

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 5, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Andrade opened the meeting at 6 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), 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 Capital Improvement Committee (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Commission on Disability (5-13 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 – None.

PRORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Jessica Blake to the Position of Full-Time Assistant Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Officer Sharon Hall recommended the appointment. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Ms. Hall.

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

VOTED: To appoint Jessica Blake as Assistant Animal Control Officer, effective February 18, 2020.

Board and Committee Update from Conservation Agent

Conservation Agent Jennifer Miller said the last update was over a year ago. She focused on wetlands. Wetland permitting is 30% to 40% of her day.

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She referred to an article from the front page of The Sun Chronicle regarding conflict between Conservation and DPW in a nearby community. That is not the case in Seekonk. Mr. Cadime has built a great team here. There is great collaboration and communication between departments. DPW currently has three active RBAs with Conservation and working on another one for storm water maintenance.

Burrs Pond, Gammino Pond, and Arcade Woods have active trails open to the public. A lot of the work was done in house by DPW with material on hand. Trail maps will soon be available on line.

Mr. Sullivan commended Ms. Miller and DPW for the work done at Gammino Pond.

Mr. Viera asked about replacing the sign at the Martin property adjacent to the American Legion.

Ms. Miller said that signage is up to the Land Trust.

She will start to do research management plans to determine where other trails could go.

Signs are posted at Gammino Pond that indicate “sunrise to sunset.”

Chairman Andrade said this is only a portion of the work Conservation is focusing on.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Kelly Langborg for the Position of Full-Time Dispatcher

Communications Director Carol Ann Days requested the conditional offer of employment for Kelly Langborg. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Mrs. Days.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Kelly Langborg
as Full-Time Dispatcher.

Consider Signing the Renewal of the Bond Anticipation Note for the Public Safety Radio Project

Mr. Cadime noted the one-year bond has matured. Looking to go out for a short-term bond in the amount of \$3,016,174 at a rate of 1.625% due on May 22, 2020. At that time, will be going long term for this, the Aitken School window repair projects, and animal shelter.

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

VOTED: To sign the renewal of the Bond Anticipation Note for the Public
Safety Radio Project.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Jason Persampieri for the Position of Patrolman 3rd Class

Interim Chief David Enos requested the Board extend a conditional offer of employment to Jason Persampieri for the position of Patrolman 3rd Class, pending psychological and physical exams and passing of the PAT. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Enos.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Jason Persampieri as Patrolman 3rd Class, pending passing of exams and Physical Ability Test.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Jason Valderrama for the Position of Patrolman 3rd Class

Interim Chief David Enos requested the Board extend a conditional offer of employment to Jason Valderrama for the position of Patrolman 3rd Class, pending psychological and physical exams and passing of the PAT. Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Enos.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Jason Valderrama as Patrolman 3rd Class, pending passing of exams and Physical Ability Test.

Mr. Zorra asked if there would be a full crew.

Chief Enos said retirements are coming up. Exams are on Saturday. It was good that these two hires are trained because the academies are booked up for the remainder of the year. The budget is for 40 officers including command staff and chief. The department is at 39.

Consider and Sign the Pawtucket Police Department's Mutual Aid Agreement for 2020

Mr. Cadime advised this is the routine document and there are no changes.

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

VOTED: To sign the Pawtucket Police Department Mutual Aid Agreement for 2020.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Almeida asked if the Town has any other agreements.

Mr. Cadime said there are agreements with other communities.

Consider the Seekonk Speedway License Agreement for 2020

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

VOTED: To approve the Seekonk Speedway License Agreement for 2020.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Viera suggested the gates should be numbered to help mutual aid vehicles.

Chief Enos agreed.

Mr. Zorra said it looks like they want to reduce the number of details.

Chief Enos said he needs to evaluate the situation. He intends to show up on Saturday nights during the season. Any changes will not be done this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion with Attorney Mathew Porter Requesting the Town to Petition the State for Additional Off Premise Liquor Licenses

Atty. Porter, presenting Oak Hill Mini Mart on Central Avenue requested the Board petition the State for additional licenses. Ms. Patel, owner, was in attendance.

Atty. Porter said he spoke to the ABCC. The Home Rule Petition would have to be presented at Town Meeting. The ABCC would not object to additional licenses if Home Rule Petition passes at Town Meeting.

Mr. Sullivan noted that he was a distributor at one time. Seekonk is a small town. Licenses are distributed fairly evenly over the town. Continuing to add licenses would dilute the businesses. It will impact the retail business and devalue people holding the license.

Atty. Porter understands but he also feels there should be as many options as possible.

Mr. Almeida said the Town has three all liquor stores and five beer and wine located in the north end, central, and south end. He suggested they wait to see if one of these owners retires.

Mr. Cadime said the census is coming. The quota is based on population. The Town has more than allowed right now. Could potentially get another license or two if the population increases.

Board members agreed not to do anything right now.

NEW BUSINESS

Establish the Dates for Annual Spring Town Meeting and Annual Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Cadime said this had been discussed in 2017 but not certain a vote was taken. He recommended the second Monday in May and second Monday in November. The November date can be changed if it happens to be Veterans Day.

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

VOTED: That the Annual Spring Town Meeting will be on the second Monday of May and the Annual Fall Town Meeting on the second Monday in November.

This year the Spring Town Meeting will be on May 11, 2020 and Fall Town Meeting on November 9, 2020.

Consider Accepting the \$200 Donation from Ronnie Tyler to the Seekonk Human Services Gift Account

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

VOTED: To accept the \$200 donation from Ronnie Tyler to the Seekonk Human Services Gift Account, with appreciation.

