

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 6, 2021
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Asst. Town Administrator/
Director of Human Resources: Carol-Ann Days

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. The meeting was held via Zoom.

He 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 the meeting. The public could have submitted comments and questions to the Board in advance by completing the Google Form prior to the meeting by Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be broadcast live via Seekonk Cable TV9 and streamed live on Seekonk Town Hall Facebook. M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), requires any person recording the meeting must notify the Chairman.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Mr. Andrade announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Assessors (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Capital Improvement Committee (2 BOS), Commission on Disability (5-13 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).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment for Edward Monigan, III to the position of Truck Driver/Laborer for the Department of Public Works

DPW Supt. David Cabral favorably recommended the appointment. He noted that Mr. Monigan has been a snowplow contractor for many years. He has his own landscaping business.

Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Mr. Cabral.

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

VOTED: To appoint Edward Monigan III to the position of truck driver/laborer with the Department of Public Works.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Andrade wanted to make sure that Mr. Monigan would not operate his business during the hours he works for the Town.

Mr. Cabral said he understands that.

In response to Mr. Viera's question, Mr. Cabral said DPW is now at the target figure of 17 employees.

Mr. Zorra said he does not know Mr. Monigan personally but he has seen his work; it's exceptional.

Mr. Petronio asked if Mr. Monigan is responsible for the cemeteries work. He agreed with Mr. Andrade that he must understand he cannot conduct his own business.

Mr. Cabral said that is his current employment.

Asst. Supt. Olobri clarified that Mr. Monigan is keeping his business but really does not have enough time for that.

Mr. Viera suggested that he might assist the individual who maintains Seekonk cemeteries. He understood that DPW maintains the second town cemetery.

Mr. Cabral noted the position is truck driver/laborer.

Consider the Reappointment of Neal Abelson as Building Inspector

Mr. Cadime advised he gave this significant consideration. He spoke to Mr. Abelson and is prepared to make a one-year appointment.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Neal Abelson as Building Inspector for one-year.

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

In discussion prior to the vote, Mr. Viera questioned why not a three year contract as per the contract.

Mr. Cadime responded that the Board had previously gone with the one year. To go into discussion would be considered a personnel matter. If the Board wants another recommendation, it would be to not reappoint.

January 6, 2021

-3-

Mr. Andrade said it makes no sense. This individual is going to retire in a year.

Mr. Viera said he received a couple of phone calls today asking why it is just one year while the Charter is clear about the three years.

Mr. Cadime said he just made that one year decision about ½ hour ago.

Mr. Viera said people assumed because it was one year last year.

Mr. Cadime noted there were issues over the last few years which he discussed with Mr. Abelson. He hoped Mr. Viera shared those concerns with the individuals who called him.

Mr. Viera responded that he absolutely did.

Mr. Cadime added the Charter clearly states it is a recommendation from the Town Administrator to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Petronio said the Charter says “shall” appoint for three years.

Chairman Sullivan asked, if it’s a three year appointment, is it at will vs. just cause.

Mr. Cadime said a section in the charter speaks to rescinding the appointment of the Board. It is not a grievable item for collective bargaining purposes.

Mr. Petronio read from Article 8, Section 9.

Mr. Andrade reiterated that it makes absolutely no sense.

Mr. Viera said Board members don’t know if this individual is going to retire. Maybe Mr. Andrade has inside information.

Mr. Andrade denied that. He is taking the individual out of it. He felt this might be an opportunity to correct the language at Town Meeting to “up to a three-year recommendation.” Board members agreed.

Mr. Petronio cautioned that it gives a lot of power to the town in negotiating. Need to do a check and balance in the hiring process. It might hurt the town in the long run.

Mr. Andrade said the Board is the hiring authority and should work in the interest of the town and the interest of the employee.

Mr. Zorra suggested they move on with the one year.

January 6, 2021

-4-

Chairman Sullivan asked Mr. Cadime if he told Mr. Abelson about his decision and what he is dissatisfied with.

Mr. Cadime stated he talked to Mr. Abelson this evening and has had discussions with him for more than a year. Board members are aware of those personnel matters. He felt Board members understood his position. If the Board wants to go with a three-year appointment, he would recommend not to reappoint.

Chairman Sullivan felt that Mr. Abelson has the year to prove himself and maybe in a year there can be a discussion for a three-year appointment.

Accept the Resignation of Lt. Alexander Schlageter as Firefighter for the Town of Seekonk

Mr. Cadime extended best wishes to Mr. Schlageter who has accepted a position at CVS corporate.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Lt. Alexander Schlageter as firefighter.

