

**Raynham Board of Selectmen**

**Raynham, Massachusetts**

**Regular Meeting and Executive Session**

**February 20, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Donald L McKinnon Meeting Room**

**Members Present: Town Administrator:**

Ms. Patricia Riley-Chair Mr. Gregory Barnes

Mr. Joseph Pacheco-Vice Chair **Staff:**

Mr. Kenneth Collins-Clerk Ms. Dawn Caradonna

**Called to Order:**

Ms. Riley called the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting is open to the public and being broadcasted live on both Comcast Channel 98 and Verizon Channel 34. It is also being recorded by RayCAM for replay on the Raynham Channel and on YouTube.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Riley led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Acceptance of Minutes – February 6, 2024**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes of February 6, 2024, as printed. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Department Head Reports**

*Barrett Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief, Monthly Report*

The January activity report includes: Fires and motor vehicle accidents - 97 calls; Ambulance – 218 calls; and Inspectional Services – 159 calls. The number of incidents for 2024, as of January 31, 2024, totaled 315, which is an increase of 17 incidents compared to the same time last year. Deputy Johnson reported that there were no Injury On Duty shifts during the month, and three firefighters were out sick.

Firefighter Blake Luther has joined the Raynham Fire Department. Firefighter Luther lives in Bridgewater and is currently attending paramedic school.

Members of the Board thanked the Deputy Fire Chief for the report.

*Paula Rossi-Clapp, Health Director, Monthly Report*

The Health Department is still collecting data for the Opioid Assessment. The public can access the anonymous survey on the Town’s website and the webpages for the Board of Health, Police, Fire, and Council on Aging.

The annual food permits have been completed along with one public record request received during the month. The next focus will be frozen desserts, stables and swine permitting.

Ms. Rossi-Clapp and Mike Soares met with the State regarding the Town’s current tobacco regulations. Updated recommendations will be presented to the Board within the next few weeks.

Additional COVID test kits are available at the front entrance of Town Hall, in the Health Department office, and at the Senior Center.

Animal Control has received calls this month ranging from wandering dogs and loose goats to deceased cats. Three kennel inspections were completed, and the Animal Control Officer rescued three two-week-old, abandoned kittens, who have been placed in new homes.

The Animal Control Building is being used as a temporary holding site for dogs whose owners reside in Raynham, but there are a few projects to be finished before it is officially open for business.

Anyone who needs help for their dog or cat can contact Animal Control for help with resources.

If anyone wishes to donate items to Animal Control, they can do so by contacting the Animal Control Officer through the Police Department’s non-emergency number at 508-824-2716.

Mr. Pacheco thanked Ms. Rossi-Clapp for keeping the Opioid work front and center. Mr. Collins and Ms. Riley also thanked her for her efforts.

**Appointments**

No appointments were scheduled.

**Public Hearing**

No Public Hearings were scheduled.

**Completion Old/Continuing Business**

The Donald L McKinnon Meeting Room will be used for early voting on Saturday, February 24, 2024

and continuing through Friday, March 1, 2024. That includes Tuesday evening, February 27th. As a

result, the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on that Tuesday evening will be held at the Senior Center.

On January 19th, the Board discussed a stormwater runoff issue with Mr. Michael Keith from A-American Investments regarding his property at 539 South Street East. Building Commissioner Robert Iafrate, who had requested the meeting, was present and indicated that he would agree to give Mr. Keith until the end of February to submit plans to the Planning Board to rectify the problem. At that meeting, the Board voted to continue the discussion until February 27th, and then revisit the matter if the plans to rectify the problem have not yet been submitted to the Planning Board. Ms. Riley asked Mr. Barnes to check with Mr. Iafrate to see if this has been resolved, and if not, to place the item back on the agenda for the next meeting.

