

**Raynham Board of Selectmen**

**Raynham, Massachusetts**

**Regular Meeting and**

**Executive Session**

**February 28, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Donald L McKinnon Meeting Room**

**Members Present: Town Administrator:**

Mr. Richard Schiavo – Chairman Mr. Gregory Barnes

Ms. Patricia Riley– Vice Chair **Staff:**

Mr. Joseph Pacheco - Clerk Ms. Dawn Caradonna, Recording Secretary

**Called to Order:**

7:00 p.m. – Mr. Schiavo opened the Board of Selectmen’s meeting and informed the public that the meeting is being both broadcasted live on Comcast Channel 98 and Verizon Channel 34 and recorded by RayCAM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Schiavo led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Acceptance of Minutes – February 21, 2023**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes of February 21, 2023, as printed. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Department Head Reports**

Ed Buckley, Highway Superintendent-monthly report

Due to the snow storm overnight, Mr. Buckley requested a postponement of his report.

Robert Iafrate, Building Commissioner-quarterly report

There have been twenty-eight electrical permits, sixty-five plumbing & gas permits, fifty-two building permits and seven sheet metal permits for a total revenue of $56,000 since the beginning of the year.

Activities in the residential sector have been slow. Mr. Iafrate is seeing mostly renovations, additions and in-law upgrades. The commercial activity, especially on Rt. 138, is busy with the sports betting facility. The inside of the new building is in the completion stage. They currently have a temporary area where they will continue to do betting until the new facility is complete in early fall or during next winter.

The Building Department is presently dealing with the five-year multi-family inspections. The State has created new energy codes which may slow down the process.

The Planning Board agenda for this week includes: a Public Hearing for 1588 Broadway, storage facility; Abbreviated Site Plan for 450 South Street West, pavement of parking lot; and a Preliminary Plan for Layla Estates, the development off Pine Street.

Ms. Riley commented that the exceptional outdoor lighting installed on the building as part of the renovations at 450 South Street West really helps light up what was previously a very dark corner.

The Board thanked Mr. Iafrate for his report and all of his efforts.

**Public Hearing**

No public hearing was scheduled.

**Completion Old/Continuing Business**

Discussion/Selection of Health Director

The Board tabled the discussion last week while waiting on a report from the Collins Center on the completion of reference checks for both of the candidates interviewed. Ms. Riley informed that all references came back

favorably. She commented that both candidates were excellent and well qualified finalists, and she thanked the Collins Center for their efforts conducting the search. Based on management and supervisory experience, however, Ms. Riley said her choice would be Paula Rossi-Clapp. She was very impressed with her experience as a team player, background in social services which included working with seniors and disabled individuals and her private sector experience managing her own business. Her degree in Community Health is a critically important factor, along with her positive attitude and personality. Ms. Riley said she feels that Ms. Rossi-Clapp brought forth everything the Board has been looking for and that the Town needs, and she would be the best fit for the Town.

**Motion**: Moved by Ms. Riley to appoint Paula Rossi-Clapp to the position of Health Director. Mr. Pacheco seconded for discussion. Discussion: Mr. Pacheco agreed with Ms. Riley and said the Town was fortunate to have two very well qualified candidates. He commented that the Collins Center did great work and it demonstrates the value of the Collins Center to the Town in bringing quality candidates. He said, “Both candidates were good. They brought strength and different perspectives to the table.” He felt that Ms. Rossi-Clapp rose above a little more. He pointed out that the similarities between Raynham and the communities she has worked with are relevant. He commented that the question he asked about getting into the weeds and her answer about testing the water and getting into the bogs really lifted her above for him.

