

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Selectmen's Meeting Room, 979 Somerset Ave, Dighton, MA

RECEIVED
2018 MAR 27 AM 11:56
TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON MA
BY

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chairman Taylor.

Present: Chairman Taylor, Selectman Zografos, Selectman Goulart, Town Administrator Mary Aronstein, Building Commissioner James Aguiar, Jessica Daly, Tom Pires, Kenneth Pacheco, Chris Pacheco, James DeArruda, Sue Furtado, Thomas Bourquin, Robert Woods and Karin Brady.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Selectman Goulart requested a moment of silence for David Codeiro and Joan Costa.

Public Input

Tom Bourquin, Hunters Hill said he had read some information about the town of Concord that he thought was interesting. The Town of Concord thanked its volunteers once a year and did a workshop for residents to gain knowledge of boards and committees in town.

Chairman Taylor said this came up recently and the town was going to look into getting updates from various boards and committees in the town.

Selectman Zografos said once we have a Policies and Procedures Manual, the town could hold informational sessions for both the town's policies and procedures and Massachusetts General Laws.

Mr. Bourquin also said he appreciated the town administrator coming to the Development and Industrial Commission Meeting and sitting with them last week.

Mr. Tim Rhines of 316 Main Street said he hoped that the town would notify abutters if anything were to happen with the Astra Zeneca property.

Selectman Goulart said they would give out information, as in the past, about anything that comes up.

7:45 p.m. Presentation on the Nat Crane House.

Mr. Jim DeArruda, chairman of the Historical Commission, said the Bristol County Agricultural High School has offered to give the town the Nathaniel Crane House for free, but the commission could not proceed any further until they knew what the Board of Selectmen wanted to do.

Chairman Taylor said the Board wanted to hear from Myrna Santos, the town historian, and he read an email from her.

Ms. Santos said she was in favor of accepting the house and gave some history of the house in her email. She said perhaps with a museum component, this would be an option and it was her hope that the Selectmen would consider the donation.

Chairman Taylor asked Mr. DeArruda what purpose the house would be used for.

Mr. DeArruda said a museum would be a plausible use and there were marine artifacts that belong to this town and could be stored there as well that are currently in the possession of Brown University.

Mr. DeArruda said there was a beautiful piece of town property behind Georgio's where the house could be moved and that property was contiguous with Sweets Knoll Park.

Mr. DeArruda also said eventually it could be rented by artisans where people come in, make and sell various things such as jams and jellies.

Mr. DeArruda said the estimate was in the area of \$200,000.00 to complete the project.

Chairman Taylor asked if the Commission thought about how the house would be maintained and how it could generate revenue.

Selectman Goulart said she did not have enough information to make a decision at this time.

Chairman Taylor proposed that the Board take this under advisement and at a future meeting, the Historical Commission could come back with further information.

Tim Rhines said there are funds that are out there to help and he added that the Community Preservation Committee had accepted the Historical Commission's application for funds on the Segregansett School

Selectman Zografos encouraged the Commission to keep the Board informed.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to take this article under advisement and the Historical Commission would notify the Board of Selectmen when they had a viable plan to be placed on a future agenda.

Town Administrator Report

Ms. Aronstein said she had attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting last Friday and she went to a cyber security seminar that was very informative.

Ms. Aronstein said, coincidentally, on Monday someone emailed a request for a money transfer to our town treasurer and it looked very official.

Ms. Aronstein said Massachusetts Development had a technical assistance plan to help out towns. Mallory said she shared this information with the Development and Industrial Commission and they talked about surveying the town and possibly sending out a survey to the town asking various questions.

Ms. Aronstein mentioned that Arlington was recognized for creating a vacant property registry and she also shared that information with the Development and Industrial Commission.

Selectman Zografos mentioned that he had attended a session on marijuana law. The first applications for adult recreational use of marijuana will be issued in June. Selectman Zografos said we need to be prepared in any direction for that and suggested the formation of a Cannabis Policy Task Force.

Tom Pires said he had a member that was willing to serve on that committee.

Selectman Goulart said Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health have raised issues about violations of current laws.

Tom Pires also said there is a one hundred and two page booklet related to adult use (CCC Regulations).

Ms. Aronstein said there was also a public hearing coming up.

Mallory said she had something come up today related to an extension of the resignation of the Planning Board Office Manager. She failed to file an extension of her resignation date and the Planning Board chairman had requested to hire her as a consultant until the end of the year. Mallory wanted the Board to know that she would be working on this.

The Planning Board had applications for the position and would be conducting interviews next week.

Selectman Goulart asked if the office manager wanted to stay on as an employee of the town and if so, she should be submitting a request for the next agenda to continue employment with the town.

Tom Pires said the Planning Board voted at their last meeting to extend her resignation until the end of June.

Mr. Ken Pacheco, ZBA Chairman, asked how she would be able to extend her resignation if her last day was today.