**New Business**

1. **Shaw’s Supermarkets – Change in Manager**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to schedule a Public Hearing for Shaw’s Supermarkets, for a Change in Manager, on March 5, 2024. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Flag Policy**

Ms. Riley read the proposed policy for the Town of Raynham for the Display of Flags on Town-Owned

Flag Poles, which states in part “Only the United States, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Town of

Raynham, and official flags of the U.S. Military and POW/MIA flags may be flown on any Town-owned

flagpole. Ceremonial flags will not be flown on Town-owned flagpoles.”

In accordance with the Board’s previously-approved policy on the adoption of policies, the item will be placed on next week’s agenda for further consideration, discussion, and a vote.

1. **Variance to Exempt 2 New PFAS Water Treatment Facilities for Raynham Center Water District from Bathroom Requirements due to close proximity of Existing non-PFAS Water Treatment Facilities with Bathrooms.**

Raynham Center Water District Superintendent Jon Chase was present and informed that the District is going before the State Plumbing Board for the variance and would like the support of the local Board of Health. The variance is needed because the design for the two new PFAS Water Treatment Plants does not include bathroom facilities due to their close proximity to the existing John P. Lynn Water Treatment Plant and the existing Lake Nip Water Treatment Plant, both of which are equipped with bathroom facilities. Ms. Rossi-Clapp was present and indicated that, as Health Director, she is satisfied because the proposed facilities are equipped with necessary safety features. The proposed John P. Lynn PFAS Water Treatment Plant will have an emergency shower/eye wash station in the chemical storage room, and the proposed Lake Nip PFAS Water Treatment Plant will have a portable eye wash station. Ms. Rossi-Clapp commented that safety concerns are being addressed beyond the bathroom issue.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the request for a Variance to Exempt 2 New PFAS Water Treatment Facilities for the Raynham Center Water District from bathroom requirements due to the close proximity of existing non-PFAS Water Treatment Facilities with bathrooms. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Raynham Recognition Award for February**

The Board received a nomination for the Raynham Recognition Award from Riley Menconi, a member of the Park and Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission. Mr. Menconi nominated Kathleen Voller, who taught in the Raynham Schools for almost 40 years and then continued teaching as a tutor after her retirement from the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District. Mr. Menconi noted that Ms. Voller also started the summer playground program, which continues today through the Park and Recreation Department, and was one of the founding members of R.A.V.E., the Raynham Association of Volunteers for Education, in 1981.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the nomination of Kathleen Voller for the Raynham Recognition Award for the month of February. Discussion: In keeping with the award guidelines, Ms. Riley will send a letter of congratulations to Ms. Voller and invite her to attend the next meeting for the award presentation. Vote: 3-0-0

**Town Administrator’s Report**

*Mr. Gregory Barnes, Town Administrator*

Operating and Capital Budget forms have been revised, enhanced, and distributed to Departments. All Departments have been instructed to submit a level-funded budget this year with a provision for any already-approved contractual adjustments. All departments have been asked to focus on a 10-year forecast for their Capital Improvement Plan. A request was also forwarded to the School District for their 10-year forecast for a Capital Improvement Plan.

**Selectmen’s Report**

*Mr. Pacheco*

During a liquor license violation hearing held in January, the Board voted to require that the manager of Hibachi Sushi Buffet submit within 30 days a remediation plan that meets with the approval of Police Chief David LaPlante. Mr. Pacheco requested that Mr. Barnes confer with Chief LaPlante for an update on the situation.

Mr. Pacheco extended his appreciation to the Highway Department and Interim Superintendent Joe Medeiros for their efforts during the recent snowstorm.

*Mr. Collins*

Mr. Collins reported that residents have expressed concerns to him regarding multiple families living in single-family homes. He asked for guidance on answering the residents’ concerns. Mr. Pacheco recommended the concerns be addressed to Mr. Iafrate, the Town’s Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer, and the Health Department.

*Ms. Riley*

The Raynham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the petition of Raynham 44 Development LLC of Brookline for a Comprehensive Permit under M.G.L. Chapter 40B to allow the construction of nine multi-family residential buildings for a total of 250 units. Ms. Riley said the Town has exceeded the 10% requirement for affordable housing under Chapter 40B, which places the Town in “Safe Harbor” status.

