

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 2, 2015

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:00 P.M.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Boucher. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Igliazzi were also in attendance.

Moments of silence were held for Town Council Vice President Ernest Alter, former Board of Canvassers member and Veterans Advisor Frank Lightowler and former Planning Board member Bruce Santa Anna.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. BARBARA MCGEE

A proclamation was given to Mrs. McGee by Town Administrator Hamilton acknowledging her many years of service in keeping the town clean and green.

Mrs. McGee received gifts from the town's Clean and Green team, including Donna Kaehler and Catherine Hall. Mrs. McGee was named the first North Smithfield Green Citizen.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to take a five-minute recess at 7:18 P.M.

The meeting resumed at 7:20 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE - ROTARY CLUB OF WOONSOCKET

Kevin Greenough explained the Rotary Club's request to host Touch-A-Truck Family Festival, an interactive learning experience, to be held at the Homestead Gardens on Industrial Drive on May 2nd and 3rd.

Mr. Greenough will have police and fire details for the event and will be reaching out to the area businesses to see if they will allow use of their lots for overflow parking.

Mr. Boucher suggested contacting the Emergency Management Agency for additional assistance.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve an entertainment license for the Woonsocket Rotary Club for the event scheduled for May 2nd and 3rd at Homestead Gardens, 200 Industrial Drive, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

USE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR 27 MAIN STREET

Public Works Director Raymond Pendergast explained that the property located at 27 Main Street has been purchased by a town resident. This is adjacent to the single entrance/exit to Pacheco Park.

The resident is willing to sell the property to the town, demolish the

house, grade the area and add another exit to the park. Mr. Pendergast would like to use a portion of the \$2.1 million remaining in the town's open space grant to purchase the property.

Michael Rapko of 25 Old Greenville Road thought it was a good idea but funding should not come from the open space grant. He would prefer funding come from the town budget.

SENIOR SERVICES INC.

Senior Wellness Manager Linda Thibault gave a presentation on all the services provided to all of northern Rhode Island such as nutrition, information specialist, alternative adult day care and wellness program.

Programs offered include podiatry, BP clinic, nurse consultation, veteran's administration, URI Pharmacy, URI senior nutrition, exercise, Immunization - vision screening - bone density clinics, diabetic support group, Senior Signature event in partnership with the American Diabetes Association, Total Wellness program, Good Grief/loss support group, gentle yoga/meditation, registered dietician consultation, beginner adult tap class, water aerobics and Generation of Beauty fashion show.

Mrs. Thibault noted that 5,243 meals were served to North Smithfield residents last year, 2,099 residents attended wellness events and in just six months 2,063 meals were delivered to homebound residents

in North Smithfield alone.

Because of comments made last budget season regarding town donations, Michael Clifford wondered if funding for these types of programs could be funneled through a town board for the elderly.

Mr. Zwolenski asked if the Town Administrator, Town Solicitor and Finance Director could work on forming some type of a senior committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to enter into executive session at 8:11 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to the same to discuss interjurisdictional water and wastewater agreements with the City of Woonsocket.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to come out of executive session at 8:58 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

AMENDMENTS TO TOWN COUNCIL RULES

Mrs. Nadeau read the following proposed amendment to Rule #17: The Town Clerk, with the assistance and approval of the President or

member of the Town Council appointed by the President, shall prepare and cause to be printed for the information of the members of the Town Council and the Administration, a docket on which there will be a definite statement or summary of all ordinances, resolutions, orders and other business to be considered at each meeting of the Town Council. The Town Clerk shall maintain a record of all business acted upon by the Town Council and only business contained on the docket shall appear. This docket will be prepared and available by 4:00 P.M. on the 3rd business day prior (Thursday for a Monday meeting). Any member of the Town Council appointed pursuant to this Rule shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau and seconded by Mr. Boucher to approve the amended rules as read.

Mr. Zwolenski suggested adding an escape clause for the appointee such as, “and may resign at any time.”

Ms. Alves stated the Council had already previously voted on this particular matter and she doesn't understand why it is up for a vote again. At the prior vote there was concern about an abdication of duty by the president.

Mr. Boucher explained that he was on the road much of the day and at times it was difficult to contact the clerk regarding the agenda.

