

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 12, 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

The meeting was held at the Seekonk Senior Center, 540 Arcade Avenue.

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

He announced that, per Gov. Baker's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, it is necessary to limit the number of attendees allowed to physically access the Board of Selectmen meeting to 25. Masks are required for those in attendance.

The public could have submitted comments and questions to the Board in advance of the meeting by completing the Google Form by Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be broadcast live on TV9 and streamed live on TV9's Facebook.

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

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Mr. Andrade announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Health (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), South End Fire Station Building Committee (1 Moderator), Veterans' Council (2 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Alves, 25 River Street, repeated comments he made at previous meetings that the Town of Norton lumped three items together into one debt exclusion and the Town agreed with it. He felt that was commendable.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Petronio asked to take items F and G out of order.

Consider Increasing the Number of Members on the Veterans' Council from 5 to 7

Chairman Sullivan explained there are three applicants looking to join the Veterans' Council. The State allows up to 15 people.

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

VOTED: To increase the number of members on the Veterans' Council from 5 to 7.

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

Interview and Consider for Appointment Three Candidates for Vacant Positions on the Veterans' Council

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

VOTED: To appoint Russ Pion, Jr. to a one-year term, Moises A. Moniz to a two-year term, and Michael Tumlinson to a three-year term on the Veterans' Council.

Return to the regular order of business.

Consider the Promotion of Firefighter Edward Maher to the Position of Lieutenant

Fire Chief David Rave proudly recommended the promotion of Edward. Maher. He noted Firefighter Maher joined the Seekonk Fire Department on September 29, 2015.

Mr. Cadime recommended as mentioned by Chief Rave.

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

VOTED: To promote Firefighter Edward Maher to the position of Lieutenant with the Seekonk Fire Department.

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

Town Clerk Florice Craig administered the oath. Lt. Maher's mom, Nora, pinned his badge.

Chief Rave advised Lt. Maher will remain at Group B Banna.

Recognition of the Fire Department's Group C; Engine 1, Rescue 1, and Rescue 2 for Lifesaving Actions on Saturday, March 6, 2021

Chief Rave commended the firefighters for lifesaving actions that happened on Saturday, March 5, 2021 regarding a rollover on Taunton Avenue at Lincoln Street. Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to extricate a female from the vehicle.

The firefighters are:

Engine 1 – Lt. Shaun Whalen, Firefighter Timothy Goodwin, Firefighter Doug Young

Rescue 1 – Firefighter Timothy Houde, Firefighter Alex Impagliazzo

Rescue 2 – Lt. Kyle Laprade, Firefighter Edward Galley

Recognition of the Fire Department's Group C, Engine 1, Rescue 1, Engine 3, Rescue 2 and Car 3 for Lifesaving Actions on Sunday, March 14, 2021

Chief Rave commended the firefighters for lifesaving actions on Sunday, March 14, 2021 with regard to a male in the water clinging to an overturned kayak approximately 40 to 60 yards offshore.

The firefighters are:

Car 3 – Capt. Michael Bourque

Engine 1 – Lt. Shaun Whalen, Firefighter Timothy Goodwin

Engine 3 – Lt. Kyle Laprade, Firefighter Edward Galley

Rescue 1 – Firefighter Alex Impagliazzo, Firefighter Adam Colaianni

Rescue 2 – Firefighter Doug Young, Firefighter Timothy Houde

Discussion of the Upgrade of Engine 1 and Engine 2 Fire Companies to the Paramedic Level

Chief Rave said those two vehicles were completed. He thanked former Chief Healy and the residents who approved this at Town Meeting.

Vote to Accept and Sign the Bond and Bond Anticipation Note

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

VOTED: See attached motion.

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

Notice of Moderator Appointment of Christopher Zorra to the 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee

Notification from Town Moderator Peter R. Hoogerzeil of the appointment of Christopher Zorra to the 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee.