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

Accept the Resignation of Carol Poncin as Community Liaison for Human Services

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Carol Poncin as Community Liaison for Human Services.

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

Rescind the Conditional Offer of Employment to Helen Connors for the Part-Time Kennel Worker Position

Mr. Cadime advised that Ms. Connors has accepted another job offer.

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

VOTED: To rescind the conditional offer of employment to Helen Connors for the part-time kennel worker position.

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

Rescind the Conditional Offer of Employment to Scott Burns for the Full-Time Position of Communications Director

Mr. Cadime advised that, while going through background information, he spoke to Mr. Burns, who requested the offer of employment be rescinded.

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

VOTED: To rescind the conditional offer of employment to Scott Burns for the full time position of Communications Director.

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

Vote to Continue to Endorse the Save-A-Pet Society

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

VOTED: To continue to endorse the Save-A-Pet Society.

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

Vote to Allow the Town Administrator to Accept Gifts, Monetary and Tangible, Donated by Save-A-Pet to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during the Year 2021

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

VOTED: To allow the Town Administrator to accept gifts, monetary and tangible, donated by Save-A-Pet to the Seekonk Animal Shelter during the Year 2021.

Comcast Contract Negotiations

Mr. Cadime summed up that the contract would include 5% gross annual revenue, \$175,000 capital items, length of contract, senior discounts, language for license compliance and enforcement tools. Atty. Hewig will use his contract format.

Atty. William Hewig of KP Law advised that Comcast is agreeable to a third party vendor arrangement but will not open a service center in Seekonk. Senior discounts will be included in a side letter.

Atty. Hewig recommended a ten-year contract in order to get the most amount of capital.

Liquidated damages are already in the current license and will be in the renewed license as well.

January 6, 2021

-6-

Atty. Hewig will prepare a draft and send to Comcast. He will negotiate and send periodical reports to Mr. Cadime.

Mr. Sullivan asked about the liquidated damages.

Atty. Hewig said liquidated damages are in the contract but not regulated by anybody. They provide for fines if there is a violation of certain provisions of the license. There is no set standard for how much per day – usually between \$50 to \$150 per day. Seekonk's are high at \$500, \$300, \$250 per day. He noted the amount is not important. What's important is that it serves as a positive incentive to the cable company to correct violations.

The process is that a resident files a complaint with the Board of Selectmen. Once received, the Board sends a letter to Comcast regarding the violation with a reasonable deadline to correct the problem. If not corrected, the Board makes a determination to impose the damages back to the date of the original letter. It would be bad publicity for the company not to fit it. It is a powerful and important tool.

Chairman Sullivan asked about a certain type of form that could be on the town's website so residents can use to file a complaint.

Atty. Hewig said he is not aware of any form or template but it's a good idea.

In response to Mr. Cadime, Atty. Hewig said there is nothing to preclude a form.

Mr. Cadime cautioned that the form should clearly identify what issues can be considered in the violation of the contract.

Chairman Sullivan agreed. He offered his assistance.

Atty. Hewig said topics are identified in Section 12.3A.

Mr. Cadime will work with Atty. Hewig.

Consider Accepting the MassDevelopment Funds for Brownfields Remediation Recoverable Grant for Attleboro Dye Works Site located at 36 Maple Avenue and Authorizing the Town Administrator to Sign the Award Letter

Mr. Cadime recognized the hard work of Conservation Agent Jen Miller and Planning Director John Aubin in looking for grants. The Town was unsuccessful last year. This was a competitive award with limited funding.

Ms. Miller said only five communities in the State were awarded grant money. It is an honor for Seekonk. The grant is in the amount of \$250,000. They should be hearing about EPA grant money

within the next few weeks. MassDevelopment recognizes that this is an ongoing project working towards redevelopment.

Mr. Auburn thanked Mr. Cadime for the acknowledgment and Ms. Miller for her hard work. He said this is another step in the process of getting into redevelopment and deciding what to do with the site. It is a great opportunity for the town and a project he is excited to continue to work on.

Ms. Miller said the EPA grant is in the amount of \$500,000.

She said it would take \$750,000 to \$1M to remediate the lagoon area. She noted MassDevelopment is aware the Town will be seeking grant funding every year.

Mr. Zorra asked if the Pond Street Bridge reconstruction would help get more grant funds.

Ms. Miller said there might be funds for the dam and there are state funds for the bridge.

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

VOTED: To accept MassDevelopment funds in the amount of \$250,000 for Brownfields Remediation Recoverable Grant for the Attleboro Dye Works Site located at 36 Maple Avenue and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Award Letter.

