

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 4, 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 21(f), any person recording the meeting must notify the Chairman. The Board of Selectmen is recording via audio and visual.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Interim Fire Chief Michael Healy advised the Firefighters Union Local 1931 will begin its telemarketing campaign starting on September 23, 2019 and will run for approximately a month.

Mr. Brian Lasalle of 228 Burnside Avenue, President of the Seekonk Little League, thanked the Town, the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Department of Public Works for the work done on the new Murphy Field and other fields.

Mr. Zorra thanked Mr. Lasalle for all the time he puts into the fields.

PRIORITY ITEMS

Consider the Appointment and Swearing in of Michael Gould as a Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic

Interim Chief Healy noted the Board had approved a conditional offer of employment on July 24, 2019. Mr. Gould has passed all the tests and has signed the reimbursement clause. Chief Healy requested the appointment. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Healy.

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

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VOTED: To appoint Michael Gould as Probationary Third Class Firefighter/Paramedic based on successful CORI check and the stipulation that he obtain his paramedic license by March 2020. The appointment is effective on Saturday, September 7, 2019, on B Group.

Town Clerk Florice Craig swore him in. His father, a North Attleboro police lieutenant, pinned his badge.

Chief Healy thanked the Board for the continued support.

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

VOTED: To move the order of business to Item E:

Consider the Request for a Mobile Food Cart Permit for Kerri Arruda, KB's Poppin Perfection to Sell Popcorn at the Seekonk Speedway Flea Market and Fear Town Haunted House located at 1710 Fall River Avenue

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

VOTED: To approve the Mobile Food Cart Permit for Kerri Arruda, KB's Poppin Perfection, to sell popcorn at the Seekonk Speedway Flea Market and Fear Town Haunted House located at 1710 Fall River Avenue.

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

Discussion and Updates from the Planning Board

Planning Board Chairman David Sullivan and Director John Aubin were in attendance.

Mr. Sullivan explained the Planning Board was created under M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81; otherwise known as Subdivision Control Law. Duties include subdivision review and approval, site plan review and bylaw creation and review. As subdivisions there are preliminary and definitive plans.

When engineers submit a report to the Planning Board, it has to be accepted. It is restricted under state law. The consulting engineer confirms the information to make sure there is proper backup. If they don't agree, that provides the grounds to do something else to correct the problem.

Mr. Sullivan said modifications to a definitive plan have to come back to the Planning Board for approval.

He said the Planning Board cannot tell businesses or applicant not to go to certain locations. That is a violation.

Mr. Aubin clarified the ultimate decision is with the zoning enforcement officer.

Mr. Sullivan said the building inspector is the zoning officer.

He said most of all conditional actions have to go through Superior Court.

Mr. Sullivan said the Planning Board is currently going through the Master Plan.

There are a little less than 24 open subdivisions.

There was talk about developers who start other projects under a different name. Mr. Sullivan said the Planning Board cannot restrict that.

Mr. Aubin explained the Planning Board can go to Superior Court or rescind the subdivision approval which would put homeowners into a legal mess.

Mr. Almeida asked if developers must have a bond.

Mr. Aubin said it is up to the developer to post a covenant. It is up to the Planning Board to make sure it is to cover the entire development. They now have a tri-party agreement between the Planning Board, developer, and the bank. The value is based on the amount of work to be done.

Chairman Andrade suggested that people look into who they are buying from.

Mr. Aubin said the Stormwater Advisory Committee is working with GPI to go through controls and at some point the town would have to discuss a stormwater utility.

Mr. Zorra asked about Jacoby Way and Palmer River with the drainage in the middle.

Mr. Aubin said Palmer River has been approved to be removed. Waiting for a proposal from homeowners on Jacoby Way. That would be a modification that would have to be approved by Planning and also Conservation.

Mr. Sullivan said they are looking to mandate affordable housing using CPC funds.

The Planning Board and Board of Selectmen should hold another joint meeting. They need to discuss sidewalks.

Mr. Zorra asked about parking plans.

Mr. Aubin said it came from the licensing and upgrading records. He has met with owners of those businesses.

Chairman Andrade said this is to keep businesses to the level when they were given the license.

Mr. Viera felt the explanation going out could have been clearer.

Consider Accepting the Donation of \$410 from Anthony Tusino to the Seekonk Animal Shelter

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the donation and send a letter of appreciation.

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

VOTED: To accept the donation of \$410 from Anthony Tusino to the Seekonk Animal Shelter and send a letter of appreciation.

Mr. Zorra said this is from the T-shirt orders for the Scout the Fox.

Consider Accepting Various Donations in the Amount of \$1,515 to the Seekonk Animal Shelter

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the donations and send letters of appreciation.

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

VOTED: To accept the donations of \$1,515 to the Seekonk Animal Shelter and send out thank you letters.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Zorra asked where the funds go.

Mr. Cadime said it goes to the gift account and can be used for anything unless funds are designated for a specific purpose.

ACO Sharon Hall said people made donations to Save-A-Pet specifically for the new building. Donations are coming in in memory of people who passed away and those go directly to the general gift account.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider an Amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to Allow the Keeping of a Limited Number of Chickens on Residential Properties

Mr. Viera had an issue with a document being presented to the Board prior to the meeting. The Board did not have time to read it.

