

Board of Selectmen, September 3, 2013

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

Present: Shawn Harris, Chairman; John F. Danehey, Martin J. O'Toole, Anthony V. Vegnani

Patricia A. Vinchesi, Town Administrator

Press: Patriot Ledger, Scituate Mariner, Boston Globe, WATD

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

2.ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ACCEPT the Agenda for September 3, 2013. SECONDED by Mr. O'Toole. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

3.EXECUTIVE SESSION – To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining because an Open Meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town/
Non-Union – Chief of Police Contract.

Chairman Harris announced the reason for Executive Session and that the Board would return to Regular Session at approximately 7:00 PM this evening.

Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ENTER Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining because an Open Meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town –

Non-union – Chief of Police. SECONDED by Mr. O'Toole. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session via roll call at 6:32 PM with Shawn Harris, Anthony V. Vegnani, Martin O'Toole and John F. Danehey all answering "yes".

4. 7:00 PM/ REGULAR SESSION CALLED BACK TO ORDER

Mr. Harris called Regular Session back to order at 7:00 PM.

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5. Employee Recognition Awards

Employee awards were distributed to those with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service to the Town.

6.MEET APPOINTMENT APPLICANTS/ Cable Television, Economic Development Committee

Marie Fiddler – Cable Television Committee applicant – has taught at Jenkins School for 10 years and worked in cable television for many years before that. She would like to foster a good relationship between cable television and the schools.

Ed Fiddler – Cable Television Committee applicant – prior to his current job, he worked in the cable industry for 15 years and is looking forward to rejoining it. Mr. Vegnani knows the Fiddlers and stated that they have been very active in the community and would be a welcome addition to the Committee.

John Cranston – Economic Development Committee applicant – applied for a position on the Committee a few months ago and was not appointed at that time. He is applying again because there is another opening.

He was an economic major in college, worked for Google and now owns his own investment advisory firm. He has experience in studying demographics, credit ratings, cost benefit analysis, etc. Mr. Cranston stated that he is not originally from Scituate and feels that this and his youth could offer a fresh perspective to the Committee. He spoke about the new FEMA flood plain maps and the potential impact on the Harbor business area. He has attended two Committee meetings and has met some of the Committee members. Clarification on Mr. Cranston's remarks at the April 2013 Town Meeting regarding meals tax revenue. Mr. Vegnani stressed the importance of committees, commissions, boards and councils working well with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Cranston stated that he would be able to attend Committee meetings on a regular basis.

7. WALK-INS – None this evening.

8. AWARD CONTRACT/ Engineering for Water Main Replacement/ A. Bangert

Al Bangert, Director/ Department of Public Works, explained that his office had spoken to 3 engineering firms in an effort to fulfill the Selectmen's July 23rd directive to "accelerate water main replacement". The plan is to get the engineering in place for the Phase 1 replacement of 6 miles of pipe in the Spring of 2014 via the fall 2013 Special Town Meeting. Mr. Danehey asked how old pipes are surveyed and Mr. Bangert described the process of using old maps/drawings, GIS survey and household water

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gates. Two of the engineering firms admitted that they would have difficulty in meeting the Town's accelerated time schedule on this project. Weston & Sampson Engineering, who worked on our sewer expansion projects, is qualified and able to do the work on the Town's schedule (April 2014). The company is familiar with our Town, traffic patterns, etc. and provided a comprehensive report for the scope of work in our price range. \$400,000 was considered to be mid-price range and will be funded by an article from the April 2013 Town Meeting along with funds from other water projects. Mr. O'Toole asked if the firm would be "in it for the long run". Mr. Bangert stated that it would be a year-long commitment and if the Town was dissatisfied at that time, they could hire another firm. Weston & Sampson will examine a number of options to solve this problem. Mr. Vegnani did not realize that the engineering would be so expensive. Mr. Bangert stated that engineering is often 10% of the total project cost. Mr. Vegnani noted that the increased water rates will eventually pay for this work. Mr. Harris cautioned that the Selectmen do not want to see "change orders" coming before them after the project has begun. Mr. O'Toole asked that the repaving of certain roadways dovetail with these replacement projects. Mr. Bangert concurred.