Consider Accepting Anonymous Donations made to Seekonk Human Services (eight \$25 gift cards to Stop & Shop and art and kitchen supplies)

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

VOTED: To accept the anonymous donations of eight \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards and art and kitchen supplies made to Seekonk Human Services.

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

Board members thanked the donors.

Discussion of the Process for the Remaining Open Cannabis Licenses

Chairman Sullivan stated that the interview process for manufacturing and cultivation is over. It is time to go to the transportation, research and laboratory licenses in town. An applicant is interested in one or all three and one has an interest in transportation. There are no rules on how to handle applications. He felt it is in the town's best interest to have a definitive time line to hear applicants. Board members agreed 90 days is an appropriate time. On September 1, the Board will review and decide whether to go with a plan to bring applicants in two weeks after submission or leave it open a little longer.

Mr. Petronio said he would like input from public safety and the Board of Health.

Mr. Cadime added the Building Inspector as well.

Consider the Appointment of a Board of Selectmen Member to the Bristol County Advisory Board

Chairman Sullivan motioned, seconded by Mr. Petronio, and it was unanimously

VOTED: That Michael Healy serve as the Board of Selection member to the Bristol County Advisory Board.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye. Mr. Andrade not in attendance at the time of the vote.

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Consider Setting the Date for a Special Election

Consider a Ballot Question Regarding the Seekonk Public Library

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

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

VOTED: To table Consider Setting the Date for a Special Election,
Consider a Ballot Question Regarding the Seekonk Public Library, and
Consider a Ballot Question Regarding the Seekonk Connolly Field and
Mooney Track.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.
Mr. Andrade was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

General Discussion of Spring Town Meeting

Chairman Sullivan thanked those who attended. The attendance was amazing. The meeting was postponed until Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 10 a.m. at the football field. That would accommodate 400 to 500 people spaced out.

Mr. Petronio noted that the Seekonk Showcase might be a possibility in the future. He is waiting for a packet of information which he will forward to the Town Administrator. It's important to make sure the town meeting is done legally. He inquired about a tent.

Mr. Cadime said tents will be set up to keep people out of the sun and also for EMS purposes. The information will be provided to residents prior to the meeting. There should be more information by Wednesday of next week.

Chairman Sullivan said the library group and the group for the high school turf will have visuals that people can view as they are signing in.

Mr. Zorra wanted information on check-in.

Mr. Cadime said there will be limited staff at check-in after the meeting starts. The process begins an hour before the town meeting starts.

Mr. Petronio emphasized that articles can be revisited.

Consider the Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of March 31, 2021

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the regular session minutes
of March 31, 2021.

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The vote: Mr. Healy – Abstained; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye. Mr. Andrade was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT- None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report

Mr. Zorra advised the committee will meet on May 20 to plan for an Open House which should happen around June 20. They are doing punch list items. Half of the building is in use right now.

Mr. Petronio advised the Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the Veterans’ Memorial on Saturday, May 29, at 11:30 a.m. TV9 will do a live feed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:19 p.m. Mr. Petronio motioned, seconded by Mr. Zorra, 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. Conduct strategy sessions with respect to Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO 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. 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; and
- D. Act under authority of the Open Meeting Law, General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 22(f) and Section 22(g) and review and approve the executive session minutes of March 31, 2021 pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(7).

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The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Petronio – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.
Mr. Andrade was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the May 12, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Correspondence from Fire Chief David Rave re: Edward Maher promotion to Lieutenant and commendation of firefighters on Group C, Engine 1, Rescue 1, Engine 3, Rescue 2 and Car 3
Also, correspondence from EMS Director Timothy Goodwin on completion of upgrades on Engine 1 and 2 to the paramedic level

Bond and Bond Anticipation Note

Recommendation to increase number on Veterans' Council from 5 to 7

Interview and appoint Moises A. Moniz, Russ Pion, Jr. and Michael Tumlinson to the Veterans' Council

Correspondence from Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil to appoint Chris Zorra to the 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee

Memo from Ashley Cartwright on anonymous donations to Human Services