

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 4, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator Shawn E. Cadime was absent.

Finance Director Bruce Alexander was in attendance.

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), 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. Viera 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 (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Tom Benoit inquired about the ultimate plans for Luthers Corner.

Planning Director John Aubin said he has plans in his office.

Mr. Benoit said it would be good to have the phases on line. He talked about the traffic signal at the Grist Mill. The left arrow coming from Rte. 44 only goes from red or blinking yellow.

DPW Supt. David Cabral said it is a state light. He would reach out to them.

Mr. Benoit asked for an update on the cable contract that expires on November 30, 2020.

Mr. Alexander advised a committee was formed and they met once.

Chairman Andrade stated the Town Administrator had reported at a previous meeting that they are waiting for the budget process to end.

Mr. Benoit asked if there would be public input. Mr. Viera felt there would be.

PRIORITY MATTERS

Consider the Appointment of Michael Bradley to the Historical Commission for a Two-Year Term

Mr. Bradley was in attendance. Board members thanked him.

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

VOTED: To appoint Michael Bradley to a two-year term on the Historical Commission.

Consider the Request for a Mobile Food Cart Permit for Timothy Spaulding to Sell Food at Seekonk Speedway, 1782 Fall River Avenue

Mr. Spaulding said this would be his 6th year.

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

VOTED: To approve the request for a mobile food cart permit for Timothy Spaulding to sell food at the Seekonk Speedway located at 1782 Fall River Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on the Status of the Master Plan with the Town Planner

Mr. Aubin noted he has been working on the update for a few years. He currently has three drafts - Open Space/Recreational Plan, final draft of the Economic Development Element Plan and preliminary draft of the Public Services & Facilities Plan recently completed by SRPEDD.

The Open Space/Recreational Plan has to be submitted to the State. The others can be adopted by a vote of the Planning Board. The Planning Board established a 45-day public comment period for the Economic Development Element. The Public Services & Facilities draft will be sent out again for comment and review and will be subject to a more open public comment period. The remainder elements are land use, cultural and natural resources, circulation, and implementation plan. All elements are designed to be interactive. There will be another roundtable discussion in late spring.

Mr. Aubin explained the Master Plan is a document dictated by M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81D. It is a statement prepared by the Planning Board designed to provide a basis for decision making regarding long term physical development in a municipality. It is consistent with the elements. Any changes can be made by a majority vote of the Planning Board. The Master Plan should be

public record. Once elements are done, there will be a minimum one page summary of goals in economic development, affordable housing and preservation of parks and open space.

The Planning Board will discuss the Housing Element which was never formally adopted by the town in 2010.

Chairman Andrade asked if the economic development element identifies uses for particular locations. This Board has been trying to diversify and bring in other type businesses.

Mr. Aubin said the focus was on trying to diversify the Route 6 corridor and other commercial spaces. The Public Services & Facilities goals and objectives include looking at sewers in certain parts of town. They will also look at the lack of infrastructure. They are looking to internet in order to pull in offices.

Chairman Andrade asked about/public/private partnerships.

Mr. Aubin said it is something that has been done in town. There are other elements to that.

Discussion on the Status and Plan of Action for Donald Lewis Drive

DPW Supt. David Cabral and Asst. Scott Olobri were in attendance.

Chairman Andrade said he checked the road this morning.

Mr. Cabral said he and Mr. Olobri were there yesterday to check the road before the sweeper was used.

He noted that they had been before the Board in October and November. There were questions after the road was done – whether it was the proper treatment and done satisfactory. At the November 13th meeting, he presented an independent review from GPI indicating it was the appropriate type of road. Roads were only plowed twice this year. He did see in photos that stone was off the side of the road. There was a pothole that is an imperfection of the roadway that needs attention. A few trenches were there before and two cracks in the road. The rest of the road looks OK.

Chairman Andrade said he compared Donald Lewis Drive with the road he lives on which had the same treatment. They are no way near the same. He felt they need to have a better way of evaluating what roads should get what. His road has a lot of traffic. These cul-de-sacs don't have that. He will look at Cole Street. He suggested that roads designated for that same type of application should not be done.

Mr. Cabral pointed out that Allens Avenue and Wheaton Avenue were done in 2014 with a single chip seal that was not rubberized. A leveling course was applied prior to that. Low

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volume roadways were done with a double chip seal. It is also the condition of the pavement underneath.

Chairman Andrade said either it was a bad install or lack of wear.

Mr. Cabral said the letter from GPI agreed with the application. He said to redo the roadways as mill and overlay would cost approximately \$140,000. That would be Donald Lewis Drive, Massasoit Drive, Colfall Street on two sides and two cul-de-sacs. Rubberized stone seal over existing roadway cost is about \$65,000. It would look like Cole Street.

Chairman Andrade was not happy with the sides of Cole Street. It would be the same kind of end result.

Mr. Viera noted that Mr. Cabral said “the appearance of Cole Street.” He is looking for quality not appearance. Whatever has to be done.

Chairman Andrade said the install is not the install he experienced.

Mr. Viera said it would cost over \$200,000 with what was already spent.

Mr. Cabral said he cannot use Chapter 90 money for repave.

Mr. Zorra said he was at Donald Lewis Drive earlier. He suggested the sweeper go back out there.