Roll call vote: Ms. Alves - no; Mrs. Nadeau - yes; Mr. Zwolenski - no; and Mr. Boucher - yes. The motion failed 2 to 2.

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: ONE-WAY STREET (IRONSTONE STREET)

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to accept the following ordinance as a second reading: “It is ordained by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield as follows: That the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Section 15-6, entitled, “One-way street”, be amended as follows: Sec. 15-6 One-way streets. (c) All vehicles shall travel at all times in a northerly direction only on Ironstone Street from the intersection on Buxton Street to Quaker Highway. This ordinance shall take effect on the date of passage and in accordance with the Town Charter.”

APPOINTMENT TO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MOTION by Mr. Boucher and seconded by Mrs. Nadeau to nominate Lucien Benoit.

Roll call: Ms. Alves - no; Mrs. Nadeau - yes; Mr. Zwolenski - no; and Mr. Boucher - yes. The motion failed 2 to 2.

APPOINTMENT TO SEWER COMMISSION

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to appoint Ralph A. DeVivo to the Sewer Commission. This is a five-year term that will expire on

December 1, 2019.

CHARTER REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BUDGET

Budget Committee Chairman Michael Clifford felt there were some inconsistencies in the Charter changes referencing submission dates of the budget, specifically in Article VIII, Section 4.

Mr. Iglizzi had reviewed the Charter amendment legislation and determined that it authorizes the Town Council to change the dates without having specific dates. He recommended making the dates consistent but there is no need for another referendum.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote that in Article VIII, Section 4 the date should be no later than the first Monday in June.

AWARD OF BID RE: HVAC AND DUCT CLEANING SERVICES FOR NS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve the bid of \$40,898.00, which includes a base bid of \$39,958.00 plus installation of twenty additional access doors at the cost of \$47.00 per door for a total cost of \$940.00, made by Synergy One Solutions.

ZONING COMPLIANCE LOG

Zoning Officer Carl Johnson informed the Council that the

department has started computerizing records and he provided the log showing what zoning compliance is being asked for, whether the request has been approved or not and whether it has to go before the Zoning Board for appeal.

AGREEMENT FOR SPRING ANTENNA ON COMSTOCK ROAD TOWER

Ms. Hamilton explained that Sprint is looking to place an additional antenna on the tower under an existing agreement. The town would not receive any additional revenue from them. She noted that the Town Solicitor, the Building/Zoning Inspector and the Sewer and Water Superintendent reviewed the request.

Mr. Zwolenski asked if that existing agreement could be emailed to the Council members.

The discussion was continued to March 16, 2015.

HIRING OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR TO REVIEW TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Boucher placed this on the agenda because no written report was received by Mr. Nicholson by December 29, 2014. It has caused much acrimony throughout the town. Mr. Boucher is recommending that another external auditor be hired to review the situation in both the Tax Assessor's office and the Finance Department. There is \$12,500 remaining in unexpended funds.

Mr. Zwolenski would like to take the remainder of the funds to recoup the original \$12,500 paid to Mr. Nicholson who has not delivered any report to the town.

Because Mr. Nicholson broke the contract, Mr. Boucher believed there is legal recourse.

Former Town Solicitor James Lombardi felt the town should try to get the written report but if it does not come in, he would offer his services to do audit work for the balance of the \$12,500 and he will try to get it done within thirty days.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:00 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:30 P.M.

Mr. Lombardi said he would go into the department, review the abatements from the prior year, determine, if possible, what caused them, do an analysis from last year to this year looking at changes and do a statistical analysis. He would look at any reports to see what any internal control recommendations are, if they have been implemented and look to see who has access to the computer system.

Finance Director Jason Parmelee did not feel that money should be spent on an additional report. He agreed there had been issues but

he has confidence in the new tax assessor.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:28 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:45 P.M.

Ms. Alves asked to get the Nicholson report prior to going forward with another report just to know where to start. Half the amount has been paid and residents were told it was going to get done.

A letter had been sent to Mr. Nicholson mid-December requesting that the completed report be delivered by December 31st. If it was not, then the Council did not want it. Mr. Iglizzi felt that basically severed any agreement, although he has not read the engagement letter.

If the Nicholson report should be delivered, Mr. Lombardi will withdraw his offer.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to have Mr. Lombardi review the Tax Assessor's office and the Finance Department, historically to the present, including standard operating procedures.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk