

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MAY 15, 2019**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera,  
Chris Zorra, Justin Sullivan

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), anyone who wanted to record the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE**

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Cultural Council (2 BOS), Economic Development Committee (2 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 4 BOS), Taxation Aid Fund Committee (1 BOS).

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Ms. Michelle Hines had items for discussion but will wait until after the appointments.

**PRIORITY ITEMS**

**Consider the Appointment and Swearing In of Russell Pray as a Probationary Third-Class Firefighter**

Acting Chief Allan Grocott requested the appointment of Russell Pray. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Acting Chief Grocott.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Russell Pray as a probationary third class firefighter/paramedic with the Seekonk Fire Department, effective May 21, 2019.

Firefighter Pray was sworn in by Town Clerk Florice Craig. His mother, Barbara, pinned his badge.

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**Consider the Appointment and Swearing In of Douglas Leon as a Probationary Third-Class Firefighter**

Acting Chief Grocott requested the appointment of Douglas Leon. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Acting Chief Grocott.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Douglas Leon as a probationary third class firefighter/paramedic with the Seekonk Fire Department, effective May 18, 2019.

Firefighter Leon was sworn in by Town Clerk Florice Craig. His son pinned his badge.

**Consider the Appointment of Jonathan Hurst to the Position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Department of Public Works**

DPW Superintendent David Cabral and Assistant Scott Olobri were in attendance.

Mr. Cabral advised a conditional offer of employment was granted on March 6, 2019. Mr. Hurst served in Afghanistan and is a member of the Rhode Island National Guard. He is a Seekonk resident. He currently works for Seekonk Tree Service.

Mr. Cabral favorably recommended the appointment of Jonathan Hurst. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Mr. Cabral.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Johnathan Hurst as truck driver/laborer with the Department of Public Works, effective May 28, 2019.

Mr. Zorra said it looks like they have a good tree guy on board.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Sullivan asked why Mr. Hurst left his employment at Greystone of Lincoln.

Mr. Hurst said he had an employee who didn't report to work so he staffed his machine. He was removed for not notifying anyone that the employee was not at work.

Mr. Cadime said in the background check confirmed that.

Mr. Sullivan said he has had two jobs in 19 months. He is looking for a commitment that Mr. Hurst will stay in Seekonk.

Mr. Hurst said he is looking for a more secure environment.

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Mr. Almeida had reached out to Mr. Cadime about his concerns and he is satisfied.

Mr. Viera felt he would stay on the job since he has roots in this town.

### **Consider the Appointment of Daniel Horton to the Historical Commission**

Mr. Cadime said he interviewed Mr. Horton. He joked that it would be difficult to deny the appointment since the girls in the office referred to him as “Mr. Seekonk.” Mr. Horton previously served on the Historical Commission. He has a lot of knowledge.

Mr. Horton was in attendance.

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Daniel Horton to the Historical Commission.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Ms. Michelle Hines, Chairwoman of the 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee, asked for direction from the Board. The committee has a meeting the following night. On November 19, 2019, town residents voted to form a committee. The Town Administrator and the Moderator appointed the nine members. They meet about every three weeks. The Town Administrator and DPW Superintendent attend the meetings. Mr. Cadime and she met with Brewster Thornton Group, the architects that worked on the first phase of the building. Brewster Thornton came back with sketches.

Ms. Hines clarified that the sign says senior center. The left side is the center. There are two floors on the right that haven't been completed (6,000 sq. ft.). Some areas won't be used at all. Issues with the septic system and parking have come up. Mr. Cabral has been very helpful. They talked to the Fire Chief about fire safety concerns. They talked about multi-purpose rooms. The committee decided to have the entrance through the conference room in the senior center and develop the two levels into several offices. The building has to be made handicapped accessible – either lift or elevator.

One room would have a pool table that was donated to the center. The Parks and Recreation Director will have an office there. There will be two storage rooms of considerable size for the senior center and the recreation program.

They looked at how many restrooms they need. They decided to send letters to abutters re: parking for 540 Arcade Avenue. The Knights of Columbus allows parking next door. Ms. Hines had information about two acres alongside the YMCA. She called the landowner. The YMCA purchased it.

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Mr. Cadime said representatives from the YMCA will be at the building committee meeting. Someone from the School Department will have a presentation.

Chairman Andrade said that Mr. Cadime and he met with the Superintendent of Schools and Chair of the School Committee. The School Department has a lot of projects going on. They have a master plan for long term projects.

Mr. Cadime said there was talk about a day school for ages 18-22. There would be a cost involved to segregate the two areas.

Mr. Viera, a member of the 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee, said the task was to remodel that end of the building. School Committee member Noah Escaler, also a member of the building committee, spoke to the Superintendent of Schools. It wasn't high on the priority list. He said the center needs more space. The day school and senior center is not a good match. in light of the experiences at Pleasant Street.