Consider Accepting the \$100 Donation from Steven and Beth Zipin to the Seekonk Human Services Gift Account

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

VOTED: To accept the \$100 donation from Steven and Beth Zipin to the Human Services Gift Account, with appreciation.

Consider Approving the Minutes of January 8, 2020

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of January 8, 2020 as distributed.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Ms. Doreen Taylor asked about the second quarter budget review for this fiscal year that should have been done on January 22, 2020.

Mr. Cadime said it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Radio Project

Mr. Cadime has the lease agreement from the Water Department. There are issues with the osprey on Fall River Avenue. They are working with the State. There is concern some of the birds might come back before the equipment goes up.

DPW Facility – No updates.

Senior Center Phase II/540 Arcade Avenue

The Building Committee did the RFQ. Mr. Cadime made some tweets. The deadline is tomorrow to submit for advertising next Wednesday in the Central Register. There was discussion to make sure there is a mandatory site visit for architectural firms.

Animal Shelter

The committee met last week. It was probably the last construction meeting. There will be a walk through on Monday. They are still waiting for the generator to be dropped off and connected. Kennels are there. Furniture will be delivered.

South End Fire Station

Mr. Cadime wants to talk about a change at an upcoming meeting.

Old Town Hall – No updates.

Cable Contract - No updates.

Policy and Procedures – Currently working on.

ADW Maple Avenue Project – No updates.

Dam Projects/Remediation – No updates.

Online Permitting – Ready to go live.

Mr. Sullivan asked about the cable contract.

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Mr. Cadime said he would like to wait until after budget season – perhaps in the summer. The contract expires in January 2021.

Chairman Andrade said he got an e-mail from the Old Town Hall Committee following the tour of the building.

Mr. Cadime explained they will be ready to present a recommendation to the Board within a few weeks.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – Nothing to report.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report – Nothing to report.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – Nothing to report.

Veterans' Council - Meeting this month.

Mr. Sullivan spoke about the budget process. He said the Finance Committee will meet next week and will schedule meetings with department heads to present their budgets. He felt the Board of Selectmen should meet with the Finance Committee.

Mr. Cadime noted a joint meeting is held to discuss the final budget.

The Finance Committee will start with Public Safety.

Mr. Alexander has been talking with the Finance Committee.

Mr. Sullivan will try to attend Finance Committee meetings. He would like to know what department heads need prior to Finance Committee meetings.

Mr. Cadime said the first round is to look at recommendations from department heads. It is difficult to plan until they know revenue numbers. He said there are no major increases on the town side. It is more fixed costs.

Mr. Sullivan wanted to make sure there is communication with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Viera recalled that years ago the budget process started with the Board of Selectmen. The Town Administrator and department heads would meet with the Board of Selectmen.

Now, the Board doesn't get the budget until after it has been approved by Finance, Capital Improvement Committee, and Town Administrator. The process is flawed in that area. The Board of Selectmen should be deciding what the budget should look like.

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Mr. Cadime said that is why there are Quad Board meetings. He said Finance and Capital Improvement Committees are advisory.

Mr. Sullivan said there must be a happy ground somewhere in the middle.

Mr. Cadime said it is challenging to put a budget together without knowing revenues.

Chairman Andrade said it may be beneficial.

Ms. Taylor said she is following the financial calendar. As a previous Finance Committee member and a member of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Viera is correct. There should have been a directive to Mr. Cadime from the Board on what they want to see. According to this calendar, a draft should have gone to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. She asked if they received the draft.

Mr. Cadime said he sent out an e-mail. She said the Finance Committee is supposed to be doing research. Hopefully, they are working with department heads putting their budgets together.

At one point, Ms. Taylor asked Chairman Andrade if he was texting while she spoke.

He said he was not and that he was listening to her.

Ms. Taylor said questions should be in open session so everybody could hear. She noted when she was chair of the Board of Selectmen all questions were include in the agenda.

Chairman Andrade said Board members reach out to Mr. Cadime every week.

Mr. Viera said we cannot solely rely on e-mail. He is not pointing a finger or casting blame. Sometimes you feel, "like a caboose on the train."

Mr. Sullivan asked about the Charter –will it be during regular meeting or a work session.

Chairman Andrade replied at a regular meeting towards the end of February.

Mr. Sullivan asked about the Master Plan.

Mr. Cadime said Mr. Aubin has been working with SRPEDD. Mr. Aubin had said late spring. .

Mr. Sullivan wanted to get recommendations from the Master Plan to the spring town meeting.

He received an e mail tonight from a resident on Donald Lewis Drive re: pavement concerns. The resident asked about clean up on the roadway. Mr. Sullivan would like to get recommendations from Mr. Cabral.

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Mr. Zorra suggested the animal shelter generator should be done now without asking the town for money.

Mr. Cadime said the total cost of the shelter is \$1.74M.

Mr. Viera would like to reopen Progress Street.

Mr. Zorra said it will take six months to complete County Street.

Mr. Almeida announced the Annual Taste of the Town sponsored by the Kiwanis Club is on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at the Clarion Hotel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:21 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, 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 of 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 January 8, 2020; 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,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

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Items Distributed at the Board of Selectmen Meeting of February 5, 2020

Jessica Blake – Resume and application for position of Assistant Animal Control Officer

Interim Police Chief David Enos – Request for conditional offer of employment to Jason Persampieri for the position of Patrolman 3rd Class and Jason Valderrama for position of Patrolman 3rd Class

Pawtucket Police Department's Mutual Aid Agreement for 2020

Establish the date for Spring and Fall Town Meetings (minutes of June 28, 2017)

Copy of checks in the amounts of \$100 and \$200 donations to Human Services