

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting of July 7, 2021
Seekonk Town Hall, 100 Peck Street
BOS Meeting Room**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, David Andrade, Michael Healy
Members Absent: Adam Petronio

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

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

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Any person recording must notify the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

David Andrade read volunteers are needed on the: Capital Improvement Committee (3 BOS & 1 MOD); Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS); Economic Development Committee (5 BOS); Energy Committee (2 BOS); Historical Commission (4 BOS); Human Services Council (1 BOS); Parks and Recreation (2 BOS); Recycling Committee (2 BOS); Veterans' Council (1 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 alternates)

Community Speaks: N/A

A. Consider the acceptance of Unites States Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Cleanup Grant in the amount of \$500,000 toward the remediation of the former Attleboro Dye Works site

Mr. Cadime acknowledge Jennifer Miller, John Aubin, and their group for all their hard work. He said this is a very detailed process and very time consuming and we are extremely excited to see this \$500,000 grant for the clean-up of the Brownfields on Maple Avenue. We did not anticipate this grant so it is a great surprise and shows the competitiveness of our grant. I would recommend we accept the \$500,000 grant and thank those individuals who were involved in the process.

Ms. Miller stated she felt extremely fortunate since the grant process was so competitive and that it typically takes several rounds of applications before receiving the grant. She also said that it also lines up with receiving the funds from the State for remediation of hopefully all 3 lagoons. DPW has already been on site, our contractor should be ready by August. She also advised EPA funds would not kick in until next year.

Mr. Aubin stated it has been an exciting project that has been going on for several years and he felt fortunate to have had the support of the EPA and Board of Selectmen.

M. Healy made a motion to accept the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant in the amount of \$500,000 toward the remediation of the former Attleboro Dye Works site; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

B. Consider the acceptance of the MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program grant in the amount of \$50,000

Mr. Cadime stated this is the second time the Town has applied for the grant. The Town may have been denied in the past due to the request being too high. Mr. Cadime made a recommendation to accept the \$50,000 grant. This grant is in addition to the funding approved at Town Meeting. The cost of materials have gone up so this will help.

M. Healy made a motion to accept the \$50,000 grant from MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program, D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

**C. Discussion on Chapter 90 Road Improvements for 2021 and
D. Discussion of other Proposed Road Improvements**

Chairman Sullivan stated that Agenda items C & D would be taken together.

Scott Olobri summarized the streets that were not completed last year: Elm Street and Greenwood Avenue should be done by August. We had to hold off due to possible work being done on Newman Avenue but we have not heard back from the individuals since November 20th. Mr. Cabral, Mr. Aubin, and Ms. Miller have tried contacting them. Ms. Miller reached out to their attorney, but he stated was waiting to hear from his client and was not sure who the contractor is. We cannot hold off on this project.

D. Andrade asked if communication was attempts been exhausted including certified mail.

S. Olobri stated it was sent registered mail and have given them ample time.

D. Andrade asked to be sure it has been sent both certified mail and registered mail.

S. Olobri will review the file for the signature receipt. The following streets have been placed on hold: Leonard Street, Jerry Lane, Perry Ave, Luther St, Smith St, Fuller St, South Fuller St, Spring St, and Grove St. have been placed on hold because of work currently being conducted by MassDOT and to avoid adding traffic to the area. We can start our work when MassDOT have completed their project.

Donald Lewis Dr, Massasoit, and Colfall Street are waiting for gas services (Eversource) to be completed and are anticipated to be completed late summer or fall.

Chair Sullivan asked when the utilities would be completed.

S. Olobri anticipates it will be completed soon.

S. Olobri continued discussion on proposed road improvements for 2021 and summarized the work that will be done: Bishop Ave (right side of Oak Hill), Clara St, Pond St, Lowell St, Alameda Dr, Carling Cir, Villanova Cir, George St, Raymond Dr. Lastly, will be Jacob St. due to all of the construction being done on Jacob and Palmer River. From Rt. 44 to Lincoln Street will be done. After Lincoln Street only a mill and overlay will be needed.

They are hoping these projects will be completed this year but they may have to continue until next year.

C. Zorra asked about the ballfield's parking area.

S. Olobri would like to see the entire lot and apron be done.

C. Zorra suggested having the drainage being repaired at the same time.

M. Healy made a motion to approve the proposed Chapter 90 Road Improvements for 2021; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

E. Consider adopting the remote participation policy

Mr. Cadime stated this was discussed at a previous meeting and before the board and committee handbook is finalized, we need to be sure what the board wants to do in regard to remote participation. The Board of Selectmen does not have to participate remotely, but in order for *one* board to do it, the Board of Selectmen has to adopt the Open Meeting Law that would allow any other Board or Committee to utilize remote participation.