Chairman Andrade said it is a completely different environment. If space is needed, it would take priority over the pool table.

Ms. Hines said she heard the best place for those older students would be at the high school. She said they need to decide about a lift or elevator, septic system and parking.

Mr. Cadime said Brewster Thornton will prepare a plan. .

Mr. Almeida suggested they need to keep the three bathrooms.

Ms. Hines felt there should be a family bathroom.

### **PRIORITY MATTERS**

#### **Consider the Request from the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity to use Taunton Avenue for a Procession**

Mrs. Rosemary Goncalves, Secretary, was in attendance.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the request from the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity to use Taunton Avenue on Sunday, August 18, 2019, for the annual procession beginning at 12 noon for approximately one hour +.

**Consider Signing the Bond Anticipation Note for the Animal Shelter, Aitken School Windows Project and Aitken School Addition**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the Bond Anticipation Note for the Animal Shelter, Aitken School Windows Project and Aitken School Addition in the amount of \$2,820,900 at the rate of 2.125 percent.

**Consider the Request for a Curb Cut Permit to Provide Public Water Services to 340 and 346 Lincoln Street while under a Moratorium**

Atty. Eric Brainsky and Mr. Michael Costa of Costa Development were in attendance. .Atty. Brainsky explained the petition failed on two previous occasions. There are two lots that can be provided with public water without disturbing the road. The water line is on the opposite side of the development. There would be no impact by directional drilling underneath the road.

Chairman Andrade asked about tunneling under the road and put in the 8" line to feed the subdivision.

Mr. Cabral said it might be possible.

Mr. Costa said Mr. Bernardo of the Water Department was not in favor of that. Mr. Costa would rather have the entire subdivision not just the two houses.

Mr. Viera questioned where the emergency is.

Atty. Brainsky said they are not asking to lift the moratorium. The road will not be impacted on the southerly side, but not sure about the northerly side.

Mr. Cabral stands by the moratorium. He said there is always a chance the road will be disturbed. If that's the case, he strongly recommended the road be restored to its original condition.

Chairman Andrade noted that he had previously recommended the contractor do all the work ahead of time and come before the Board. That would put him within six months of when the moratorium is lifted.

Atty. Brainsky suggested the Board do that now.

Chairman Andrade said it is not an agenda item. He would be in favor of the 46 to 48 with no disturbance to the pavement.

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Atty. Brainsky said it makes more sense to bring a water line to supply the entire development. He suggested the Board table the request for two weeks.

Mr. Zorra wanted to make sure neighbors are notified.

Mr. Almeida said he would support the request as submitted. He noted other areas where the moratorium was lifted.

Mr. Sullivan favored the one cut to service the entire development.

A motion by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to table for two weeks was withdrawn.

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

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 2 Nay; To approve the request for a curb cut permit to provide public water service to 340 and 346 Lincoln Avenue

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

Chairman Andrade mentioned they should consider a bond mechanism for future repairs at a prevailing wage rate and the date the cut will be made and the date for expiration of the moratorium.

### **LICENSE HEARINGS**

**Consider the Request for a Change of Manager of an Annual On-Premise All Alcohol Beverage Liquor License for RARE Hospitality Int. Inc. d/b/a LongHorn Steakhouse #5518, 80 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA, Anderson Colombo to be Manager (tabled from May 1, 2019)**

Mr. Steven Scott, Director of Operations, apologized for the misses. There was no disrespect. It was an unacceptable lack of communication.

Mr. Cadime said it is a typical change of manager which requires local approval and is forwarded to the ABCC.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the change of manager request for RARE Hospitality Int. Inc. d/b/a LongHorn Steakhouse #5518, 80 Highland Avenue, Seekonk, MA Anderson Colombo, Manager.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Allowing the Acceptance of the Active Shooter Hostile Event Response Mass Casualty Incident (ASHER MCI) Memorandum of Understanding and the Purchase of Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Personal Protective Equipment**

Deputy Fire Chief Allan Grocott explained this agreement started with Ret. Chief Michael Healy.

Police Sgt. Thomas Hedrick said the Police Department has been training for active shooters for some time. He explained the Memorandum of Understanding. It gives a brief guideline of how an active shooter looks like on paper. It changes whenever there is an active shooting.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Active Shooter Hostile Event Response Mass Casualty Incident (ASHER MCI) Memorandum of Understand.

Mr. Zorra asked if there is a cost involved.

Sgt. Hedrick said the Police Department has equipment.

Deputy Chief Grocott said the Fire Department does not.

Rehoboth Firefighter Brian Charest demonstrated the equipment. The cost is \$1,000 each. The bags last ten years.

Deputy Chief Grocott said Mr. Cadime authorized the purchase of four right now and four more after the first of the year.

