

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 28, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Sullivan 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, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, it is necessary to limit the number of attendees to physically access the Board of Selectmen meeting to ten. Preregistration is encouraged to reserve a seat. Public comments and questions may be submitted to the Board in advance by noon on the Monday prior to the meeting. The meeting will be broadcast live via Seekonk Cable TV9.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), any person recording the meeting must notify the Chairman.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Andrade announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Conservation Commission (1 BOS), Economic Development Committee (5 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historic Commission (3 BOS), Parks & Recreation (1 BOS), Recycling Committee (3 BOS, Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Certificate of Commendation in Recognition of Officer Brian D. DiCristoforo for Recognition of His Action on the Evening of Monday, October 19, 2020

Lt. McGill of the Fire Department read the letter he sent to Chief Rave based on actions he had witnessed regarding a road rage incident on 105 School Street. Police Officer Brian D. DiCristoforo assisted a man bleeding from his leg.

Chairman Sullivan extended appreciation to Officer McGill and the firefighters who were on the scene. He read and presented a Citation to Officer DiCristoforo.

October 28, 2020

-2-

Mr. Andrade said it shows the camaraderie between the two departments.

Consider the Community Host Agreement for Flying Goose for a Marijuana Manufacturing and Transportation Business to be located at 1853 Fall River Avenue

Chairman Sullivan said this is a follow up to the September 16 meeting. Mr. Peter Kasabian was in attendance. The Board had questions and asked for additional information.

Mr. Kasabian explained the responses were included in a letter he submitted.

Mr. Andrade asked if he had provided any documentation.

Mr. Kasabian said he had. He solicited proposals from engineering and architectural firms.

Mr. Andrade said he would like see more momentum behind this. There should be more definitive information for the Board. This has been going on for some time.

Mr. Kasabian said his attorney is logged onto the meeting.

Mr. Andrade said he would have to be through Zoom in order to participate.

Mr. Viera agreed with Mr. Andrade. It has been far too long. He is holding up other individuals who are waiting to obtain a license.

Mr. Kasabian said he had been communicating with Mrs. Testa to get the Community Host Agreement. It wasn't until the last meeting that he learned the Board needed additional information.

Mr. Andrade noted that Mr. Kasabian was told the documents that were required during the first meeting with the Board and reference was made to information submitted by previous applicants. Several months have gone by and they are no closer than when they started.

Mr. Viera asked if Mr. Kasabian had met with Police and Fire Chiefs.

Mr. Kasabian said not yet.

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

VOTED: To rescind any offer made to Flying Goose for a Community Host Agreement.

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

October 28, 2020

-3-

In further discussion prior to the final vote, Mr. Kasabian respectfully requested the Board reconsider and grant him another thirty days to get the information.

He said he spoke to Mrs. Testa several time about the status of the Community Host Agreement.

Mr. Andrade pointed out there is no Community Host Agreement until all documentation is provided.

Mr. Petronio asked about a contract and timeframe with the design engineer.

Mr. Kasabian replied the work can be completed in four to six weeks. They have backlogs right now. He is confident the design team can deliver the work in a timely manner.

Mr. Petronio noted the major sticking point is that Mr. Kasabian was supposed to provide a design plan to the Board in order to make a decision.

Mr. Kasabian said he provided a conceptual drawing of the facility at the second meeting with the Board. He felt that was all that was required at that time. He felt he could wait until plans are more developed to reach out to Police, Fire, and Building Departments.

Mr. Viera said these requests were made at the first meeting. He noted some of that property is not tied into town water and has well water.

He took exception to Mr. Kasabian's comments about Mrs. Testa. He has a real problem with that. She is a very efficient person. All he sees is excuses coming from Mr. Kasabian.

Mr. Kasabian said he is not trying to throw Mrs. Testa under the bus. She has been very responsive.

Chairman Sullivan said Mr. Kasabian was put on the agenda as soon as he requested. It has been six months and the Board does not have a thorough plan. He agreed with Mr. Andrade and Mr. Viera. This is a busy time and agendas will be full. It might be difficult to get Mr. Kasabian on an agenda before December.

Discussion of Snow Removal Update from the Department of Public Works

DPW Supt. David Cabral and Asst. Supt. Scott Olobri were in attendance.

