

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of August 18, 2021
Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street
BOS Meeting Room**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Adam Petronio, David Andrade, Michael Healy
Members Absent: Chris Zorra

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Asst. Town Administrator/ Director of Human Resources: Carol-Ann Days

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at **6:00 p.m.** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Board and Committee Openings

M. Healy read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

Community Speaks

Gary Sagar, 100 St. Laurent Parkway, continued his discussion from the last meeting regarding his reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He asked for an apology from the Board of Selectmen Chairperson. He feels the Chairperson violated open meeting law and would file a complaint with the AG's office.

Chairperson Sullivan stated he would not apologize since he did not violate the open meeting law by reaching out to individuals on the BOS.

Doreen Taylor, 175 Bradley Street, asked if Mr. Sagar was provided 1) written notice; and 2) right to a public hearing under the Town Charter, Article 8, Section 9 (Power to Rescind Appointments). She also referred to Town By-law 2A.6 stating reappointments are effective July 1st of each year.

Chair Sullivan stated concerns were brought to his attention regarding two individuals up for reappointment. The Board of Selectmen have a right to address concerns brought forward from residents and businesses. The Town Administrator met with both board members and Mr. Sagar was advised he would be reappointed.

D. Andrade stated Mr. Sagar's appointment was not rescinded.

Bill Clark, Chairperson for the Cultural Council, was present to invite the Board and Public to a free and public event being offered by the Cultural Council. The event will take place on September 18th from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. It is about the arts, culture, and history of Seekonk for all age groups. They will offer performances, puppet show, kindness rocks, nature walks, food vendors, and an art gallery from the Seekonk Artist Network.

A. Consider the resignation and recognition of Richard Wallace on 28 years of service on the Conservation Commission

Mr. Richard Wallace was presented with a key to the Town of Seekonk for his 28 years commitment and service to the Town of Seekonk.

B. Consider the notification of retirement from Elizabeth Lamothe as Secretary for the Department of Public Works and consider posting the position

The Town Administrator stated Elizabeth Lamothe has been a phenomenal asset to the Department of Public Works and it is with regret we accept her resignation.

D. Cabral acknowledged Ms. Lamothe's dedication to the department and town and said she would be greatly missed.

M. Healy made a motion to accept the resignation from Ms. Lamothe and post the position of Secretary in the Department of Public Works Department; A. Petronio seconded, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

Item C was postponed.

D. Consider the request for a Place of Public Amusement License for Fear Town Productions, LLC to operate a Haunted House at the Seekonk Speedway located at 1710 Fall River Avenue

The applicant, Michael Quill from Fear Town Productions, LLC was present to request a public amusement license to be located at the Seekonk Speedway from September 24th-November 13th.

M. Healy made a motion to accept the request for a Place of Public Amusement License for Fear Town Productions, LLC to operate a Haunted House at the Seekonk Speedway located at 1710 Fall River Avenue; A. Petronio seconded, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

E. Consider the request for a one-day special event license for Seekonk Knights of Columbus to hold a flea market and craft fair at 532 Arcade Avenue

A. Petronio made a motion to accept for a one-day special event license for Seekonk Knights of Columbus to hold a flea market and craft fair at 532 Arcade Avenue on October 16, 2021, with a rain date of October 17, 2021; it was seconded by M. Healy, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

F. Consider the appointment of a member of the Board of Selectmen to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board

D. Andrade made a motion to appoint Justin Sullivan to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board (MBTA); it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

G. Consider opening the Warrant for Annual Fall Town Meeting

S. Cadime asked the Board to open the Fall Town Meeting Warrant on August 18, 2021 and close it on September 24, 2021. The Town Meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021. The Warrant be posted by October 25, 2021.

D. Andrade made a motion to open the Fall Town Meeting Warrant on August 18; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

H. Consider the search for a new Fire Chief

S. Cadime asked the Board how to move forward with hiring a new fire chief. In the meantime, he recommended Captain Lowery to act as interim Fire Chief subject to the appointment of the full-time fire chief.

D. Andrade made a motion to appoint Captain Lowery as the interim Fire Chief; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

Chair Sullivan asked the Board if they wanted to conduct internal interviews or to an outsource placement center.

D. Andrade said he'd prefer outsourcing the initial interviews based on the amount of time it takes to conduct interviews.

M. Healy said he supported holding internal interviews. He is not convinced going outside is the best thing and feels building within the organization is most likely the best route to go. Benefits of hiring someone from within includes a Chief that understood existing problems, shortfalls, good thing and bad things. Mr. Healy suggested posting internally for two weeks before going outside the organization and have Mr. Cadime, Ms. Days and a BOS member sit on the interview panel.

D. Andrade agreed hiring from within, but outsourcing the interview process. He made a motion to go with an outside agency for the search.

It was not seconded.

A. Petronio agrees to develop from within even if the right candidate might not be *right* right now, but maybe could be with a little development. Unless there was a command problem within the organization, then hiring from the outside may be right. Mr. Petronio volunteered to be on the interview panel.

A. Petronio motion the motion to post the Seekonk Fire Chief position internally with the interview panel of Mr. Cadime, Ms. Days, and Mr. Petronio, and if an internal candidate was not selected they would seek outside candidates; it was seconded by M. Healy, and it was Voted: 3-1 (D. Andrade opposed).

I. Discussion of the Town Charter amendments

A. Petronio suggested the following language amendments 1) page 6, section 4, restate “by” By-law with “through” By-law; 2) page 15, article 6 section 2, change word the word boots to “books”; 3) page 19, section 4, budget proposal, shall “be” indicated.

The Board discussed term limits for elected and appointed positions.

Chair Sullivan suggested 6-9 consecutive years be a term limit.

D. Andrade said he feels residents will come forward to run against an incumbent if they were interested in running. He does not want to have empty seats if no one runs.

M. Healy agrees with term limits for consecutive years. He also asked the Town Administrative if amendments could be made to the amended charter at this time since it has taken years to get to this point.

S. Cadime stated it would have to be amended before the warrant is published.

It was asked to hold off any further discussion until the full board is present.

It was agreed the board will further discuss term limits with full board.

M. Healy made a motion to accept the Charter amendments as discussed; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

J. Consider accepting the minutes of August 4, 2021

M. Healy made a motion to accept the minutes of August 4, 2021, A. Petronio seconded, and unanimously approved.

VOTED: 4-0 all in favor

Community Speaks: N/A

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss other topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours before the meeting
-N/A

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

-N/A

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Bristol County Advisory Board (Michael Healy) -Meeting scheduled for August 12th at Bristol Agricultural High School.
- Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (Justin Sullivan) – reminder Open house august 28th 12-2 pm
- 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report (Shawn Cadime) IFB packet was submitted to the Chairperson to review. The board will be meeting Monday to review.
- Veteran Committee (Adam Petronio) – the Veterans Committee will be meeting at the end of the month.

Adjournment

A. Petronio made a motion to adjourn the open meeting at 8:00 p.m. to go into executive session; it was seconded by M. Healy, and unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the August 18, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Resignation from Elizabeth Lamothe
- Application and supporting documents for the Place for Public Amusement License for Fear Town Productions, LLC
- Application and supporting documents for a One-Day Special Event License for Seekonk Knights of Columbus
- Appointment of Board Member to the MBTA Advisory Board
- Charter Amendments
- Minutes date August 4, 2021