

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 29, 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 7:07 p.m.

Communications Director Carol Ann Days was in attendance.

Chairman Andrade announced that, per Governor Baker's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this Board of Selectmen meeting. Public comments and questions could be submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting by completing the Google Form prior to the meeting by Monday, April 27, 2020 at noon. Public access information for participation is provided on the Town's website at www.seekonk-ma.gov.

BOARD OF COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (1 BOS appointment), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Economic Development Committee (4 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (1 BOS), Recycling Committee (up to 3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

PRIORITY MATTERS

Presentation of the School Department's FY'21 Budget

Supt. of Schools Rich Drolet, School Committee members Kim Sluter, Beth Ekland, Noah Escaler, and Business Manager Jil Brilhante were in attendance.

Mr. Cadime stated the School Committee had already voted on the budget. A funding number was put into the fiscal year budget for the School Department. The number was at their request. Town meeting has no control or vetoes on the schools or town side but can reduce or increase the overall funding.

Supt. Drolet had a budget narrative Three priorities are to reduce class sizes (especially at elementary level), technology integration and learning, and capital improvements. He is going into his second year as superintendent. Last year had a budget increase of 4.2%; this year asking for 3.7% for a total budget of \$29.5M. Three new elementary teachers (2 at Martin, 1 at Aitken) will be hired and a technology education teacher.

Supt. Drolet listed capital priorities - turf field at the high school, Special Education Transitional Program, utility truck, and HVAC for Hurley School. There is a building committee for the turf field. He noted this budget was prepared before COVID-19 and school closures. A cut in state aid would be approximately \$1M and would result in elimination of some items.

Chairman Andrade said they are expecting cuts on the town side as well.

Mr. Cadime said they have been talking during the last couple of weeks. He is trying to make sure the School Department has the budget needed. They tried to close initial gap and submit a balanced budget. The School Department would have to shoulder some of the burden of any further cuts from local aid. It appears to be a 2.5 to 3% reduction.

Supt. Drolet advised they are anticipating \$200,000 to \$400,000 back to the town. They will prepare new expenses for FY'21.

Mr. Sullivan asked what items could be held off for a year.

Supt. Drolet said the School Committee directed him to develop a level-service and needs-based budget.

The \$350,000 for the transitional program and four elementary teaching positions would be eliminated. Any other new positions would not go forward.

Ms. Brilhante explained the cost of the four new positions would be about \$400,000, \$20,000 from professional development and \$23,000 general supplies, instructional hardware and building maintenance. She recommended prepaying \$270,000 for special education to prevent any layoffs.

Supt. Drolet advised 19 teachers were given pink slips. He has contacted the Mass. Association of School Superintendents to see if any other items can be prepaid. They are waiting to hear what is going on at the State House. He said teachers are usually recalled after Town Meeting.

Mr. Zorro asked if teachers considered giving up increases to eliminate layoffs.

Supt. Drolet said no because that \$1M has already been identified. If it's more than the \$1M they would have to talk about it. He would like to avoid that at this time.

Chairman Andrade said the Town is not in a position where teachers would have to be laid off.

He told Supt. Drolet and School Committee members that the surplus is a welcomed surprise.

Mr. Cadime noted the Town is obligated to fund raises under collective bargaining. It is a three-year contract. It would be a lengthy process to go back to the union.

Mr. Almeida said it is not a good option but maybe one person could be laid off.

Mr. Cadime suggested before talking about layoffs they should wait to see what the budget will be. He does not want to send a message that they are contemplating layoffs. The Town is in a good place right now. A lot of criticism in the past is coming back to prove a point that we have good fiscal management and care about planning for the future. He will speak more about that under his budget presentation.

Mr. Viera pointed out laying off a person doesn't realize the full salary because there are unemployment costs.

Chairman Andrade said a lot of municipalities are laying off. It is almost reactionary. We are in a good position and looking to the future.

Mr. Viera asked what would happen. Stores have been closed. The town is losing money from sales tax. It is uncertain and scary.