Ms. Aronstein said the employee was reminded a couple of times and the policy was sent to everyone stating that items for the agendas must be submitted by Monday at 12:30 pm.

Chairman Taylor asked if the Board could grant a leave of absence in this case.

Selectman Goulart said the Board initially acted on a resignation. Then she requested it be extended to January 24, which is today. The Planning Board voted to extend it, but she never applied for it. The request should have been put in writing before tonight so that the Board could have acted on it.

Selectman Zografos said his concern was that someone needed to be there when a business person or resident came into the office.

Ms. Aronstein said that was a concern of hers as well, but it would be a few days before someone was in that office.

Chairman Taylor said as of tomorrow she is not an employee and asked if the Board could grant her a leave of absence.

Selectman Goulart said she had not applied for a leave of absence.

Selectman Goulart asked if she would she be able to leave a message with the Planning Board now and if anyone would get those messages. She said if there were messages coming in, someone needed to pick them up.

Chairman Taylor asked what could be done tonight.

Ms. Aronstein said we have nothing from the Planning Board and the Office Manager said she was only interested in working as a consultant.

Selectman Zografos said his concern was that the department function without missing a beat.

Tom Pires said no one fills in while the Office Manager is on vacation and if the decision was made not to extend the resignation, the Planning Board would function temporarily.

Jim Aguiar, Building Commissioner, said this is a small town and when something like this happens, we all step up to the plate and it would be business as usual.

Selectman Goulart said if we can get this done in two weeks, it would not be an issue.

Ms. Aronstein asked if Tom Pires would reach out to the Planning Board and find out the status of the vote that was to extend the resignation until June 30.

Ms. Aronstein said if the board voted to extend the resignation, why it had not made it up to the Selectmen's office.

Selectman Zografos asked about the email and why it was not considered as a recommendation.

Selectman Goulart said it was the Office Manager's responsibility to extend her resignation again. It was clear that she did not want an extension.

Chairman Taylor said Chairman of the Planning Board, Peter Benvie said that the Planning Board voted at its last meeting to extend her resignation until June 30.

Tom Pires said the Board recommended her to extend to June. There was no written request from her.

Chairman Taylor said he was trying to find his way through this and not get stuck on a technicality.

Selectman Goulart said this was not a technicality.

Mr. Aguiar said forget about the person. Something as good as job for this town should be taken seriously.

Chairman Taylor said we have recommendation from the Chairman of the Planning Board to extend and for the good of the town, we don't want to get hung up on a technicality.

Chairman Taylor told Mr. Aguiar this was not his issue.

Selectman Zografos said the board had not received a letter that she wanted to stay on as a consultant either.

Mr. Pacheco asked how the prior extension was voted on.

Ms. Aronstein said she put in her resignation in to the Planning Board, then she put in a request to extend to January 24.

Selectman Zografos said he had dinner with her last Wednesday and she wanted to stay.

Ms. Pacheco, 1860 Milk Street, said this would never happen in private industry and asked why she was not there tonight to speak for herself and not fighting for it.

Sue Furtado of 616 Williams Street asked what the standard operating procedure was. What was the plan if she got hit by a truck?

She, as a taxpayer, said this was absurd that this had gone on for so long tonight.

Selectman Goulart said we heard Mr. Pires say that the messages would be checked and Mr. Aguiar said business would carry on as usual.

Chairman Taylor wanted to call a vote on this matter. Selectman Goulart said it could not be voted on because it was not on the agenda.

Ms. Aronstein agreed with Selectman Goulart and said they could not vote on this as it was not on the agenda.

Old Business:

Mallory asked to skip Old Business.

Selectman Goulart asked if the Board could take the old business under advisement.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to take IT Grant and Anti-Harassment policy under advisement.

New Business:

Request to Use Town Hall Property

Sue Furtado, 6161 Williams Street, founder of WAGS (Waiting Animals Get Support) said they were hoping to have an extravaganza behind Town Hall with a yard sale on May 12.

Chairman Taylor said the town would need proof of liability insurance from the organization.

Selectman Goulart asked if there were other animals involved and if there were facilities available.

Ms. Furtado said fostering only.

Selectman Goulart asked if they work with MSPCA.

Ms. Furtado said yes and they were willing to collaborate with anyone.

Mr. Rhines asked if animals will be present on that day and Sue said no, this was strictly fundraising.

Mr. Rhines said he would get back in touch with Ms. Furtado to confirm dates.

Selectman Goulart also informed Ms. Furtado that if anyone was serving food, a food permit would be required.

Chairman Taylor said they could vote to approve the event contingent on availability.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the request of WAGS for use of the field behind Town Hall contingent upon the dates being available and proof of the liability insurance.

Schedule Pole Hearing Date

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to set February 28 at 7:30 p.m. as the hearing date for pole installations on Horton and Wellington Streets.