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

Consider Accepting a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for Four Gas Meters along with Training System in the Amount of \$11,857 for the Seekonk Fire Department

Chief David Rave advised the Fire Department was awarded the grant in the amount of \$11,938 (new amount). He thanked Capt. Gourke who submitted the grant application.

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

VOTED: To accept the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for four gas meters along with training system in the amount of \$11,938.

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

Consider the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program

Chief Rave explained this is a COVID-19 specific waiver program sponsored through Sturdy Memorial Hospital. Seekonk and four other communities have the medical control doctor based at Sturdy. The doctor sets all protocol and licensing for paramedics. She applied and received approval through Mass. Emergency Medical Services Office to develop a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program for COVID-19. It is for people seen at Sturdy Memorial and diagnosed with COVID-19 symptoms but may not be sick enough or do not want to go to the hospital. The hospital would contact Firefighter Timothy Goodwin, EMS Coordinator. He would make appointments for paramedic to make a visit to the house. Sturdy will compensate the Town \$160 for each visit. It will be a 2-hour visit. Patients are very grateful for this service.

Chief Rave said it would be a 2-hour detail. EMS detail it is two hours.

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

VOTED: 4 Aye; 1 Nay; To approve the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Andrade recognized the benefits to residents; however, he is concerned about the reimbursement of \$160. The hospital is using town personnel, town equipment and those residents will be billed by Sturdy without reimbursing the town proportionately. He felt \$160 in no way compensates the town for expenses incurred.

Chief Rave said the firefighter amount is \$100 and \$60 to the town.

Mr. Viera said this is the way to the future. He asked if some of the cost could be passed onto health care providers. He asked Chief Rave to investigate further.

Mr. Andrade said Sturdy will bill the insurance company.

Chief Rave explained this program is COVID-19 specific. There have been 50 cases in the communities since April.

Mr. Andrade said it is about the hospital making money and at a cost to our residents.

Firefighter Goodwin said this is a non-billable service.

Mr. Zorra said he is fine with it. The \$60 covers the cost of the vehicles. He asked about the cost of medication.

Firefighter Goodwin said the station has meds. It is stocked once a month by Sturdy. .

January 6, 2021

-9-

Chairman Sullivan asked if the car used is cleaned out and disinfected.

Firefighter Goodwin said they have a UV light to use.

Chairman Sullivan wanted to make sure the paramedics will be vaccinated.

Chief Rave said public service employees will be vaccinated next week. EMS will be prepared to go into houses.

Mr. Andrade questioned that the hospital is willing to give this money and the cost of medication and not seek reimbursement to the insurance company.

Firefighter Goodwin said Medicare will not pay if a patient is discharged from the hospital and admitted again within 30 days from the same diagnosis.

Mr. Andrade reiterated that he is not opposed to it. But, the reimbursement to the town is not enough. He asked how Sturdy could be non-profit. It is ranked third most profitable hospital in Massachusetts. He suggested going back to negotiate.

Chairman Sullivan asked if there is room to negotiate.

Mr. Cadime said it was part of the application process submitted to the state.

Mr. Viera said the PR with our people meeting town residents in an emergency situation is priceless.

Firefighter Goodwin agreed with Mr. Viera. He said the volume for this program is not there right now.

Mr. Andrade said his issue is solely in a for- profit institution benefitting on the backs of our residents. This is a thug in his opinion.

Mr. Zorra felt that residents would rather pay for a new vehicle so that first responders can get to any scene without a problem.

Mr. Viera suggested trying this program. Public Safety and illness is the wrong place to start to save money.

Mr. Andrade said a multimillion dollar corporation is taken advantage of Seekonk.

Chairman Sullivan felt this is an opportunity to provide a service to our residents as long as safety is in place to protect our paramedics. It covers the cost of detail and there isn't a volume of calls right now.

Chairman Sullivan thanked Chief Rave and Firefighter Goodwin.

Consider an Amendment to Article 6 of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant – Trackless Machine

Mr. Cadime advised that he had discussion with Mr. Cabral and Mr. Olobri after the last snowstorm. The town had decided to go with the trackless machine. Several machines broke down after the last storm. Mr. Cabral and Mr. Olobri had to figure out if the Trackless Machines were good for the sidewalks. Article 6 on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant was to purchase and equip a Trackless Machine at \$144,310. It would be better and more versatile to purchase three Compact Track Loaders at \$20,000 more than the one Trackless Machine. They would come with a small blower attachment and a heavy duty plow.

Mr. Cabral said both machines broke down during the sidewalk operations. One is a 2009 machine and the other 1998 that will be retired.

Mr. Olobri went to Norfolk Equipment to look at equipment. The Compact Track Loader has versatility.