Ms. Sluter commented on the surplus. They are in negotiations and payments to some vendors, such as transportation. They cannot commit a specific number.

Mr. Brilhante said the surplus is due to negotiating contracts early on and COVID-19.

Mr. Sullivan commended School Committee members, Supt. Drolet, and Ms. Brilhante on the presentation.

Supt. Drolet credited Mr. Cadime for opening communication with him and the School Committee. They have a good working relationship.

Presentation by Hague, Sahady & Co. of the Town's Independent Auditor's Report

Kara Lees, CPA was in attendance to present the results of the independent audit as of June 30, 2019. She thanked Mr. Cadime, Mr. Alexander, and Ms. Brilhante for their help.

She congratulated the town on a successive audit. It is called a clean opinion or an unmodified opinion.

The single audit is where they audit the federal dollars. There are two audit reports within the single audit. Because the town is a government, they are required to audit under a high level of standards called the yellow book report (pages 1 and 2). There were no instances of non-compliance, demands and regulations and also no matters relative to internal control identified and recorded. There is also an opinion on the actual programs selected for federal compliance testing. The town complied in all requirements relative to special education programs. It was the program required to test this year for the audit.

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Chairman Andrade said the audit passed and everything was done that needed to be done.

Mr. Cadime recognized Mr. Alexander, Mrs. DeFontes, and the School Department personnel for their preparation for the audit.

LICENSE HEARINGS

Consider the Change of Ownership Interest for an Annual Inn-holder All Alcoholic Beverages License of Dublin Hospitality, LLC located at 940 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA

Atty. Eric Brainsky represented the applicant. He hoped that everyone is well and safe. He said Mr. Cadime and the Board is doing a really good job with the teleconference. It is the first one he has participated in.

Atty. Brainsky explained that two existing members of the Dublin Hospitality Group are purchasing the interest of another member. It is a 10% interest so each member will get 5%.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To approve the change of ownership interest for an Annual Inn-holder All Alcoholic Beverages License of Dublin Hospitality, LLC located at 940 Fall River, Avenue, Seekonk, MA.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE TO PRESENT BUDGET

Chairman Andrade advised the public hearing is being conducted via remote participation per Gov. Baker's order. He explained the procedure to notify the moderator for anyone who wanted to comment from home.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Hearing

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To open the public hearing on the FY 2021 budget at 8:04 p.m.

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

Finance Committee Chairman Matthew Salisbury opened the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Finance Committee members in attendance: Michael Brady, Matt Salisbury, Phillip Yan, Norman Duquette, and Derek Medeiros.

No comments from audience.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing at 8:09 p.m.

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

Prior to the start of Mr. Cadime's presentation, Chairman Andrade noted there has been talk over the past few months about when this would be posted on the website. He thanked Mr. Cadime and the staff at town hall. The budget was prepared under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and with the COVID-19 situation. He thanked Mr. Cadime for the hard work. It came out to six different budget scenarios. He thanked residents for their patience.

Mr. Cadime said he wants to make sure he provides all possible information. He considers long-term growth and sustainability in building a budget.

Mr. Cadime stated there is \$14.8M in free cash. The stability fund has \$4.6M and OPEB trust fund has \$2.9M or 8% funded. There are communities that have not done that yet.

He worked to eliminate the use of free cash in the operating budget. Seekonk has a strong financial team. We will be criticized at town meeting for being overly conservative.

Standard & Poors reaffirmed the town rating at AA+. This year was particularly challenging.

There was a lot of communication between department heads. Mr. Cadime thanked the financial team for working so hard. It is difficult on a yearly basis to come up with a balanced budget but this year was extremely challenging. The Board wanted to see a 2.5% reduction from FY'20, level funded from FY'20 and recommended budget for FY'21. That was before COVID-19. That meant additional work and planning. Mr. Cadime acknowledged department heads. People are working around the clock and on weekends.

