

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, David Viera,
David Andrade, Adam Petronio

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, per Governor Baker's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, the number of attendees allowed to physically access this meeting is ten. Pre-registration is encouraged to reserve a seat to attend a meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Public comments and questions may also be submitted to the Board in advance of the meeting by completing the Google form prior to the meeting on Monday at noon. The meeting is broadcast live via Seekonk Cable TV9.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), anyone recording the meeting must notify the Chairman.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Viera announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Conservation Commission (1 BOS), Economic Development Committee (5 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Parks & Recreation (1 BOS), Recycling Committee (3 BOS). Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Proclamation for Fire Chief Michael P. Healy on the Occasion of His Retirement and 35 Years of Service to the Town

Chairman Sullivan presented Chief Healy with a Proclamation and key to the town.

Chief Healy expressed his appreciation to the Board and Mr. Cadime. He commended the men and women of the Fire Department (several were in attendance). He thanked board members for their support and Mr. Cadime for standing beside him through good and bad. He said the team of department heads is outstanding. He thanked residents for supporting his requests.

Chief Healy extended best wishes to the next Chief David Rave.

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment to Sharon Laforest for the Position of Full Time Kennel Worker

Animal Control Officer Andrea Russo requested the Board consider a conditional offer of employment to Sharon Laforest. She felt Ms. Laforest would be a good fit at the animal shelter.

Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Ms. Russo.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Sharon Laforest as kennel worker.

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

Consider Accepting the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Cadime explained the town warrant articles. Board members will review for discussion at the next meeting.

Amendments to the Town Administrator's Goals and Objectives

Chairman Sullivan stated he met with Mr. Cadime after the meeting on July 22, 2020 to try to align more priorities. He distributed suggestions.

There was discussion on how to advance the bond rating in town. There are ways to increase municipal stabilization up to 5 and 10%. That helps to enhance the bond rating and helps with the cost of borrowing. Mr. Cadime could set up a series of policies and procedures in terms of what is the timeframe. How to handle investment is another. This is for future town administrators and future boards.

Mr. Cadime noted the town has good financial business practices. Bond rating companies want to see practices and if they are being followed. How is the town handling investments?

Mr. Petronio asked about a policy for priority spending.

Mr. Cadime said there are checks and balances. The town would never get into a situation that would have to borrow.

Chairman Sullivan said other goals would be for Mr. Cadime to help the South End Fire Station Committee to complete estimates by June 2021.

To make sure there are complete drawings for the DPW building for Spring Town Meeting. To work towards establishing a Seekonk Economic and Commercial Development Plan and team consisting of department heads and the public help.

Mr. Petronio said some of these don't measure up to a timeline. He asked if any of these seem unreasonable.

Mr. Cadime replied that they are attainable. Some may be outside of his total control. He should be able to meet the goals and objectives.

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

VOTED: To approve the Amendments to the Town Administrator's Goals and Objectives.

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

Read into the Record the Moderator Appointments for the South End Fire Station Committee

Chairman Sullivan read the list of appointees to the South End Fire Station Committee as submitted by Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil.

Michael Bourque	103 Ellis Street
Nicholas Rondeau	17 Shady Lane
David Sullivan	78 Newman Avenue
James Tusino	60 Cedar Lane
David Viera	667 Ipswich Street

Consider Approving the Regular Session Minutes of September 2, 2020

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of September 2, 2020.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Radio Project

Mr. Cadime reported the radio project is completed on budget and within a week of scheduled completion date.

DPW Facility

Mr. Cadime advised that DPW Supt. David Cabral is working with the architect to make amendments to the conceptual drawings.

Playground at Town Hall

There's a warrant article for the playground. Mr. Cadime and Board members commented on the number of children out there every day.

Cable Contract

Mr. Cadime advised there should be a report at the next meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – Nothing to report.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra said project moving along. Will probably have a report at the next meeting.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – Nothing to report.

Veterans' Council

Mr. Viera stated the Council had met with the Veterans' Agent on September 24th and decided to do a vehicle parade followed by a small ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial Park on November 11th. The next meeting will be on October 6 to finalize plans. Mr. Cadime will be invited to that meeting.

Mr. Viera advised the South End Fire Station Committee met and organized last night. They need to meet with Mr. Cadime to determine what direction the Town wants to go. There was talk about Dispatch at that location. The next meeting will be on October 8 at Town Hall. They will try to follow the format of the Board of Selectmen – no more than 10 people wearing masks.

There was talk about Chief Rave attending meetings. Chairman Sullivan noted the Chief has experience with renovations in East Providence.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

At 7:49 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Petronio, to go into Executive Session

- A. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the town (472 Taunton Avenue);
- B. To conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Police Chief per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town;
- C. To conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with United Steelworkers of America Clerical Unit Local 9517-10 per M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 21(a)(3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town;
- D. To conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with Supervisors Unit Local 9517-09 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town;
- E. To conduct strategy sessions with DPW AFSCME 93 per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3);
- F. To consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of August 19, 2020, and
- G. To consider the approval of Executive Session minutes of September 2, 2020; not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by:

David Viera, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the September 30, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Sharon Laforest – Application for position of full time kennel worker

Amendments to Town Administrator's Goals and Objectives