Mr. Viera said he got a call about why the Board would allow a warrant article for a machine without any explanation. He explained it was a place holder.

Mr. Cadime stated that specs are not included for any purchases because it could affect the bids. .

Mr. Cabral said he did provide some information.

Mr. Viera said he was also asked about purchasing used equipment.

Mr. Cadime said the town would be paying to maintain used equipment.

Mr. Olobri said DPW has attachments that would fit the new equipment.

Mr. Zorra mentioned the complaints about damage to property while cleaning sidewalks.

Mr. Viera said DPW takes care of damages in the spring.

Mr. Petronio asked about warranty, why three machines instead of two. and what would happen to existing equipment.

Mr. Olobri said 3 years, 2,000 hours is standard for warranty. They are always looking for ways to improve efficiency. Cost wise, it was better to get three machines. The 2009 machine will stay in service.

He said they have had to rent equipment.

Mr. Petronio asked about additional staff.

Mr. Olobri said not at this time.

Chairman Sullivan noted the Fall Town Meeting might be continued once again due to COVID-19. He suggested withdrawing Article 6 on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant and include on Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Cabral said the quote of \$164,400 is valid through March 30, 2021.

In response to Mr. Zorra, Mr. Cabral said this equipment will be stored inside and outside.

Mr. Cadime said action will be on the floor at Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Viera inquired about securing the County Street station.

Mr. Cabral will check. He noted there isn't a lot of money to spend on that.

Mr. Viera suggested it should be an agenda item.

Consider Accepting the Donation of a Foosball Table from Cardi's Furniture to Human Services

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

VOTED: To accept the donation of a foosball table from Cardi's Furniture to Human Services.

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

Consider Accepting a Donation to the Human Services Gift and Donation Account in the Amount of \$200 from Mary McLaughlin

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

VOTED: To accept the \$200 donation from Mary McLaughlin to the Human Services Gift and Donation Account.

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

Consider Accepting Various Donations in the Amount of \$1,981 to the Animal Shelter

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

January 6, 2021

-12-

VOTED: To accept various donations in the amount of \$1,981 to the Animal Shelter.

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

Chairman thanked all the above for their donations.

Continued COVID Discussion

Mr. Cadime advised the State required a minimum of 200 individuals in order to receive the vaccine. Seekonk is in a consortium with No. Attleboro and Plainville for first responders. During the next two weeks, those who are willing, including dispatchers, will receive the vaccine. Chief Rave did a walk through at the Plainville Public Health Complex.

Mr. Petronio pleased that first responders will receive the vaccine. .

Mr. Andrade asked Mr. Cadime about establishing a task force regarding COVID-19.

Mr. Cadime said it was left at the last meeting that the Board would vote to have one member in case it's necessary. Currently working with the Board of Health and Public Safety.

Mr. Viera noted the Board agreed that individual is a representative of the Board of Selectmen and would not make any decisions.

Mr. Petronio requested an update on the testing site at CVS.

Mr. Cadime said it failed by the electrical inspector. Rep Howitt has gotten involved.

Mr. Viera stated there are a lot of negative comments out there. There should be information on the website about why the site is not open. It has to do with the State.

Chairman Sullivan said it is unfortunate that the State has a gap in this part of the state. Fall River is the closest place for testing. There are also Rhode Island locations.

Review and Discuss the Open Meeting Law Complaint dated December 1, 2020 but submitted to the Town on December 23, 2020 regarding the Board of Selectmen's Amended Agenda that was posted after the time allowed for Public Comments had been closed and response to the complaint filed by Doreen Taylor

Chairman Sullivan read the complaint.

Mr. Andrade asked if the Board is required to have a question and answer format.

Mr. Cadime said there is no requirement from a legal standpoint. The Board has done it as a public service. He read the letter from counsel that the Board is not required to provide public comment. It is done as a public service. The amended agenda was well before the 48-hour period.

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

VOTED: To accept receipt of the open meeting law complaint dated December 1, 2020 but submitted to the Town on December 23, 2020.

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

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

VOTED: To direct Town Counsel to submit a response to the open meeting law complaint to the Division of Open Government.

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

Consider Accepting the Regular Session Minutes of December 16, 2020

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

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of December 16, 2020.

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Adam Pedro of 228 West Avenue spoke on behalf of the Seekonk Residents Against Successive Taxation. He said Seekonk working families have gone through hell due to COVID-19 only to receive tax bills higher than ever before. A petition has begun to bring attention to the disparity of excessive property taxes and ridiculous public expenditures the Town has brought forth. Year after year, increase after increase, the Town has hit residents with the bill. He will be delivering the petition to the Town. He read from statements he had received from residents. Mr. Pedro asked the Board to find a way to correct this or he would contact the State Division of Local Mandates.

