turned back and seven of those resubmitted. The one Mr. Benoit referred to has not been resubmitted. There is a Special Event Administrative Policy similar to that by-law. They are currently in the process of rewriting that by-law.

Mr. Benoit asked about the Comcast contract. He wanted to know if the public would be able to attend Cable Advisory Board meetings.

July 8, 2020

-7-

Mr. Andrade said meetings were pushed back because of COVID-19.

Mr. Viera suggested the Board of Selectmen should meet with the Cable Advisory Board.

Mr. Benoit inquired about Charter Amendments.

Chairman Sullivan said some of these items will be back in the fall.

Mr. Viera suggested the charter changes should be explained to residents.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED AT THE JULY 8, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Resume and application for Lori Trenteseaux for position of Clerk in the Assessor's office

Letter of Resignation from Arthur St. Hilaire as Special Police Officer

Documentation for installation of Pole 2019-50 at Aitken School

List of donors to Animal Shelter

Copy of check for \$500 donation to Human Services from Seekonk Youth Soccer