

**Board of Selectmen  
Open Meeting of March 2, 2022  
Meeting Held Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

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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 **6:02 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 5-0 all in favor

**Board and Committee Openings**

C. Zorra read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

**Community Speaks**

Tom Benoit inquired as to why the meeting was not being held in-person.

Chairman Sullivan explained the Town Hall was closed to the public when the advertisements had to be placed in the newspaper, and at that time, it was not known as to when the Town Hall would be reopened.

**A. Consider the Conditional offer of Employment of Jennifer Argo to the position of Finance Director/Town Accountant**

Human Resource Director/Assistant Town Administrator, Carol-Ann Days, summarized Ms. Argo's extensive experience with financial analysis, auditing, budgeting, and municipal accounting. Along with Ms. Days, the interview panel consisted of Chris Testa-Executive Administrative Assistant, Chris DeFontes-Treasurer/Collector, Jill Brilhante-School Business Administrator, Joanna L'Heureux-Finance Director with the City of Pawtucket, and Bruce Alexander-Director of Finance/Town Accountant. The interview consisted of 30 questions with follow-up. Ms. Days asked the Board to offer Jennifer Argo a conditional offer of employment as Finance Director/Town Accountant.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as presented by the Assistant Town Administrator.

**A. Petronio made a motion the Board of Selectmen appoint Jennifer Argo to the position of Finance Director/Town Accountant subject to and conditioned upon successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) pre-employment background check; 2) CORI check; 3) physical examination; 4) drug screening; and 5) completion of all pre-employment paperwork; D. Andrade seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**B. Consider the Conditional offer of Employment of Elizabeth Santoro to the position of 3rd class Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department**

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of the following: 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Elizabeth Santoro to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> class firefighter/paramedic.

Mr. Cadime stated his recommendation was as presented by the Fire Chief.

**A. Petronio made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Santoro to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire Department subject to and conditioned upon her successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's Physical Ability Test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts firefighting academy; and 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from the date of academy completion; C. Zorra seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**C. Consider the Conditional offer of Employment of Aaron Bento to the position of 3rd class Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department**

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Aaron Bento to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> class firefighter/paramedic.

S. Cadime stated his recommendation was as presented by the Fire Chief.

**A. Petronio made a motion to appoint Aaron Bento to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's Physical Ability Test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts firefighting academy; and 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from the date of academy completion; D. Andrade seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**D. Consider the Conditional offer of Employment of Ryan McNeill to the position of 3rd class Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department**

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Ryan McNeill to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> class firefighter/paramedic.

S. Cadime stated his recommendation was as presented by the Fire Chief.

**A. Petronio made a motion to appoint Ryan McNeill to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's Physical Ability Test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts firefighting academy; and 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from the date of academy completion; C. Zorra seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**E. Consider the Conditional offer Employment of Hayden Gallagher to the position of 3rd class Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department**

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Hayden Gallagher to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> class firefighter/paramedic.

S. Cadime stated his recommendation is as presented by the Fire Chief.

**A. Petronio made a motion to appoint Hayden Gallagher to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's Physical Ability Test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts firefighting academy; and 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from the date of academy completion; C. Zorra seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**F. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment of Jake Trenteseaux to the position of 3rd class Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department**

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Jake Trenteseaux to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> class firefighter/paramedic.

S. Cadime stated his recommendation is as presented by the Fire Chief.

**A. Petronio made a motion to appoint Jake Trenteseaux to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's Physical Ability Test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts firefighting academy; and 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from the date of academy completion; C. Zorra seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**G. Consider the Conditional Offer of Employment of Justin Lupone to the position of 3rd class Firefighter/Paramedic with the Fire Department**

Chief Lowery stated the hiring process consisted of 1) 2-hour written exam; 2) physical agility test; and 3) an in-person interview. Chief Lowery asked the Board to consider a conditional offer of employment be made to Justin Lupone to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> class firefighter/paramedic.

S. Cadime stated his recommendation is as presented by the Fire Chief.

**A. Petronio made a motion to appoint Justin Lupone to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter Paramedic for the Fire Department subject to and conditioned upon his successful passage as determined by the Town Administer as follows: 1) executed Attachment A and Attachment B documents; 2) pre-employment background and CORI check; 3) physical examination with drug screening; 4) psychological evaluation; 5) Civil Service Commission's Physical Ability Test; 6) successful completion and passage from a Massachusetts firefighting academy; and 7) completion of Paramedic level certification within 3 years from the date of academy completion; C. Zorra seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**H. Consider appointing Karen Fuller to the Cultural Council**

Mr. Cadime met with Ms. Fuller and recommended the Board appoint Karen Fuller to the Cultural Council.

**A. Petronio made a motion to approve the appointment of Karen Fuller to the Cultural Council; C. Zorra seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**I. Consider the Town Moderator appointments of Michelle Hines and John Pozzi to the Department of Public Works Building Committee**

Chair Sullivan read a memo from the Town Moderator notifying the Board he appointed Michelle Hines and John Pozzi to the Department of Public Works Building Committee.

**J. LICENSE HEARING: Consider the request for a Transfer of an Off-Premise All Alcohol License for Araujo Liquors, Ltd. d/b/a Regency Liquors, 301 Taunton Avenue to Araujo Holdings, LLC, d/b/a Regency Liquors; Nuno Araujo to be manager**

*Continued from the February 16, 2022 Board of Selectmen meeting*

Correspondence was received from the Applicant's Attorney, Michael Levinson, requesting a continuance to the March 16, 2002 Board of Selectmen meeting.