Mr. Cabral advised they have 300-400 tons of salt and a full tank of magnesium chloride. They have restocked plow blades. New sander and backhoe were delivered. They have five front line sanders this year. The goal is to have a backhoe assigned to public safety. That would handle public safety, town hall and animal shelter. Sanders were sent out for body work in the summer and fall. DPW should take delivery of a new vehicle some time in November.

There are two more employees that last year for a total of 15. Another is pending employment by December. The goal is 17 employees.

Mr. Cabral and Mr. Olobri have modified the routes. There are 13 outside contractors. All are coming back except for the ten-wheeler. They are advertising. He would like to have 20 contractors. An individual has applied to be a driver.

Mr. Andrade talked about incidents of mailboxes being knocked down by plows. He asked if vendors are taken to show the routes.

Mr. Cabral said most of the vendors are repeats. New vendors are given a map and they go and look at routes on their own.

Mr. Andrade questioned what could be done so that mailboxes are not taken down. He felt there must be a way to clear the snow without taking down a mailbox. They have got to find a way to mitigate.

Mr. Cabral said wet heavy snow will take down mailboxes. It's not done intentionally. If a plow hits the mailbox, it is reimbursed.

Mr. Zorra agreed. It is not done mischievously. He asked if the School Department will help.

Mr. Olobri said he can't speak for the School Department.

Mr. Petronio noted DPW employees are very responsible.

Mr. Cabral mentioned they expect to purchase a new tractor after Fall Town Meeting.

Consider the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services between the Town of Seekonk and Huntress Sports for Bidding and Construction for Field Turf and Renovations at the Seekonk Connolly Field and Mooney Track as submitted by the Turf Committee

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

VOTED: To approve the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services between the Town of Seekonk and Huntress Sports for field turf and renovations at the Seekonk Connolly Field and Mooney Track as submitted by the Turf Committee.

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

Discussion of all Building Committees to be under Purview of Board of Selectmen and Development of Project Planning Criteria

Mr. Andrade said he requested this agenda item. He noted there is no criteria or policy in place for building committees. Not all building committees are under the Board of Selectmen. He felt the only way to set up criteria and a plan of action is for all building committees to be under the purview of the Board of Selectmen. That applies to any building committee using town funds for any project. The Board of Selectmen can develop criteria for every committee and exactly what the Board is looking for.

Mr. Viera felt there is a policy that any building committee will follow a certain recommendation or policy.

Mr. Cadime explained that is correct. However, town meeting would specifically override that. The Board of Selectmen could, in a warrant article, include under the purview of the Board of Selectmen. Another option would be to create a by-law that the building committee would be under the purview of the Board of Selectmen and outline in the by-law what the policy and criteria would be.

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

VOTED: To develop a policy and by-law for any building committee organized for any project in town.

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

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

VOTED: That building committees develop a schedule to bring to the Board of Selectmen.

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

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of September 23, 2020

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

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of September 23, 2020.

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Nelson Almeida commended Board members for the action taken regarding the request from Flying Goose for a Community Host Agreement. He agreed that for the past six months it has been a disaster. The two recreational facilities that previously came before the Board had detailed plans. He is sure there are other companies willing to do the work in order to come into town.

With regard to snow removal, Mr. Almeida felt Mr. Andrade had a good point about mailboxes. He noted there are mailboxes that are on spring loaded post.

Mr. Almeida advised the Finance Committee supported almost all the articles at the Zoom meeting held the previous night. There was a concern about the purchase of property. He cautioned about being a landlord. He felt it would be a good idea to lease land for solar panels at the future site of the new DPW facility.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board

Chairman Sullivan advised the Board will meet on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 6 p.m. to discuss budget.

Mr. Andrade suggested

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised they are working on the grass and putting metal plates on siding. Putting sheetrock up on the inside. They are working as fast as they can to complete the project.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – None

Veterans' Council – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joint Executive Session with Board of Assessors

At 8:08 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Petronio, to go into a Joint Executive Session with the Board of Assessors to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations

October 28, 2020

-7-

with the United Steelworkers Supervisors Unit Local 9517-09 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the October 28, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Letter from Flying Goose re: Marijuana Manufacturing and Transportation Business

Contract for Engineering Services with Huntress Sports – Connolly Field and Mooney Track