Mr. Barnes confirmed that the Town is actually over 12% with the approval of the Broadway Crossing project under Chapter 40B late last year. He explained that “Safe Harbor” status means the Town may be in a position where it no longer must approve 40B projects.

Ms. Riley noted that the Board had addressed a letter to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, opposing the Riverfront Raynham project proposed by Raynham 44 Development LLC, which would be located on Route 44. She commented that she was considering attending the public hearing to read the letter of opposition into the record and asked Mr. Pacheco and Mr. Collins if they would have any objections to that. They both indicated that they would not have any objections.

Ms. Riley reminded the Board that it is time to compile the 2023 Annual Town Report for the Town of Raynham. While the Town Clerk’s office annually coordinates the effort, the Selectmen determine whom the report will be dedicated to and then vote to make it official at a Board meeting. The Board also must determine who will be the recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award which is presented each year at the Annual Town Meeting.

The Board also received correspondence from the Town Clerk this evening requesting consideration of opting out of the possibility of voting by mail for the local Annual Town election. In order to opt out of voting by mail, the Board of Selectmen must hold a public hearing no later than 45 days before the date of the local election. The Annual Town election is scheduled for April 27, 2024, thus the deadline for the Town to vote on opting out of voting by mail for the local election would be March 13, 2024. The Clerk outlined the reasons for opting out of voting by mail for the local election especially with the financial cost of postage and the expense of the additional labor.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to schedule a Public Hearing for March 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. on the consideration of opting out of voting by mail for the local election. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Correspondence**

**Tag Day Request – American Legion Post 222, Norton, MA**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Tag Day Request for   
 American Legion Post 222, of Norton, MA on May 25 & May 26, 2024. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Tag Day Request – Full House All Star Cheer**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Tag Day Request for Full House All Star Cheer of West Bridgewater on April 12, 14, 27 & 28, 2024. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Tag Day Request – Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 611, Taunton**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Tag Day Request for Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 611, of Taunton on May 23 & May 24, 2024. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Press Time**

No one from the press was present.

**Emergency Business**

There was no emergency business to report.

**Citizen & Community Input**

No comments were offered.

**Performance of Administrative Duties**

Ms. Riley reported that she has reviewed and signed the Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated February 13 & February 20, 2024.

**7:34 p.m**. - Ms. Riley asked for a motion to enter **Executive Session** for the following stated reason:

Pursuant to M.G.L. C. 30A, Section 21(a) (2) To Conduct Strategy Sessions in Preparation for Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel or to Conduct Collective Bargaining Sessions or Contract Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel: Circulation Supervisor, and Pursuant to M.G.L. C. 30A, Section 21(a) (6) To Consider the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property if the Chair Declares That an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Negotiating Position of the Public Body: Borden Colony Site

As part of the motion, the Board will return to Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the regular meeting with no additional business to be conducted.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to enter Executive Session for the reasons stated. Discussion: None.

**Roll-Call Vote**: Mr. Pacheco-Aye; Mr. Collins-Aye; Ms. Riley-Aye. Vote: 3-0-0

8:05 p.m. - Ms. Riley reconvened the regular Selectmen’s meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting of February 20, 2024, 8:06 p.m. with no additional business to be conducted. Vote: 3-0-0

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dawn Caradonna*

*Recording Secretary*

List of Meeting Documents:

* Minutes – February 6, 2024
* Barrett Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief, Monthly Report
* Paula Rossi-Clapp, Health Director, Monthly Report
* Letter requesting Change of Manager for Shaw’s Supermarkets
* Proposed Flag Policy
* Letter from Tighe & Bond requesting Variance to exempt 2 new PFAS Water Treatment Facilities for the Raynham Center Water District from bathroom requirements.
* Raynham Recognition Award nomination of Kathleen Voller submitted by Riley Menconi
* Tag Day Request – American Legion Post 222, Norton, MA
* Tag Day Request – Full House All Star Cheer
* Tag Day Request – Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 611, Taunton
* Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated February 13 and February 20, 2024