**A. Petronio voted to continue the public hearing to March 16, 2022 Town Hall; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**K. Consider amending the Mobile Food Cart permit policy**

Chair Sullivan asked the Board to consider amending the Mobile Food Cart permit. The current policy requires the applicant to apply and pay for each individual event. The amended policy will be similar to other licenses and be issued annually. They will still be required to be approved by the Board of Health and Fire Department. The applicant shall file an amendment through the Town Administrator's Office for each event with the specific date, location and time.

**A. Petronio made a motion to modify the Mobile Food Cart Permit to be an annual license. Each specific event will require approval from the Town Administrator's office for each specific location and time; C. Zorra seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**L. LICENSE HEARING: Consider the Request for a Mobile Food Cart Permit for Timothy Spaulding to sell food at Seekonk Speedway Flea Market, 1782 Fall River Avenue**

Mr. Spaulding was on the Zoom call to present his application. He stated he would prefer an annual license as the Board just discussed.

**A. Petronio made a motion to approve the Mobile Food Cart permit for Timothy Spaulding to sell food at the Seekonk Speedway Flea Market; D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**M. Consider the acceptance of Deputy Police Chief's contract**

Chair Sullivan stated the Board approved the Deputy Police Chief's contract during executive session. The Board is required to accept the contract during open session.

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept the Deputy Police Chief's contract; it was seconded by C. Zorra , and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**N. Consider accepting the minutes of February 16, 2022**

**A. Petronio made a motion to accept the minutes of February 16, 2022; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and it was unanimously approved.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor**

**O. PUBLIC HEARING – JOINT MEETING WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Hearing**

Finance Committee Members present: Matthew Salisbury, Normand Duquette, Phillip Yan  
Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander

Mr. Cadime presented the FY 2023 Budget. The presentation included the following information: Long-Term Growth & Sustainability; FY 2023 Recommended Budget; Budget Summary; Budgeted Resources; 5-Year Trend Analysis; Departmental Budgets; General Government Highlights; Public Safety; Streets & Highway; Other Environmental Highlights; Human Services; Culture & Recreation Highlights; Debt & Fixed Cost; Education Highlights; and Sanitation Highlights.

A. Petronio asked for clarification when the sanitation contract is expected to be renegotiated (FY23 or FY24).

Mr. Cadime stated FY24. The current 10-year contract for sanitation allowed for consistency in controlling costs due to increase of recycling and disposal costs.

C. Zorra suggested looking into solar panels for the car port at public safety due to the high cost of electricity.

Mr. Cadime stated the discussion of solar panels will be revisited as discussed at a previous meeting with the Energy Committee.

M. Salisbury from the Finance Committee asked if any debt will be retiring soon and if any debt will be added.

Mr. Cadime stated there is debt retiring and the debt being added are the Aitken School addition, Senior Center Phase II, and South End Fire Station.

P. Yan from Finance Committee asked for additional information regarding the playground maintenance.

Mr. Cadime advised there is a service contract to be sure safety is maintained on the equipment.

C. Zorra asked if the town should consider ordering police vehicles soon since there has been a delay in receiving DPW and Fire Department vehicles due to supply chain issues.

Mr. Cadime said he will speak with the Police Chief and Deputy Chief.

A. Petronio asked Mr. Cadime if revenue has been received yet from the Cannabis agreement.

Mr. Cadime advised the Town has not seen the revenue numbers yet.

Chair Sullivan asked why the resurfacing expense under DPW remained the same since they decided not to use the chip and seal process.

Mr. Cadime stated additional money for resurfacing comes from Chapter 90 money.

Chair Sullivan asked for explanation for the increase of DPW personnel.

Mr. Cadime stated staffing levels are not at optimal level for the increase demand of recreation fields, catch basins & building maintenance, roadwork, building projects, facilities, street sweeping, damn repair/maintenance, and maintaining the trails.

Chair Sullivan thanked Mr. Cadime for the presentation and the Department Heads and Finance Committee for participating in the Budget Hearing.

**Community Speaks:** N/A

**OTHER BUSINESS** – N/A

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – The bid for architectural services for the South End Fire Station closed today at 3:00 p.m. The two firms that submitted were Brewster Thornton Group and TGAS.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- Bristol County Advisory Board (Michael Healy) -N/A
- Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra) – There is a valve issue with the generator and it is being worked on.
- 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra) – N/A

**Adjournment to Enter into Executive Session**

**A. Petronio made a motion to adjourn open session meeting to enter into executive session at 8:12 p.m.; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and unanimously approved.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor**

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:  
Kristen L'Heureux

**Items Distributed at the March 2, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- Memo from Carol-Ann Days, HR Director/Assistant Town Administrator with Jennifer Argo's resume
- Memo from Chief Lowery
- Karen Fuller Talent Bank Form
- Town Moderator Memo
- Correspondence from Michael Levinson (Araujo Holdings, LLC d/b/a Regency Liquors)
- Draft Amended Food Permit Policy
- Tim Spaulding Mobile Food Cart application
- FY 2023 Proposed Budget & Presentation