Mr. Andrade pointed out that all expenditures are approved at Town Meeting. The budget is presented and approved at Town Meeting; not by the Board of Selectmen. He urged Mr. Pedro to get as many people as possible to attend town meeting because that would be the right forum. That's the way to get your voice heard.

January 6, 2021

-14-

Mr. Pedro said Board members are elected by the people to represent them. He has complete respect for Mr. Andrade and other Board members. He felt Mr. Andrade brought up good points earlier.

Mr. Zorra said Mr. Cadime goes through the budget line by line accounting for every penny.

Mr. Viera said Mr. Pedro concerns are well taken. Chairman Sullivan and he were really concerned going into this budget session because of all reasons he stated especially senior citizens who cannot go out and work an extra job.

He said Mr. Cadime puts together the best budget presentations he has ever seen. It is rare that any questions are asked. He urged Mr. Pedro to attend those meetings and ask the questions in order to understand the budget. He said Seekonk probably has the fairest form of government. Residents have the opportunity to ask questions and vote yes or no. Town meeting is one night every six months. It is a \$58M budget and there might only be 125 people or less in attendance..

Mr. Pedro said he will attend the next town meeting. With all due respect, the Board's hands are not tied.

Chairman Sullivan said Proposition 2 ½ limits how much taxes can go up. The budget includes contractual obligations and current services. There are debt exclusion items. The assessor and Board of Assessors are responsibility for values and they have criteria for that. He strongly recommended Mr. Pedro ask them about the process. Assessors bring proposed tax rates to the Board. The tax rate voted on is the lowest allowable by the State.

Mr.. Pedro thanked Board members for answering his questions.

Mr. Viera noted there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors and Capital Improvement Committee. He urged Mr. Pedro to fill out a talent bank form and get involved.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

DPW Facility – None.

ExecuTime

Mr. Cadime advised that training is underway. The new system should start in early February.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised the floors are going down on one side of the building. They will be selecting furniture.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report

Mr. Viera advised there is a meeting on Thursday but he cannot attend.

Veterans Council

Mr. Viera said they decorated the Christmas tree for the veterans. Will meet with the Veterans' Agent to discuss plans for the Memorial Day Parade. Not sure what will happen because of COVID-19.

South End Fire Station Building Committee

Mr. Cadime advised bids closed today. Proposals are due on February 10, 2021, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Viera said the Committee will have to discuss what will be done with old School Administration Building. Not sure if there is any hazardous material. They might be ready with numbers for Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Andrade mentioned there will be discussion at the Planning Board and Conservation Commission meetings about an asphalt company that wants to come into Seekonk to an area directly next to a residential neighborhood. He suggested a letter should be sent to those boards advising of the problems with Carters Way residents and Lynch Co. over the line in East Providence.

Mr. Zorra advised the matter was addressed by both boards.

Mr. Viera asked Mrs. Days to send a letter to the Board of Health explaining there is no water service.

Mr. Petronio suggested adding Open Space and Recreation to the liaison reports.

Mr. Zorra said he received a complaint about the bars at the playground. He felt the bars should be removed and replaced with a slide.

Mr. Andrade said it is up to parents to watch their children. The equipment is for different age groups.

Mr. Viera said he heard parents are leaving children unattended. He suggested looking into it.

Mr. Petronio said he received complaints as well. .

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:18 p.m., Mr. Viera motioned, seconded by Mr. Petronio, to enter into Executive Session

- A. To discuss complaints and discipline against an employee pursuant to 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;
- B. To discuss complaints and discipline against an employee pursuant to 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;
- C. 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 litigation of the town;
- D. To discuss negotiations with the United Steelworkers of America Clerical Unit Local 9517-10 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 discuss negotiations with the United Steelworkers of America 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;
- F. To approve the Executive Session minutes of December 16, 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,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the January 6, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Edward Monigan, III - application and resume for position of truck driver/laborer at DPW

Lt. Alexander W. Schlageter – letter of resignation from Fire Department

Helen Connors – letter to rescind appointment at Animal Shelter

Letter of endorsement for Seekonk Save-A-Pet

MassDevelopment – Grant Award for 36 Maple Avenue to be signed by Town Administrator

Mass. Emergency Management Agency – award of four gas meters and training system

Information on Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program

Amendment to Article 6 of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant – Trackless Machine

List of donations to Human Services

List of various donations to Animal Shelter

Open Meeting Law violation filed by Doreen Taylor