Mr. Schiavo agreed with both members. He pointed out that the Town is in need of managerial experience and that is what she would bring to the job. He said, “Particularly when you keep in mind that the new Health Inspector is just getting into the job, managerial experience at this point is very important for the Health Department.” He commented that both candidates were excellent, and he would agree that, at this point in time, Ms. Rossi-Clapp would be the best fit for Raynham. Mr. Pacheco added to the motion that the appointment would be contingent upon successful contract negotiations. Vote: 3-0-0

**New Business**

*Read Across America Resolution Presentation*

Present was Ms. Becky George, RAVE Coordinator. She stated, “RAVE is continuing the annual tradition of celebrating the importance of reading with Read Across America Week. RAVE named the Read Across America Week program after Kathleen Roberts, who was our beloved educator, principal and such an inspiration for Read Across America. This year, RAVE has partnered with the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District and the Raynham Public Library. The theme will be Celebrating America, a Land of Heroes.” Ms. George informed that readers will be at the Merrill School on Thursday, March 2nd, Laliberte Elementary School on Friday, March 3rd, and the Raynham Middle School on Thursday, March 9th. The list of volunteer guest readers includes: members of the Board of Selectmen and Town Moderator John Donahue, acting Superintendent Ryan Powers along with Craig Poulis, Kristine Richards, Paul Tzovolos and Eric Delisle from the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional Scvhool District; Retired Bridgewater-Raynham teachers and teaching assistants; Chief Bryan LaCivita and Deputy Chief Barrett Johnson from the Raynham Fire Department; Officer Jennifer Pohl from the Raynham Police Department; Jessica McKinney from the Raynham Public Library; Leigh Kozak and Donna Morin from the Raynham Cultural Council; Raynham Veterans’ Service Officer Scott Blake; Bridgewater-Raynham School Committee member Lou D’Amarino; Commander Kirsten Davis from Raynham American Legion Post 405; Mike Heylin and Margaux Fortier from RayCAM; John Teixeira from the Council on Aging; and other special guests including Carol Sullivan, Meaghan Mello, Felicia Portal, Lisa Lima, Louise Freeman, Lillie Laro, Kerry Lamont, Janel Hughes and Sarah Borden. Ms. George thanked Jennifer Rodrigues, who serves as chairperson for RAVE’s Read Across America program, for all her efforts.

Ms. Riley thanked Ms. George, her team and Ms. Rodrigues for all they do. She recalled that RAVE began celebrating Read Across America when the National Education Association first introduced the program in 1998, thanks to Kathleen Roberts, who was the NEA’s Massachusetts chairperson for the initiative, and that was one reason why RAVE named the program after Mrs. Roberts. Ms. Riley then read the Resolution for Read Across America Week.

M**otion:** Moved by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Pacheco to accept the Resolution for Read Across America and proclaim the week of March 1 through March 7, 2023, as “Read Across America Week” in the Town of Raynham. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

*Discussion – New National Opioid Settlement*

Mr. Schiavo informed that the Board of Selectmen will need to sign for the support and participation in the pending settlements with Walmart, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Allergan, CVS and Walgreens.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco to approve participating in the settlement. Raynham will receive approximately $124,000 for the life of the payout. Ms. Riley seconded. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

*Plymouth County Mosquito Control on behalf of Bristol County Mosquito Control – Permission to*

*Apply Mosquito Larvicide by Aircraft*

**Motion:** Moved by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Pacheco to allow the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project to apply mosquito larvicide by aircraft between April 2023 and October 2023 on behalf of Bristol County Mosquito Control. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

*Town Administrator Evaluation*

Mr. Pacheco informed that the Board is looking to ratify the template used as the tool for evaluation of the Town Administrator’s position. Mr. Barnes reviewed the tool and agreed that it can be used for the evaluation.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to adopt the template as an evaluation tool for the Town Administrator’s position. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Town Administrator’s Report**

*Mr. Gregory Barnes*

The Town continues to work on the annual budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1st. Mr. Barnes and Finance Director Chris Laviolette are working closely with the Finance Committee, which is in the process of receiving budget requests. There are a few with significant increases that will need to be carefully considered including the Police Department budget. The cost for health care premiums is increasing by 1%, and pensions by 4.3%.

Mr. Barnes will be meeting tomorrow with Bridgewater-Raynham School administrators to review the School District’s requested increase.

