

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 10, 2019
REGULAR MEETING

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

Absent: David Andrade

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Vice-Chairman Almeida opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence in honor of all veterans who have passed and the military men and women who are serving our country.

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

Vice-Chairman Almeida announced that volunteers are needed on the Cultural Council (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (2 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 4 BOS), Taxation Aid Fund Committee (1 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (1 BOS and 2 alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Peter Hoogerzeil spoke about something he felt is very important to the democratic process in the Town's government. He said that Seekonk Cable Access Corporation does not allow subscribers to vote in their annual election. The seven member board votes for its members. Five of the seven members voted him off in January. He felt the only remedy is for the Board of Selectmen to take legal action and dissolve the contract with the Cable Access Corporation. He suggested that, during the negotiation process, the Board of Selectmen demand that the Seekonk Cable Access Corporation change its bylaws to reinstate annual elections where subscribers/members vote for the Board of Directors. That Board needs to be accountable to all subscribers.

He noted that the Cable Access Corporation receives 5% of the cable bill in revenue, over \$300,000 a year with millions of dollars in assets. It should be accountable to the public.

Mr. Cadime said they could meet with that group but there is no recourse.

Mr. Viera said it is a lot of money to be controlled by seven individuals.

Mr. Cadime clarified the money has to be spent on cable related products. The Department of Revenue has specific regulations.

July 10, 2019

-2-

He noted the money does not come from profits. It is a request we put in for specific projects and they identify the number of customers and divide the money amongst all those subscribers. It is like an additional tax. More than one group can receive money.

Mr. Sullivan suggested TV9 staff is included in discussions to find out what type of projects they are doing, etc.

Mr. Hoogerzeil assured this has nothing to do with the performance of TV9 staff. They are second to none.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Michael P. Healy as Interim Fire Chief

Mr. Cadime noted they are currently going through interviews for fire chief. The first round should be done by next week. There will be a second or possibly a third round. There are a lot of changes with the transition of Carol Ann Days from Administrative Secretary to Communications and the Administrative Assistant transferred from the Police Department to the Fire Department.

He convinced Chief Healy to come back for approximately four months. He is a great asset to provide assistance to the Deputy Chief and also the Administrative Assistant. He would also be available to ease the transition of the new fire chief.

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

VOTED: To appoint Michael P. Healy as Interim Fire Chief.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida asked about salary.

Mr. Cadime said the salary the Chief was at when he retired.

He said there are no internal candidates for the position.

Mr. Almeida noted the last time a chief came in from outside there was turmoil at the Fire Department.

Chief Healy said he was truly honored to be asked to come back and help out the Town, Board of Selectmen, and men and women of the Fire Department.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Albert Gonzalez for the Position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Department of Public Works

DPW Supt. David Cabral recommended the conditional offer of employment. Mr. Cadime concurred. He noted that Mr. Gonzalez has experience in construction which is valuable and would save the town money.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Albert Gonzalez for the position of truck driver/laborer with the Department of Public Works.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera questioned that the phone number had been erased and the name of a reference was incomplete.

Mr. Cadime offered to provide that information.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Mark Carr for the Position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Department of Public Works

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone the conditional offer of employment for Mark Carr.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Eric Shoemaker for the Position of Recruit Officer

Deputy Chief David Enos noted there are three vacancies in the Police Department. They have been interviewing from the exam list and the lateral transfer list. Mr. Shoemaker is off the exam list. He would be looking for a conditional offer of employment in order to do the background check. He hopes to get Mr. Shoemaker into the academy in August.

Mr. Cadime concurred.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Eric Shoemaker as Recruit Officer.

Mr. Zorra asked if the background check would be completed in time to get him into the academy in August.

Deputy Chief Enos anticipated it would be.

July 10, 2019

-4-

Consider Accepting an Anonymous Donation in the Amount of \$200 for the Animal Shelter

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

VOTED: To accept the anonymous donation of \$200 for the animal shelter.

Vice-Chairman Almeida thanked the donor.

Consider Discontinuing the use of the Accuvote Tabulators and Replace with the use of ImageCast Precinct Tabulators for all Town, State and Federal Elections

Town Clerk Florice Craig explained that M.G.L. requires the Board to vote to replace the machines. The Town will get \$2,000 for the old machines. Those machines are 11 years old and not always functioning properly. The new machines should be in by August or September. She is getting five machines. One will be dedicated to early voting.

Mr. Cadime noted it was a warrant article for funding to purchase the machines. The total cost is \$28,500 minus the \$2,000. Warranty fee is \$1,000.

Ms. Craig said the company will train and be here for the first time.

Mr. Zorra asked if the results can be transmitted to the Mass. Election Board.

Ms. Craig said she has to do it using the machine in her office.

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

VOTED: As required by M.G.L. Chapter 54, Section 34, the Town of Seekonk start using for all Town, State and Federal Elections the ImageCast Precinct Tabulators and discontinue the use of the Accuvote Tabulators.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approving the Regular Session Minutes of June 26, 2019

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of June 26, 2019.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

As previously mentioned, Mr. Cadime said there will be discussion about a second round of interview for fire chief within a couple of weeks..

The 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee met last night. They saw a cost proposal from Brewster Thornton with regard to one of the options. The next meeting is on Tuesday, July 30. There will be a presentation at the August 7, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board

Mr. Sullivan requested the Executive Assistant find out the date of the next meeting.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra said the committee will meet tomorrow. There is a small set back due to Conservation.

He asked for an update on the animal shelter building.

Mr. Cadime said a meeting was held last week. There will be another meeting in two weeks. The contractor who attends the meetings is on vacation. Brewster Thornton Group and O'Day Engineering have done a random walk through. The project is on schedule.

Mr. Zorra asked if it is unlimited minutes in the Code Red renewal.

Mr. Cadime said the same

Mr. Zorra inquired about firefighter promotions.

Mr. Cadime advised he is working with the union about contract language.

Mr. Zorra asked about the police chief.

Mr. Cadime said that will be on the next agenda. He will be looking for participation from Board members to serve on an interview committee.

July 10, 2019

-6-

Mr. Cadime noted that interviews are time consuming. He suggested three per day. He would like to be done with fire chief interviews.

Veteran's Council

Mr. Viera volunteered to sit on the committee for the police chief.

He said the Veterans Council has discussed bringing the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall to Seekonk sometime in 2021. They will try to do fundraising. They thought about putting it in front of the Hurley Middle School, but not sure about that because of the septic system. Would like to plan a three-day activity.

Mr. Viera said there is a monument at the Aitken School that needs to be moved to another location. Ann Hardy, the individual's sister, will be involved in the decision of where to place it.

The next meeting of the Veteran's Council is the second Tuesday in September to plan Veterans' Day activities. There has been talk about putting the dates of the conflicts at the Memorial Park.

Mr. Cadime said, while traveling to Sterling, MA, he saw a beautiful and great tribute to veterans – 152 banners with their names on each one. That is a phenomenal idea.

Mr. Viera said they talked about putting them up for Memorial Day and taking them down on Veterans Day.

Vice-Chairman Almeida felt it is unfortunate there are no internal candidates for fire chief. He will withhold comments on the police chief until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by:

David Viera, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the July 10, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Statement from Peter Hoogerzeil re: Seekonk Cable Access Corporation

Application and documents for Albert Gonzalez, candidate for truck driver/laborer position at DPW

Application for Mark Carr, candidate for truck driver/laborer position at DPW

Deputy Chief David Enos re: conditional offer of employment for Eric Shoemaker, to the position of Recruit Officer

Anonymous donation of \$200 for animal shelter

State-mandated motion to replace election tabulators and illustration of machine.