Recommendation for Office Manager – Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Kenneth Pacheco read the recommendation letter from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

He said the person being recommended has worked for the water resources and he thought she was well qualified for the position.

The Zoning Board of Appeals recommended Nicole Skyleson.

Selectman Zografos asked if someone would be able to show her the ropes.

Mr. Pacheco said they hadn't worked out the hours for training, but that Rosalind Grassie, former ZBA Office Manager, would be training her.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board accept the recommendation to appoint Nicole Skyleson Office Manager for the Zoning Board of Appeals beginning Feb 5.

Appointment of Jessica Daly to the Land Use Committee

Ms. Jessica Daly, of Maris Lane, said she would like to get more involved in town and was interested in this committee.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Jessica Daly to the Land Use Committee.

Discussion of Potential Appointment to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

Mr. Tom Pires said the Emergency Preparedness Committee had 19 people on it and he found that number to be excessive as far as a committee goes.

Mr. Pires said Dighton is one of 24 communities that belong to the Emergency Preparedness Coalition and they meet on the third Tuesday of the month and the town currently has people from the Board of Health attend these meetings.

Mr. Pires said the emergency site was the middle school and the goal there is to dispense medication within 72 hours. There are 15 binders that cover every type of emergency. The problem is that years ago, the Disaster Committee consisted of the same members as the public health emergency preparedness group.

Mr. Pires said they have quarterly call down drills and they also have a setup drill coming up on February 21st.

Mr. Pires said they were geared for dispensing of medication. They have plans in place for shut ins and they were up to snuff in the area of public health administration.

He felt it was important that the police chief, fire chief, building commissioner, animal control officer and a couple of others be part of the committee, but with nineteen people on the committee, nothing will ever get done.

Selectman Goulart asked if they would consider the umbrella being the Emergency Preparedness Committee and then pick 5 members and have that be a governing board. That way they would have the core people needed and not two separate committees. That would be the Board that would get together and decide who needed to be called.

Selectman Goulart suggested one general meeting of the nineteen and then seven would govern and schedule training.

Mallory said the health agent had some easy-to-follow plans. There was discussion about the command procedures.

Mr. Pires said the coordinator expected a little bit more of everyone going forward.

Mr. Robert Woods, Chace Street, arrived during the discussion about the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Correspondence

None

Announcements

Selectman Zografos read the announcements.

Selectmen's Reports

The discussion of the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting was postponed until next week.

Acknowledgements

None

Minutes

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2018.

Warrants

Selectman Goulart reported to the board that she signed warrants in the amount of \$171,769.12 for the police station building invoices, \$1,848.62 utilities and payroll sheet for Karin Brady and Valerie Wilson.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrants #30A-18 in the amount of \$91,679.91, 30B-18 in the amount of \$19,177.00, Warrant #30C-18 in the amount of \$200,713.60, Warrant #30D-18 in the amount of \$914.45 and Warrant #30E-18 in the amount of \$171,769.12.

Public Input

Mr. Robert Woods, 158 Chace Street, said he heard the discussion about the Planning Board and did not know this was being discussed. Mr. Woods said the extension was voted on at last week's meeting and he read the email that was sent today from Mr. Benvie, Planning Board Chairman.

Mr. Woods said he heard that the Board of Selectmen thought the Planning Board could manage over the next few weeks without an office manager, and he said the answer was no, it could not.

He said the Planning Board had a lot going on and it could not afford to have their assistant go out without having someone trained.

Mr. Woods said we need her expertise and she knows where everything is.

Ms. Aronstein said she would contact her tomorrow morning to find out what her intention was for continuing employment.

Mr. Woods said this town has invested 15 years in the Planning Board Office Manager. We have paid for her experience.

Mr. Rhines said this should have never happened on camera.

Ms. Aronstein said we are not discussing performance, we are strictly discussing a vacancy.

Selectman Zografos stated that she was the first person in town hall that he went to besides Mrs. Goulart for information and expertise.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to conduct strategy session with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares

Chairman Taylor said the board would not be returning to open session.

Roll call vote

Chairman Taylor, aye.
Selectman Goulart, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

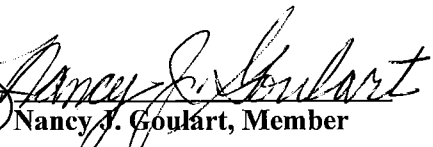
The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Administrative assistant
Board of Selectmen


John P. Taylor, Chairman


Brett R. Zografos, Ph.D., Clerk


Nancy J. Goulart, Member

List of Documents presented at the January 24 meeting:

1. Anti-Harassment Policy
2. Pole Hearing Petitions (3)

3. Letter of recommendation from ZBA for Nicole Skyleson
4. WAGS request for use of field
5. Volunteer application form (Jessica Daly)