A 2.5% reduction means a reduction of \$3.9M to an already lean budget. Failing to increase taxes to levy means a \$1M loss of revenue and over five years is equivalent to a loss of \$5.6M. Bond rating impacts and stabilization funds are likely not to be funded. There would be significant layoffs. It will completely decimate the planning process for the last five years. There would be major impacts to staffing and services provided by the Town and School Department.

Fixed costs equal more than 23% of the operating budget. Seekonk Schools represent 50% of the budget or 65% if fixed costs are taken out of the equation. Salaries represent 21% of the operating budget. Expenses represent 6% of operating budget (MUNIS/software license & servers).

Mr. Cadime presented Option 1 (2.5% reduction) – fixed costs removed from budget, including Tri-County and Bristol Aggie, Schools reduce its FY'21 budget from \$29.6M to \$27.9M. Town reduces its FY'21 budget from \$16.4M to \$14.1M. (The 2.5% reduction reflects a true 14% reduction from the Town's proposed FY'21 budget and 5% reduction from the School's side.)

He listed items that would be cut from the Town's expenses - \$858,000 and salaries \$1.6M accounts. Twenty six people would be laid off.

He presented Option 2 under the 2.5% reduction. The Schools would absorb 65% and the Town 35%. Schools would reduce its budget from \$29.6M to \$27M. The Town from \$16.4M to \$15M. A level funded budget would mean reduction of \$2.4M from an already lean budget. Failing to increase taxes to levy means \$1M loss of revenue and over five years is equivalent to a loss of \$5.6M. Bond rating impacts, stabilization funds likely not to be funded. Significant layoffs. Completely decimates the planning process for the last five years. Major impact to the staffing and services that the Town and School Department provide. Option 1 of level funded budget would be 10% from the Town and 3% reduction from Schools.

Mr. Cadime strongly recommended against implementation of any option. The Town is in great financial position and has been planning to be sustainable even during an economic downturn..

He has spoken with Sen. Finney. The State is waiting to hear about federal aid. He is also getting daily updates from Rep. Howitt. There is concern about the opening of the economy. It looks like a \$5B to \$6B shortfall. Any cuts in Chapter 70 funding will have to be absorbed by the School Department. Budget gaps were closed by adjusting revenue numbers to handle COVID-19 impacts.

Mr. Cadime presented a FY'21 balanced budget of \$61,474,657 which reflects a 4% increase over FY'20 or a \$2.5M increase. The general fund is \$60,232,071 (\$16,286,657 general government, \$30,843,930 education and \$13,101,474 fixed cost and debt service). Sanitation Enterprise Fund \$1,242,586, 1% increase over FY'20.

He noted they are anticipating a surplus.

Mr. Cadime reported anticipated State Aid is \$8,334,771. He noted the lottery numbers will be down due to the closings because COVID-19. Tax Levy is 46.1M. Local Receipts at \$2,399,915. Motor Vehicle Excise - \$2,600,313. Other Revenue Sources - \$2,061,874.

Mr. Cadime presented departmental budgets and general government highlights. He explained certain items. The budget for the Town Administrator's Office is \$436,483, which reflects a 38% increase of FY'20. He recommended a new position of Human Resources Director/Assistant Town Administrator at a salary of \$90,000. That salary is at the low end of the scale.

Professional development for department heads of \$7,500 is included under Town Hall Expenses.

In the Assessor's office, the amount of \$4,340 was decreased. The conversion to Tyler's iasWorld appraisal system did not occur.

There will be significant increases in the Animal Shelter because of the new building.

A mid-year hire for a Dispatch Emergency Specialist was added to the Communications Department (\$26,444).

The Fire Department budget is \$3,750,533. A 5% increase or \$190,264.

The Veterans Services budget has a 7% decrease over FY'20. The number of veterans declined from 35 in March 2014 to 15 in March 2020.

Mr. Viera asked if the Veterans Service Officer has been checking on veterans.

Mr. Cadime said the Human Services Director has been calling all seniors to make sure they do not need anything. Mr. LaFlame is now making calls. They need to be more proactive with general outreach. Mr. Cadime noted some people are not qualifying for services because of the formula numbers.