Mr. Cadime suggested a warrant article for fall town meeting to purchase all of them.

Mr. Zorra felt they should purchase 12 bags.

**Consider the Acceptance of an Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Seekonk and the City of East Providence**

Deputy Chief Allan Grocott said, during the interview for the deputy chief position, he was asked if there is a shortfall in the Seekonk Police Department. He said having a training facility. The East Providence chief offered their facility if the deputy chief got the position. He took him up on that offer. Once signed by the Board of Selectmen, it will be signed by the East Providence City Council. This agreement was drafted by both legal counsels.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Seekonk and the City of East Providence.

The only cost involved would be the use of the burn building, only if it is a live burn. It would pay East Providence firefighters to train Seekonk firefighters. .

Mr. Sullivan thanked the deputy chief for securing this.

### **Discussion with the Energy Committee Regarding Potential Town Solar Projects**

Energy Committee Chairman Charles Beauchamp said the committee has been looking into solar projects in town. The state has a new smart program that the town qualifies for. There is a 30% tax credit from the federal government but the town can't take advantage of that.

The best way to put in solar projects would be to enter into a lease agreement with an energy development company. There are numerous companies. They will do a turnkey project. They looked at carports at the town, schools and public safety parking lots and panels at the old landfill behind the American Legion and rooftop panels on the schools.

He got an estimate from one of the companies. A field of panels at the landfill would be \$20,000 in lease payments. It would be a 20-year lease agreement with two five year extensions. It could possibly be \$1M for the town over 30 years. There would be a fixed percentage annual increase in the amount of the lease payments.

The Aitken School is not listed because they didn't have the location. The combined schools amount would be equivalent to the landfill.

The Energy Committee will go before the School Committee at the end of June.

There are no upfront costs. It would take some time to put out the RFP and review that. Some town labor would be required. The company gets the state incentive and federal tax credits.

Mr. Cadime advised the State has created a Mass. General Law similar to 30B, so there are energy service companies. They will put in all equipment and look at a payback period. They look at multiple projects. A specific amount of savings is guaranteed to the town. They would not do rooftops unless it is a new roof. The high school and middle school roofs won't work.

Mr. Zorra mentioned that Aitken has a new roof and is under remodeling. Maybe, it should be considered.

Mr. Beauchamp will check with the School Committee.

Mr. Zorra likes the idea of carports.



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Mr. Beauchamp said incentives are down for carports.

He will put Mr. Cadime in touch with the representative he has been dealing with.

Chairman Andrade thanked Mr. Beauchamp for all his work.

### **Consider Adopting a Bylaw Limiting the Number of Marijuana Establishments**

Mr. Cadime advised that KP Law drafted the proposed amendment.

Category 47 – Section 2 – The number of Adult Marijuana Retailers shall be limited to 20% of the number of year-round licenses issued with the Town for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not be drunk on the premises where sold.

Category 47 – Section 3 - Number of establishments permitted.

- Marijuana Cultivator 1
- Marijuana Product Manufacturer 1
- Independent Testing Laboratory 1
- Marijuana Research Facility 1
- Marijuana Transporter

Mr. Almeida has concerns about the use of electricity and water

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

**VOTED:** To table the adoption of a Bylaw limiting the number of Marijuana Establishments.

Mr. Cadime is waiting for KP Law to send the Host Agreement. The presentations should be done at a special meeting.

### **Discussion of Spring Town Meeting**

Mr. Almeida was pleased to see serious questions on the budget. There were 11 or 12 questions.

With respect to articles at the end of the warrant, Mr. Almeida said some people leave early and the article comes up for reconsideration at the end of the meeting. The meeting ended after midnight because a majority of the people wanted to stay.

Mr. Zorra responded to social media comments that the Board wanted people to stay and get tired.

Mt. Cadime said town meeting are twice a year. It all depends on the type of questions and also the people in attendance. It is difficult to determine how long a meeting will last.

Mr. Viera said he saw a lot of new faces. A lot of questions asked were answered in Mr. Cadime's presentation. It wouldn't take so long if people would listen or read the documents. He commended Mr. Cadime on the presentation.

Mr. Sullivan also commended Mr. Cadime. He said it is great that people make an effort to attend and keep their voice heard.

Chairman Andrade agreed with the comments. Over 200 people were in attendance.

Mr. Tom Benoit asked if the presentation was on website prior to the budget

Mr. Cadime said yes but the numbers were updated.

### **Discussion Regarding Updates from Various Town Boards and Committees**

Mr. Sullivan noted the Economic Development Committee currently does not have enough members for a quorum. There are three members on that committee. He talked to Town Planner John Aubin about what this group is charged with. Mr. Aubin said waiting on SRPEDD to determine what next steps are. Mr. Sullivan would like to hear from them in terms of what they feel a current list is for the town.