Chairman Andrade agreed.

Mr. Cadime apologized. He said department heads know that Thursday is the deadline for submission of documents for the meeting.

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

VOTED: To table the Amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to allow the keeping of a limited number of chickens on residential property.

Ms. Hall said she researched the chicken issue all weekend. She provided the document as an indication of what she was going to talk about.

Chairman Andrade said the Board needs time to study the report.

Mr. Almeida said they need dimensions of coop size.

Ms. Hall said the chickens have got to be allowed to move around freely and need one resting box.

Mr. Sullivan suggested looking at other communities that are similar to Seekonk.

Mr. Aubin said the document he provided was intended to be guidelines.

Residents in attendance for this topic will be allowed to speak during Community Speaks.

Consider Approving the Minutes of August 19, 2019

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of August 19, 2019, as submitted.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Lanon Neary of 195 Jacob Street asked for a copy of the document.

Chairman Andrade said there has to be a public hearing to provide all information.

She was given a copy of a document from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, Department of Animal Health.

Ms. Neary said she has done research on chickens. She asked if residents would be able to provide input at the next meeting.

Chairman Andrade asked her to submit the information to Ms. Hall or Mr. Aubin.

Mr. Almeida said they are looking at six chickens and no rooster.

Mr. Milton Chow of 40 Edgemere told of his experience in raising chickens. He built the coop himself and raised one dozen chickens each year for four years. It is not a big deal.

Chairman Andrade said there might be some neighbors who do not want chickens next door.

Mr. Almeida said they are modifying the bylaw and it will go to town meeting so people can decide.

Mr. Michael Neary of 195 Jacob Street said people would have to spend \$500 for a permit to have chickens. He recommended twelve chickens because some might die. He had ten and now he has six.

Ms. Christana Will McKnight, 104 Lincoln Street, said Seekonk is one of the only towns in the area that doesn't allow chickens. She asked how that came about.

Chairman Andrade said chickens are allowed in Seekonk but with a special permit.

Chairman Andrade and Mr. Viera said their dads raised chickens. Over the years, the town has changed. At one time it was a farming community.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board

Mr. Sullivan advised that Bristol County Agricultural High School will be having groundbreaking for the new Center for Science and Environment on Friday September 20, at

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10 a.m. at Keith Hall in Dighton, MA.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra said they were in front of the Planning Board and Round 2 of Conservation. Should go out to bid shortly.

He asked about contacting the State to cut brush back on Mink Street. He would like to send a letter to the State DOT about left turn traffic signals at Route 44 and the Price Rite intersection and the YMCA.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report

Mr. Viera said they intend to meet in two weeks to determine how to present recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The entire project is contingent on obtaining necessary parking.

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

VOTED: To send a letter of commendation to Mary Madonna, kennel worker, for her efforts in providing medical care to animals that were sick. She stayed with the animals to make sure they were alright.

Veterans' Council

Mr. Viera advised the council will meet with the Veterans Service Officer to finalize plans for the Veterans Day Celebration at the Veterans Memorial Park.

The 911 Remembrance will take place at the Public Safety Complex at 6 p.m. on September 11, 2019.

Mr. Almeida expressed disappointment that crosswalks at schools were not done. Schools reopened two weeks ago. It was only then that the Martin School crosswalk was done. The others are not.

Mr. Almeida requested a plan from the Superintendent of Public Works to increase the number of plow vendors. He wants to know if the town is ready with sand and salt.

He noted the Kiwanis Club does an excellent job with the Christmas Tree lighting. They need a bigger tree and a better sound system. There is no "wow" factor.

Mr. Almeida suggested reaching out to a particular business on Route 6 as a courteous that business licenses are due for renewal.

Mr. Viera felt they should bring the owner in to talk to him.

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Mr. Sullivan added his disappointment that the crosswalks were not done on time. It is unacceptable to him.

He noted that homeowners are responsible for the grass in front of their property.

He received calls about paving on Pine Street. Residents are complaining about chips hitting their cars.

He is still waiting for a report on the operating budget from TV9. In his opinion, without that information, TV9 does not have a seat at the table.

He received a phone call from a local business owner with an issue of getting a \$50 fee for fire inspection. He had been told there was no fee.

Chairman Andrade received the same call. He explained the Board of Selectmen set that fee approximately two years ago.

Mr. Cadime said department heads cannot waive fees. The Fire Department charges a fee for inspections. Currently trying to find out who went out there.

Mr. Cadime said he has articulated his extreme disappointment in DPW and zero tolerance for that. He will address that at the department head meeting.

He noted there is also a problem about weeds on Cole Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:47 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to go into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town, and to consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of July 24, 2019; 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, Secretary

Items Distributed at the September 4, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Check in the amount of \$410 from Anthony Tusino to Animal Shelter

Donations totaling \$1,515 to Animal Shelter

Documentation for a Mobile Food Cart for Kerri Arruda (KB's Poppin Perfection)

General By-Law Category 14B: Fowl

Massachusetts Department of Agriculture documentation