Under Debt & Fixed Cost Highlights, the Debt and Interest is \$2,072,178 (Bonds for Animal Shelter Building Project, Aitken Window Project, Aitken Expansion, and Public Safety Radio Project. Other Fixed Costs - \$11,029,306 (\$2,967,761 Pension, \$650,000 Liability Insurance, \$6,863,637 Health Insurance, \$547,908 Other).

Under Educational Highlights, Seekonk Schools' budget is at \$29,555,841, a 3% increase or \$887,389. Chapter 70 funding is expected to decrease. The Tri-County School Assessment is \$1,261,836 (89 students) and Bristol County Agricultural Assessment at \$20,853 (9 students).

The Sanitation Fund is at \$1,295,043. Mr. Cadime noted there were questions as to why a ten-year contract. Mr. Alexander and he agree this was a great contract. The Town has saved about \$1M.

Chairman Andrade read questions that had been submitted by Ms. Doreen Taylor of 175 Bradley Street.

Mr. Cadime advised the free cash would be used to fund OPEB unfunded liability and putting additional funding into capital stabilization.

With regard to contract obligations if funding is not available, Mr. Cadime said once year one of a contract is funded there is an obligation to fund years 2 and 3. It could mean layoffs.

Mr. David Parker of 20 Melanie Circle asked if the Board and School Committee have considered contacting unions about no raises for next year.

Mr. Cadime said Seekonk is in a very good position. Also, meal and hotel taxes will rebound eventually. The Board had approved two marijuana licenses. One of those applications has been approved. The Town may see income from that. He didn't see the need to do anything right now.

Mr. Almeida thanked all those involved in the presentation. He has taken notes and would like to have another meeting for further discussion with some department heads.

Mr. Cadime noted all department heads are in attendance.

Mr. Almeida will e-mail department heads.

Mr. Sullivan acknowledged the hard work and time to put this presentation together. He commended Mr. Cadime and department heads.

He concurred with Mr. Almeida. There is a lot to digest. He also had questions. He asked about payment for renovations at the senior center.

Mr. Cadime said they are looking at architectural services now. Renovation costs will probably be in the FY'22 budget.

Mr. Sullivan said the 2.5% levy on taxpayers would be an increase of \$1M to the town. It is difficult to ask residents to allow us to continue to stay on track as much as possible. Residents are going through hardships. He felt it is better to be proactive rather than reactive. He didn't think it's the right time to add new positions. He questioned having a hiring freeze. He echoed the question about salary freeze.

Mr. Cadime said the data shows we have a balanced budget. There is no need to have cuts. He noted it would be going backwards from a financial plan put into place during the last five years

Mr. Viera felt they have to prepare for the worst. He commended Mr. Cadime on the presentation.

Mr. Cadime said this budget has a good handle on what is happening. The Town does not rely heavily on state aid.

Mr. Zorra suggested having the alarm system for town hall and animal shelter go directly to Public Safety in order to save money.

Mr. Brady said he heard a projection that a lot of small businesses will not come back if this pandemic goes on much longer. He asked what would happen if we lost a third of the meals and beverage tax.

Mr. Cadime said meals tax is coming from the larger restaurants. It could be absorbed. There are additional revenues from motor vehicle taxes.

Mr. Duquette asked if there has been any request for deferment of taxes due to hardship.

Mr. Cadime said a lot of taxes are escrowed. A \$4M payment is coming in on May 1.

Mr. Duquette thanked Mr. Cadime for the report. He agreed with Mr. Sullivan about adding new positions.

Mr. Cadime said it is two positions – one at Communications and the Human Service/Asst. Town Administrator. There are other positions that are vacant but funded.

Mr. Viera said there has been discussion about the HR/Asst. TA position for some time. He doesn't know how Mr. Cadime does it; although, he has good support staff. They could lose him through burnout or illness.

Chairman Andrade said the Board has discussed this for several years. Mr. Cadime always felt he could handle it. With all the changes, it is time to support the position. He urged the Board not to eliminate it.

Mr. Sullivan said it sends the wrong message at this time. He isn't saying he won't support it next year.