Seekonk Meadows Management Committee – Mr. Viera concerned that committee is in direct conflict with the Board of Library Trustees and the MOA. He asked what they do.

Mr. Cadime said that committee is appointed by the Board of Library Trustees. He will find out.

Chairman Andrade felt that certain committees should report to the Board on a regular basis.

Mr. Zorra talked about Tri-County. They are in the development stage. The Board needs to find out about finances.

The Capital Improvement Committee comes before the Board once a year. Mr. Sullivan felt twice a year.

Finance Committee – Mr. Sullivan said the committee meets with department heads once. The budget process has worked out without a lot of input from the Finance Committee.

Community Preservation Committee – The board should have formal meeting with the CPC at least twice a year. Mr. Viera felt they should come before the Board when a decision is made to purchase property.

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Mr. Cadime said that is going to change. The Board of Selectmen should make decisions in executive session.

Planning Board should keep the Board of Selectmen informed.

Chairman Andrade said any Board and Commission planning a project needs to come before the Board.

Mr. Viera said he got a phone call that the Planning Board wants to charge \$2 per car for class II motor vehicles. Letters went out.

Mr. Cadime said they do not have authority to institute fees. He will find out.

### **Sign Warrant for Special Election of June 10, 2019**

No vote needed.

### **Consider Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2019**

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; to accept Regular Session minutes of April 17, 2019.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mr. Tom Benoit felt that school fields should be under the Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Andrade said there was some discussion at a recent quad-board meeting.

Mr. Benoit talked about Howland Street field.

Mr. Almeida said there is a stipulation that it can only be used for recreational purposes.

Mr. Benoit suggested removing the restriction from the Pleasant Street School for town

Mr. Cadime said he will check to see if the School Committee voted to turn that property over to the town.

Mr. Benoit asked about the bond voted on earlier.

Mr. Cadime said it is a short term loan.

Mr. Benoit asked when money went into the stabilization fund.

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Mr. Cadime said last year.

Mr. Benoit asked about the contract with Comcast.

Mr. Cadime said the contract expires in 2020. The committee is supposed to meet on May 30.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – None.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Cadime provided an update on the animal shelter. Framing is scheduled for Monday.

He attended a meeting on health insurance. There is discussion about offering multiple plans.

Mr. Cadime advised Atty. Klein will send out a notice that the tribe has 60 days to turn over the property. They are responsible for any costs incurred for upkeep of the property and fees incurred. As of May 8, the attorney responded that the treasurer was ill and they are trying to get a signature. Atty. Klein offered to come down at no charge to make sure the agreement is signed. She will proceed with the court process after June 6.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Bristol County Advisory Board** – None.

**Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report** – None.

**540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report** – None.

### **Veteran's Council**

Mr. Viera reported the Memorial Day Parade is on Saturday, May 25, 2019, starting at the high school at 10 a.m. A female veterans is the parade marshal. She is very excited about it.

He got a call from a north end resident who is donating space for a cell tower. He wants to make sure he is covered by insurance.

Mr. Cadime will check. KP Law drafted the agreement.

Mr. Zorra announced the Martin School Spring Flint is on Saturday, June 1. Seekonk High School graduation is on Friday, May 31.

He complained about the fields at Cole Street.

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Chairman Andrade said that is part of conversations between Mr. Cadime, School Department, and Mr. Pozzi re: long term planning.

Mr. Sullivan said someone talked to him about an independent committee to raise donations to improve fields.

Chairman Andrade said that is a legal issue. It might have to come before the Board.

Mr. Almeida said he will be away and cannot attend the Memorial Day Parade.

Years ago he brought up a request from residents who wanted to have chickens. He didn't have the support of the Board at that time. He got another request today about chickens. He said he would bring it to the Board.

Mr. Almeida said the care and custody of fields in Rehoboth is under parents, coaches, and players to raise money. It is working over there.

Chairman Andrade said he also received the call about the chickens.

He received an e-mail from a Jacob street residents regarding a water situation.

Mr. Cadime will follow up with the resident.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 11 p.m. Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Parks and Recreation Director and the Superintendent of Public Works per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) as having 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. Viera – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by:

David Viera, Clerk

Patricia Gamer

## Items Distributed at the May 15, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Deputy Chief Allan P. Grocott – Appointment and swearing in of Russell Pray and Douglas Leon as Probationary Third Class Firefighters

Application and Resume for Jonathan Hurst for the position of truck driver/laborer

Talent Bank form – Daniel Horton to Historical Commission

Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity – Request to use Taunton Avenue on August 18, 2019

Atty. Brainsky – Request to provide public water service to 340 and 346 Lincoln Street while under a moratorium

Change of Manager for LongHorn Steakhouse

Deputy Chief Allan Grocott - re: ASHER Personal Protective Equipment

Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Seekonk and the City of East Providence

Proposed By-Law Amendment

Updates on various town boards and committees