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to AWARD a contract for water main replacement engineering services to Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. of Peabody, MA for an amount not to exceed \$380,000. SECONDED by Mr. Vegnani. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS – Chief of Police, Sergeant

Sergeant – Scituate Police Department - Ms. Vinchesi spoke about the process being a combination of a five person interview panel and Civil Service score. Effective September 9, 2013, Mark Thompson (a member of the Scituate Police Department since 2002) will become a Sergeant in the Department. The Selectmen congratulated Mr. Thompson.

Police Chief - Ms. Vinchesi thanked Chief Brian Stewart for serving for 11 years as Chief and for his 36 years in the Scituate Police Department. "He will be missed." She summarized the new Police Chief process that has taken place over the past 5-6 weeks starting with a Search Committee consisting of 10 individuals – Shawn Harris, Tony Vegnani, Adam Conrad, Paula Lind, Joe Norton, Phil Tavares - Marshfield Police Chief, Robert Wargo - Scituate High School Principal, Sergeant Mark Thompson, Retired Chief of Police/ Longmeadow and Ms. Vinchesi. 28 applications were received and 9 finalists were interviewed by the Committee over the course of 5 evenings. 4 finalists were chosen, 1 dropped out and 3 candidates went to

the Assessment Center(3 chiefs interviewed) on a Saturday where the candidates' names were not known to the group doing the assessing. On Sunday of the same weekend, the candidates met with

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“community panels” and the “panelists” filled out evaluation forms and submitted them to the Town Administrator. She sincerely thanked the panelists. Extensive background checks were done on each finalist. Ms. Vinchesi also met with each member of the Board of Selectmen, individually, prior to making her selection. “All levels of the community weighed in.” Ms. Vinchesi then named Lieutenant Michael Stewart, Town of Scituate, Chief of Police effective September 16, 2013 pending successful contract negotiations. She described Lt. Stewart as a 30 year veteran of the Police Department becoming a Permanent Intermittent officer in 1983, h has a BA in Criminal Justice and was born and raised in Scituate. “The candidates underwent a comprehensive process, were vetted under a fair and open process and Lt. Stewart was selected from among 3 highly qualified men. The two most important qualities considered were honesty and integrity.” This candidate has both those qualities. Mr. Danehey congratulated Lt. Stewart stating that the Town had already benefitted from his service thus far and will continue to do so in the future. Mr. O'Toole stated that Lt. Stewart is an excellent choice and that he(Stewart) has the necessary skills - especially his knowledge of drug control. Mr. Vegnani stated that the Police Chief search process was the “most thorough process I have ever been involved with in this Town – thank you, Tricia. Resumes came in from all over the country, one third of the candidates were interviewed with 30 questions each. The Assessment Center and the Community Panels. Mike – you rose to the top because you were the best candidate and we are proud that you are here with us – you have done great work in the past and did well during the process.” Lt. Stewart stated that all the candidates that participated in the process thought it was very well done – including Town employees. Mr. Harris stated that he was proud to be a part of the process. A retired Chief told him(Harris) that he had never seen such a thorough search. “Thank you and I wish you the best of luck.”

10. UPDATE/ FEMA MAPS/ FEMA meeting in Marshfield on September 4, 2013

Mr. Harris spoke about a recent meeting he, Mr. O'Toole, Ms. Vinchesi, Town staff, Representative Cantwell and Senator Markey attended in Marshfield regarding the most recent FEMA maps. Ms. Vinchesi thanked Representative Cantwell for organizing the meeting and reminded everyone of the meeting with FEMA officials tomorrow at 4:00 PM at the Furnacebrook Middle School. She expects hundreds of people to attend and learn about recent changes to the flood plain maps. The Town is looking into whether “we can challenge these maps”. The appeal deadline is October 17, 2013. We are asking residents to contact their Federal elected officials. “All municipal departments have been working very hard on this.” Mr. Danehey thanked Ms. Vinchesi for the additional written materials on flood plains especially the information on beach nourishment. Mr. Vegnani re-stated that these maps are “not a Town initiative” and that many of the people e-mailing Town departments do not realize this fact. “Please

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do the research. This is a national problem.” Ann Burbine stated that the maps are “under lock and key” at the Town Library. Ms. Vinchesi stated that FEMA officials will help individuals read the maps on monitors at tomorrow's meeting. The Town website is displaying the correct information.