The FY24 budget will be a challenge. The State revenue increase is minimal, and Mr. Barnes said the Town is not foreseeing any significant increase in local receipts. The potential gambling facility will assist to some extent with growth. FY25 will be an even more challenging period as the Town makes sure revenues are sufficient to pay expenses considering that FY25 is when the Town will begin carrying the burden of its share of the Bristol-Plymouth school building project. The Town will be faced with a difficult challenge to sustain its budget over a multi-year period given the financial implications from the Bristol-Plymouth project, where the debt service will be enormous for the Town. He said, “The Town will need to exercise a large degree of fiscal caution for the future.” He continued, “A realistic budget is not just an operating budget that is balanced, but it also needs to allow for sufficient capital.”

Mr. Barnes has requested a report from Highway Superintendent Ed Buckley outlining all the possible scenarios for the King’s Pond Dam and Bridge on Gardiner Street. The challenge is the Town’s limited resources. Funds could be allocated through Chapter 90, but it would be at the cost of using up funds for all other necessary projects. Mr. Buckley’s report should be completed within the next few weeks.

Mr. Barnes said a report will also be provided to the Board on the Senior Center shortly. There was communication around hours of operation at the Senior Center and it was determined that the day hours are far less than most other communities. Therefore, hours of operation could be increased during the day by 10 hours per week. Most communities do not provide for night or weekend activities. If there is an increase in hours, adjustment in staffing will be necessary.

The Senior Center Renovation Committee will be meeting with discussions focused on renovations.

The Animal Shelter Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Ms. Riley said there were comments made after the failure of the debt exclusion that there would be no improvements to the Senior Center. She wanted to point out that the Board voted and approved $500,000 from ARPA funds to allow for some of the needed renovations to the building. Mr. Barnes informed that the Committee will be assessing the needs for those renovations.

**Selectmen’s Report**

*Ms. Riley*

Ms. Riley encouraged everyone to return their Town Census as it is important that the information gets in to the Town Clerk’s office. Numbers supplied on the Census can determine grants and assist the schools regarding the number of incoming students. She also reminded everyone that automobile excise taxes are coming due.

The Raynham Public Library will be hosting a special presentation of Celtic Stories & Songs on Friday, March 3rd at the Senior Center between 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Story teller Jeff Snow will be present and anyone wishing to attend should register by calling the library.

*Mr. Pacheco*

Mr. Pacheco informed that the Governor released her first budget. The overall increase in state aid to Raynham will be only $6,450. Mr. Pacheco said, “When talking about prudent fiscal planning and long-term sustainability, we are facing decreasing local revenue. There are pressing issues to deal with, not just for FY24 but also for subsequent years, and not just for the Bristol-Plymouth project, but for the continued growth of the Town.”

*Mr. Schiavo*

Mr. Schiavo informed that he will be adding to next week’s agenda discussion on recruiting and posting the position of a full-time Animal Control Officer.

***Performance of Administrative Duties***

Mr. Schiavo asked for a motion to approve the Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to approve the Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated February 28, 2023. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

Mr. Schiavo asked for a motion to approve the Town of Raynham Police Invoice and Payroll Warrants.

**Motion:** Moved by Ms. Riley and seconded by Mr. Schiavo to approve the Town of Raynham Police Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated February 28, 2023. Discussion: None.

**On a Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Riley – Aye; Mr. Schiavo – Aye; Mr. Pacheco – Abstain. Vote: 2-0-1

7:34 p.m. - Mr. Schiavo asked for a motion to enter into Executive session.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to enter into Executive Session for the following stated reason:

MGL 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:

Health Director Contract. The Board will return to open session only for the purpose of adjourning the

meeting with no additional business to be conducted. Ms. Riley seconded.

**On a Roll Call Vote:** Ms. Riley – Aye; Mr. Pacheco – Aye; Mr. Schiavo - Aye. Vote: 3-0-0

**7:59 p.m. –** Mr. Schiavo reconvened the regular meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s regular

meeting of February 28, 2023 at 7:59 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 21, 2023

• Read Across America Resolution

• Documentation to Participate in the New National Opiod Settlements

• Request for Permission to Apply Mosquito Larvicide by Aircraft

• February 28, 2023, Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants

         • February 28, 2023, Town of Raynham Police Invoice and Payroll Warrants