

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 9, 2021
REGULAR SESSION

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

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. He welcomed everyone back to Town Hall.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Mr. Petronio announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (2 Board of Selectmen appointments), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Economic Development Committee (5 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Recycling Committee (2 BOS), South End Fire Station Building Committee (1 Moderator), Veterans Council (2 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Swearing in Ceremony for Nicholas Faria to the Position of Patrolman 3rd Class

Chief Dean Isabella requested the appointment of Nicholas Faria to the position of Patrolman 3rd Class.

Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Isabella.

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

VOTED: To appoint Nicholas Faria as Patrolman 3rd Class with the Seekonk Police Department.

Town Clerk Florice Craig administered the oath to Patrolman Faria. His mother pinned his badge.

Swearing in Ceremony for Kourtny DeForitis to the Position of Patrolman 3rd Class

Chief Isabella requested the appointment of Kourtny DeForitis to the position of Patrolman 3rd Class.

Mr. Cadime recommended as stated by Chief Isabella.

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

VOTED: To appoint Kourtny DeForitis as Patrolman 3rd Class with the Seekonk Police Department.

Town Clerk Florice Craig administered the oath to Patrolman DeForitis. Chief Isabella pinned her badge.

Recognition of Benjamin Pope on the Occasion of the Achievement of His Eagle Scout Award

Benjamin is a Seekonk resident. He explained the project he completed, along with others, at the Seekonk Commons.

Chairman Sullivan commended the three non-residents who completed projects in Seekonk.

Chairman Sullivan read the Certificate presented to Benjamin.

Recognition of the Seekonk High Scholl Warrior Championship Teams

Chairman Sullivan presented Certificates to coaches of the following teams: Linda Horton, Warrior Girls Cross Country; Matt Brown, Warrior Football Assistant; and Tom Fecteau, DRS Hockey. Other coaches and team members were in attendance.

Chairman Sullivan thanked Mr. Healy for recommending this agenda item.

Mr. Healy said it was a difficult year and for these teams to come back and win championships - it is a great job!

Consider the Request from Elmer Perez for a Mobile Food Cart Permit to Sell Food at the Seekonk Speedway Flea Market at 1710 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA

Mr. Perez was in attendance. He is aware that he needs a permit from the Health Agent.

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

VOTED: To approve the request from Elmer Perez for a mobile food cart permit to sell food at the Seekonk Speedway Flea Market at 1710 Fall River Ave.

Review and Discuss the Open Meeting Law Complaint dated May 31, 2021 Regarding the Seekonk Turf Committee's Minutes and Agendas and Response to the Complaint filed by Doreen Taylor

Chairman Sullivan read the complaint. She alleges that information provided with regard to her request was incomplete. No vote was taken on the \$2.7M and on the engineer of record. Ms. Taylor wants censure of the Town of Seekonk Board of Selectmen for not enforcing the by-laws and guiding the building committee accordingly.

Chairman Sullivan also read the response to be forwarded to the State if approved by the Board.

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

VOTED: To approve the response to the complaint filed by Doreen Taylor.

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

VOTED: To approve the response to the open meeting law complaint filed by Doreen Taylor.

Consider Setting the Date for a Special Election

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

VOTED: To schedule the special election on August 30, 2021.

Consider a Ballot Question Regarding the Seekonk Connolly Field and Mooney Track

Chairman Sullivan read the question.

“ Shall the Town of Seekonk be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund the construction and renovation of the Seekonk Connolly Field and Mooney Track, including furnishings and equipment, which project costs shall include, but not be limited to, demolition, landscaping, paving, utility and other site improvements related to the project, associated architectural, engineering and other professional and legal expenses and fees, and all other costs incidental or related thereto?”

It is a yes or no question.

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With regard to Mr. Healy's suggestion that language should include "not to exceed the \$2.7M approved at Town Meeting," Mr. Cadime said state law prohibits putting dollar amount. It can't exceed the amount voted at Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To approve the ballot question regarding the Seekonk Connolly Field and Mooney Track.

General Discussion of Spring Town Meeting

Chairman Sullivan recognized the Department of Public Works, Town Administrator's office, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Public Safety and others who worked to accommodate the 388 people who checked into Town Meeting, especially with the hot evening.

Mr. Petronio liked the traffic flow pattern.

Mr. Andrade reminded residents that the Board of Selectmen is elected to serve the entire town.

Mr. Healy said there are complaints about the increase in taxes.

He felt Town Meeting went smoothly. There were a lot of new faces. He hoped to see them in the future not just when it is a project of interest..

Mr. Healy said he is supportive of all projects but the Board needs to come up with a plan..

Board members discussed ways of bringing more information to residents such as videos running on TV9, social media, and advertising vacancies on boards and commissions

Mr. Petronio felt the best practice is to have a subject matter expert to explain what happened and how we got where we are.

Chairman Sullivan liked the consolidation on sheets attached to the warrant.

Mr. Zorra liked having the bottles of water available.

Mr. Cadime recognized Jim Roy from the School Department for his assistance.

Chairman Sullivan credited Mr. Cadime on his presentation of the budget. There were only two questions on the budget.

Consider Accepting the Minutes of April 21, 2021 and May 26, 2021

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

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VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of April 21, 2021 and

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of May 26, 2021.

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

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

South End Fire Station Building Committee Report

Mr. Cadime thanked all residents who attended Town Meeting. He agreed with Mr. Healy that there were a lot of new faces and hopefully they will come back.

He should have more information on negotiations for OPM.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra announced the date for the open house has moved to August. Waiting for confirmation from the Superintendent of Schools.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised they are working with the architect. Will do borings and drillings for the elevator.

Veterans’ Council

Mr. Petronio said a meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021. They will start planning for Veterans Day.

Mr. Zorra asked about building committee packet

Chairman Sullivan said it will be reviewed in July. It has much information.

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Mr. Cadime said it will be educational and informational.

Mr. Zorra asked when the road at 185 Cole Street will be patched following the water main break.

He said someone asked about a crosswalk sign on Cole Street.

Mr. Zorra congratulated the Class of 2021 from Seekonk High School, Bristol Aggie, and Tri-County.

Mr. Cadime advised the tax title auction was very successful. There were 40 to 50 participants. Twenty-one properties at \$761,500. A lot of parcels were landlocked and had some wetlands. Closing has to be in 30 to 45 days. The properties will be back on tax rolls by 2023.

At 7:08 p.m. Mr. Andrade motioned, seconded by Mr. Petronio, to go into Executive Session to:

- A. 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 consider 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;
- C. To conduct strategy sessions with respect to negotiations with the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, 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;
- D. To act under authority of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 22(f) and Section 22(g) and review and approve the executive session minutes of April 21, 2021, May 12, 2021, May 20, 2021, and May 26, 2021 pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7); not to return to open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:
Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Item Distributed at the June 9, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Documents for Elmer Perez – Request for a Mobile Food Truck at Seekonk Speedway Flea Market