11. DISCUSSION/ VOTE/ GRANT OF EASEMENT/ Glades Road

Ms. Vinchesi stated that the Selectmen need to formally vote this easement to have it recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Kelly, 57 Bailey's Causeway, stated that he owns the street that goes into the Minot Beach parking lot. He wants to know about the final plans for that parking lot and has concerns about the paving plans in terms of grading and tides. He believes that the homeowner has requested this easement to gain access to their home and will “fence off” their easement over the parking lot. The homeowner (Putnam)

does not have an easement from Mr. Kelly at this point in time. Mr. Danehey explained that the latter is a private issue. Mr. Harris and Ms. Vinchesi will set up a meeting between themselves, Mr. Bangert and Mr. Kelly this week to go over parking lot plans. This item was “tabled” to the September 17th meeting.

12. VOTE/ Knights of Columbus/ Annual “Tootsie Roll Drive”

Mr. O’Toole read the letter from the Knights of Columbus and Mr. Vegnani read the proclamation.

Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to proclaim October 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2013 “Knights of Columbus Days for the intellectually handicapped” and urge all the citizens of Scituate to participate in this important effort. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

13.ACCEPT RESIGNATION/ Cable Television Committee

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen ACCEPT the resignation of Kathy Boluch from the Cable Television Committee and further that the Board thank Ms. Boluch for volunteering her time and expertise to the Committee and the Town of Scituate. SECONDED by Mr. O’Toole. No discussion. Danehey, O’Toole and Harris voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Vegnani did not vote. (3-0)

14.APPOINTMENTS – Cable Television, Economic Development Committee, MAPC Alt.

Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to APPOINT Ed Fiddler as a Full Member of the Cable Television Committee. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

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Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to APPOINT Marie Fiddler as an Associate Member of the Cable Television Committee. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to APPOINT John Cranston to the Economic Development Committee. SECONDED by Mr. O’Toole. Discussion – Mr. Danehey appreciates Mr. Cranston’s persistence and he would like to give him the opportunity. No further discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to APPOINT Al Bangert as the Town’s Alternate Member on the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

15. REPORT/ Town Administrator & “The Week Ahead”

Ms. Vinchesi stated that the Selectmen will set the Special Town Meeting date at their September 17th meeting. Scituate’s retirement assessment is \$953,000 which represents a 26% increase in one year for the Town. “This will affect our budget dramatically.” This will come down to a vote of the Plymouth County Commissioners and there is hope that this number can be mitigated downward. She has shared this information with the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee. She noted that Chairman Maura Curran, Advisory Committee, has been doing a good job of explaining this situation to her group. Discussion on inviting the Commissioners to attend the Selectmen’s meeting on September 17th.

16.OTHER BUSINESS – Correspondence, Regular Session Minutes for March 19, 2013 & August 20, 2013

Mr. O’Toole stressed the importance of tomorrow’s FEMA meeting. Mr. Vegnani noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding another meeting on the Tilden Road cell tower on September 17th. Mr. Vegnani thanked Chief Brian Stewart who officially

retired on June 30th and has worked as Interim Police Chief for the past two months. Today was the first day of school and the bus drivers were thanked. The High School football team will play on Friday night. Mr. Danehey thanked the Police Department and the community for a wonderful Labor Day Parade in Sand Hills. The twelve year olds' baseball team recently traveled to Cooperstown, New York and had a great time. He noted that a recent letter from the Veterans Advisory Council. Turbine testing was discussed.

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ACCEPT the

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Regular Session Minutes of March 19, 2013. SECONDED by Mr. Vegnani. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (3-0) Mr. O'Toole did not vote.

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ACCEPT the Regular Session Minutes of August 20, 2013. SECONDED by Mr. Vegnani. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

17. ADJOURNMENT & SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Vegnani made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:32 PM and sign documents. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Harris, Chairman

John F. Danehey

Richard W. Murray

Martin J. O'Toole

Anthony V. Vegnani

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley A. Donovan
Executive Assistant