Chairman Andrade asked about an overlay over the roadway now.

Mr. Cabral suggested either the rubberized chip seal or mill and overlay.

Chairman Andrade said every resident is entitled to use the roadway with a skateboard, scooter, bike, stroller, etc. It may be a suitable solution for minimized costs and preserve the life of the road but not for intended use of residents.

Mr. Viera said the intended use of residents and use of roadway are different. The Board intended it for automobile use and residents would like to skateboard, etc.

Opposition from the audience.

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

VOTED: To do mill and overlay on Donald Lewis Drive, Massasoit Drive, Colfall Street on two sides and two cul-de-sacs at \$140,000.

There will be an agenda item for April 1, 2020 to discuss this happening on future street projects.

Discussion Relative to Implementing a New Procedure to Plant Replacement Trees after a Tree Removal

Mr.. Cabral said he talked to Mr. Cadime on a procedure policy.

Chairman Andrade explained that he and several others had noticed a big oak tree at Martin School was cut down. The idea of a plan to plant a tree to replace a tree came to mind.

Mr. Cabral aid that particular tree was compromised. A year ago they cut down hazardous trees in the Martin School area and planted others. He talked to Conservation Agent Jen Miller and planted some trees in the Gammino Pond area. Trees were planted in the Town Hall area. They will landscape the area at the new animal shelter. He promotes Arbor Day and Earth Day. This year seedlings will be made available to residents. He mentioned moving healthy trees to other areas.

Chairman Andrade said the idea is to plant a tree to replace a tree so make sure there is oxygen for the future.

Mr. Viera suggested Mr. Cabral present a program for that.

Mr. Sullivan asked about the stumps.

Mr. Cabral said years ago stump removal was budgeted. Trees were removed in sidewalk areas and road obstruction. That was eliminated due to budget constraints. He has to outsource that work. He noted DPW now has a more capable forestry group. It would be helpful if the department had the machinery to remove stumps. It costs \$1,000 per day for the vendor. He could do more work if he had a stump grinder.

Mr. Zorra felt the town should purchase the machinery.

Chairman Andrade clarified that it would pay for itself in one year.

Mr. Viera said they need to cost it out.

Consider Approving the New Human Services Building Use Policy

Director Brittney Faria was in attendance.

Mr. Viera felt the policy is well thought out. They did a great job putting it together. There will be people not happy but it's a start. He did hear concerns from some groups.

Mr. Benoit suggested the building should be staffed in the evening for a couple of nights a week,

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Chairman Andrade noted that they are looking toward the addition to the building. He is unaware of any requests to have programs open in the evening. That could be revisited if necessary. One of the problems is non-residents using the building without having to pay or clean up.

Mr. Benoit said that might be an alternative to expand the services in the evening.

Chairman Andrade said there are buildings in the town that can be utilized at no cost.

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

VOTED: To approve the New Human Services Building Use Policy as presented, effective on April 1, 2020.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Sullivan indicated he was not happy about the \$40 fee. It is a community center.

Mrs. Faria said the schools are available free of charge. She said the center would need more cleaning, supplies, electricity, etc. She said people are not accountable. The place is trashed.

Mr. Sullivan asked if out-of-towers will be charged \$40.

Mrs. Faria said mostly that is during the day.

Consider the Approval of Regular Session Minutes of February 5, 2020 and February 19, 2020

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

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of February 5, 2020 and February 19, 2020.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Ms. Michelle Hines, Chairwoman of the 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee, advised a walk through was held on Monday for architects who intend to submit a RFQ. The deadline for submission is next Thursday. The committee will meet on March 16 to discuss the proposals. Interviews will be on March 26. She expects to present and appoint an architect at the Board of Selectmen meeting of April 1, 2020.

Mr. Benoit suggested a complete packet should be posted along with the agenda. He asked if the chairman is going to state the address of the item for executive session.

Mr. Viera indicated that is not always possible because it concerns the purchase of land.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised the committee would meet on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the school library to discuss bids which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Thursday, March 12, 2020. Project moving along.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – Report by Ms. Hines.

Veterans Council

Mr. Viera advised the council would meet on March 5, 2020 at town hall to discuss plans for the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Zorra said that DPW is working on the soccer fields on Cole Street. They will begin seeding. He asked residents to stay away from the fields so the work can be completed.

Mr. Almeida said the new voting machines were used at Tuesday's election. He stayed at the high school about 2 hours. He met many residents. He thanked them for their time. He commended the Kiwanis Club on the success of the Taste of the Town. About 12 restaurants were there.

Mr. Sullivan requested confirmation of the meeting to review the Charter and Aitken Schools bids.

Mr. Alexander reported the annual rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the DPW garage. Household Waste Day is Saturday, April 25. . Details for both of these are on the town's website.

Mr. Alexander advised that he received a call from Eversource Energy that they will acquire the assets of Columbia Gas as of sometime in June.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:19 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Almeida, to go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A,

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Section 21(a)(6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (Map16/Lots 30 & 117).; not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the March 4, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Talent Bank form for Michael Bradley to the Historic Commission

Documents for Timothy Spaulding for mobile food cart for Seekonk Speedway

Policy and Regulations for the Human Services Building