Chairman Andrade suggested a follow-up meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Sullivan said the Board needs to consider this and also get a recommendation from the Finance Committee. He suggested further discussion at the next Board meeting.

Public Hearing for Departmental Fees

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

VOTED: To open the public hearing on departmental fees at 10:23 p.m.

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

Mr. Viera asked if the list of fees is complete. He noted fees were accidentally left off in the past resulting in loss of revenue.

Mr. Cadime said the list comes directly from the departments. He does have a couple of modifications in the Building Department.

No comments.

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

VOTED: To close the public hearing on departmental fees at 10:26 p.m.

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

Mr. Sullivan referred to the chicken license passed at the last town meeting. He didn't see the licensing fee under the town clerk or animal control.

Mr. Cadime said it was under the animal shelter. A fee schedule was attached to the bylaws.

Town Planner John Aubin read from the language in the bylaw that it shall take effect until such time as the Board of Selectmen adopts an amendment to Attachment B to provide for a fowl registration fee of \$10.

Mr. Cadime suggested they should go through each department individually.

Animal Control – No changes other than the \$10 fee just discussed.

Board of Health – Change Funeral Home fee from \$250 to \$0 and increase charge for Marijuana Establishment from \$750 to \$2,000.

Health Agent Jessica Horsman noted the Board of Health is not looking to increase that fee. It was a change made on the floor by the Board of Selectmen when the fee was proposed. It was Chairman Andrade who made the change on the floor.

Building – no changes under Residential Fee. Under Commercial Building Fee Schedule – Re-inspection Fee, Renewal and Transfer of Permits increase from \$50 to \$75.

Also, Residential Electrical Fee and Commercial Electrical Fee – add \$10 per panel for inspection of solar panels.

Under Gas Fee Schedule – increase Residential per Fixture from \$16 to \$22 and Commercial Per Fixture from \$22 to \$25.

Under Administration Fee Schedule – Research which requires an excess of ½ hour of time – reduce the amount to the hourly rate of pay of the clerical person doing the research.

Change of Use & Certificate of Occupancy – Increase from \$50 to \$125 to be consistent with other categories.

Building Director Neil Abelson added new category under Commercial Building Fees – 10 temporary structures over 120 sq. ft. 30 days maximum \$150.-

No changes in Board of Selectmen fees.

Collectors – no changes.

Conservation – no changes.

Fire Department - New fee of \$50 for Solar Panel-Radio Alarm Box.

Fuel Suppression System – Add \$50 fee for permit and \$50 for inspection.

Parks & Recreation – no change.

Mr. Zorra noted the softball field at Aitken School will be replaced by a grassy area.

Recreation Director John Pozzi confirmed that it will be an area for little kids.

Planning – Oversized copies \$10 per sheet. Elimination of Recording Fee.

Police Department – License and Permits Filing Fee - \$10. Currently no charge.
Criminal History Check – Civil Fingerprinting \$100.

Chief David Enos said no fee for Accident Reports and Incident Reports. Those fees were previously removed.

Department of Public Works – Increase in Annual Trash Fee from \$211.27 to \$213.93. Right-of-Way Opening Permit-Bond or Certified from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

Mr. Almeida asked if it would be possible to find out the yearly revenue on the bags and possibly roll it into annual trash fee to eliminate buying bags.

Mr. Cadime said it could be done but the trash bags are a way of assessing costs.

Mr. Viera asked about the \$1,500 to \$5000 fee.

DPW Supt. David Cabral said the \$1,500 is a typo. The \$5,000 bond has been in effect for three years. He responded to Mr. Viera's questions that the \$5,000 bond is utilized if there is a need to go back and modify the roadway if the contract is not willing to do that. He is comfortable with that amount right now even with having to pay prevailing wage. He noted that previously they were charging \$5 per sq. ft. to restore the road.

Tax Assessors – No changes.

Town Clerk – Marriage licenses going up from \$20 to \$25. Vital Records from \$10 to \$15. Business Certificates (DBA) from \$20 to \$25. Duplicate Dog Tag from 50 cents to \$1.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Oversized Plan Copies - \$10.