Mr. Cadime stated that a quorum still needs to be in-person in order for remote participation to take place. They can participate in the vote, but the quorum must be in-person. Also, the Chairperson could not lead the meeting remotely.

D. Andrade stated that he was not originally in support of this when this was previously discussed. He did not feel the interaction during COVID was reliable and it was difficult to have in depth conversation. He agrees when COVID happened there was no alternative, but he does not agree with the policy

Chair Sullivan stated that he would like to see the Town adapt and adopt the provision in the Open Meeting Law. He agrees there were hiccups while learning, but they have seen some improvements. For instance, they now have the ability to conference call people in when a meeting is held in the Board of Selectmen meeting room.

Mr. Healy believes it is a good tool and it should be used.

Mr. Zorra stated that he supported it two years ago and is still in support.

M. Healy made a motion to accept the adopting the remote participation policy, C. Zorra seconded.

VOTE: 3-1

Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Nay; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

F. Chairman Sullivan read into the record the Moderator Appointment of Oscar Elmasian to the South End Fire Station Building Committee

Chair Sullivan read the letter from the Town Moderator into record.

D. Andrade asked when the committee could meet with the Board to discuss the project.

Mr. Cadime said once they finalize the OPM, they should be able to come in to discuss the project.

G. Consider accepting the donation of cloth face masks from the Seekonk High School to the Senior Center

D. Andrade made a motion to accept the donation of cloth face masks from the Seekonk High School to the Senior Center, M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

H. Consider accepting the donation of \$1,500 from “Friends of Friends” to the Senior Center gift and donation account to purchase gift cards

D. Andrade made a motion to accept the donation of \$1,500 from “Friends of Friends” to the Senior Center gift and donation account to purchase gift cards, M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

I. Consider accepting the donation of 20 perennials from Little Tree Nursery for residents who lost loved ones during the COVID pandemic

D. Andrade made a motion to accept the donation of 20 perennials from Little Tree Nursery for residents who lost loved ones during the COVID pandemic, M. Healy seconded and it was unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

J. Consider and sign the Warrant for the August 30th Special Election

C. Zorra made a motion to sign the Warrant for the August 30th Special Election, M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

K. Consider accepting the minutes of June 9, 2021

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the minute of June 9, 2021, M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTE: 4-0 all in favor

Community Speaks: N/A

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss other topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours before the meeting
-N/A

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

South End Fire Station Building Committee - Nothing at this time

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- A. Accounts Payable Warrant (N/A)
- B. Bristol County Advisory Board (Michael Healy)
-Nothing at this time
- C. Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra)
-Construction on the project is continuing and there is no official date yet for the walk-through.
- D. 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra)
-Nothing new to report but there is an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

D. Andrade made a motion to adjourn the open meeting to go into executive session, and reconvene in open session; it was seconded by M. Healy, and unanimously approved.

The open meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. Open session will reconvene after executive session.

VOTE: 4-0

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Nay; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Open meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. to vote on item E from Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to the negotiations with the Assistant Superintendent of Public works.

D. Andrade made a motion to vote on item E from Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to the negotiations with the Assistant Superintendent of Public works; it was seconded by M. Healy, and unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE all in favor

Chair Sullivan asked if there was a vote to approve the DPW Assistant Superintendent's contract as presented by Mr. Cadime.

D. Andrade made a motion to approve the DPW Assistant Superintendent's contract as presented by Mr. Cadime; M. Healy seconded and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE all in favor

Chair Sullivan asked if there was a motion to adjourn the open session at 7:11 p.m.

D. Andrade made a motion to adjourn the open session at 7:11 p.m.; C. Zorra seconded and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE all in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the June 23, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Memo from Jennifer Miller, Conservation Agent and Cleanup Workplan for CERCLA Section 104(k) Cooperative Agreement (10/1/21-9/30/2024)

Memo From Jennifer Miller, Conservation Agent

Correspondence from MassDOT regarding the Shared Streets and Spaces Program

Memo from DPW for Proposed Chapter 90 Road Improvements 2021

Memo from DPW of other general road Improvements

Memo from Peter Hoogerzeil, Town Moderator, for a new member appointment to the South End Fire Station Building Committee

Memo from Seekonk Human Services regarding donations

Warrant for Special Election for August 30, 2021

Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2021