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

VOTED: To accept the Departmental Fee Schedule as discussed.

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

Chairman Andrade requested Mr. Cadime update the list to include the changes made.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Accepting the Anonymous Donation in the Amount of \$250 for the Human Services Gift Account

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

VOTED: To accept the anonymous donation of \$250 for the Human Services Gift Account.

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

Consider Accepting the Donation of Stop and Shop Gift Cards Totaling \$200 from Doorways Food Pantry

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

VOTED: To accept the donation of Stop & Shop gift cards totaling \$200 from Doorways Food Pantry.

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

Chairman Andrade thanked the above donors.

COVID-19 Updates

Mr. Cadime advised the Governor had extended the Stay at Home order until May 18, 2020. Approximately two weeks ago, the Department of Revenue came out with recommendations to communities to start looking at cash flow plan. We were well in advance of that notification.

There were comments on Facebook that the Town or different departments are not doing anything. Mr. Cadime noted the staff is working hard. Human Services Director Brittney Faria is going shopping and pharmacy on her own time to get what people need. She and her staff call seniors to make sure they are doing well.

The animal shelter and playground are nearing completion. Supplies are being dropped off to various departments. DPW has done a phenomenal job. On Friday, they talked about reassessing services – to get inspectors going out without delays. Chief Healy and Mrs. Horsman talked about guidelines to put into place.

The protocol for the Building Department is that all inspectors will be given personal protective equipment. Interior inspections will be done by the general contractor and inspector only. Household members will have to vacate the property. There was talk about allowing photos or videos submitted at the discretion of inspectors. Large scale project inspections will take place after hours to minimize the number of individuals on site. In setting up inspections, the Health Department will verify that homes are safe to go into and not in quarantine.

Mr. Viera mentioned that he has gotten calls about using the walking track at the high school

Supt. Drolet sent a text that the track will be open from now on.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Radio Project is underway. Communications Director Carol Ann Days is maintaining that project. It is on track and budget.

DPW Facility- Meeting last week with architect for internal drawings and renderings.

Senior Center Phase II/540 Arcade Avenue – Meeting next week with bidders to schedule interviews and rank them. Might have information for the next meeting to get that project underway.

Playground at Town Hall is nearing completion. Equipment installed. Turf coming next week. The retaining wall and parking area done by DPW.

Animal Shelter – Punch list. Looking to have it fully open by the end of May or early June.

South End Fire Station – Nothing to report.

Old Town Hall – The committee has a couple of options.

Cable Contract - will do in the summer.

Policies and Procedures – New employment handbook is being put together by Kristen L'Heureux. Department heads will review and then forwarded to KP Law.

ADW/Maple Avenue Project – Nothing to report.

Mr. Cadime advised that Mr. Pozzi notified him that some spring leagues have cancelled due to the current situation. Softball and baseball holding out.

Mr. Viera asked about the status of the south end fire station.

Mr. Cadime said he has final drawings. He will present to the Board when there is a lighter agenda.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. David Saad, 150 Forsythe Circle, submitted a question regarding future meetings of the Cable TV committee.

Mr. Cadime advised he has met with Mr. Alexander. They are waiting to see requests from TV9.

Ms. Joann Bird of 240 Walker Street inquired about other cable companies.

Mr. Cadime said there are multiple cable companies that could come into town to negotiate.

Mr. Viera said the wires are old and it would be expensive to rewire the community.

Ms. Cheryl Gridley of 313 Miller Street complained about an ethical issue regarding the animal control officer who openly lied under oath in court on a town related matter.

Chairman Andrade said it is vague and needs more details.

Mr. Viera advised the Memorial Day is cancelled. It will be held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:12 p.m. Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Perrille et al vs. Town of Seekonk et al) pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) 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. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED AT THE APRIL 29, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

FY'21 Budget

Documents for the Change of Ownership Interest at Dublin Hospitality, LLC. Located at 940 Fall River Avenue

Departmental Fees list