

**Raynham Board of Selectmen**

**Raynham, Massachusetts**

**Regular Meeting and**

**Executive Session**

**March 7, 2023 @ 6:30 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:**

Mr. Schiavo called the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to enter

into Executive Session. Ms. Riley made that motion, and Mr. Pacheco seconded it for the following stated reason:

1. (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: Health Director Contract.

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

6:59 p.m. – The Board returned to Open Session, and Mr. Schiavo asked for a motion to recess the meeting.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to recess the meeting. Vote: 3-0-0

7:00 p.m. – Mr. Schiavo reconvened the Board of Selectmen’s meeting and informed the public that the Board is returning from Executive Session. Ms. Riley informed that during Executive Session the Board voted unanimously to approve an Employment Agreement between the Town of Raynham and Paula Rossi-Clapp as Health Director effective March 27, 2023 through June 30, 2025, with a probationary period of March 27, 2023 through September 27, 2023, and with compensation effective March 27, 2023 at a weekly rate of $1,730.77 and effective July 1, 2024 at a weekly compensation rate of $1,765.39. To confirm the vote, Ms. Riley moved to approve the Employment Agreement between the Town of Raynham and Paula Rossi-Clapp as stated above. Mr. Pacheco seconded. Vote: 3-0-0

Mr. Schiavo congratulated the new Health Director.

Mr. Schiavo informed 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 28, 2023**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes of February 28, 2023, as printed. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Department Head Reports**

Ed Buckley, Highway Superintendent-monthly report

Mr. Buckley was not present.

Jim Donovan, Police Chief-monthly report

Chief Donovan was not present as he and members of his Department were assisting the Fire Department at the scene of an active house fire in Town.

**Public Hearing**

No public hearing was scheduled.

**Completion Old/Continuing Business**

There was no discussion.

**New Business**

*Health Director Contract*

The Board discussed the Health Director’s contract earlier in the meeting.

*Colonial Roadrunners – 11th Annual Frosty Half-Marathon, December 3, 2023*

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to approve the Colonial Roadrunners’11th Annual Frosty Half-Marathon on December 3, 2023, pending the approval of the Police and Fire Departments. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

*Filling full-time position, Animal Control Officer*

Mr. Schiavo explained that he placed the item on the agenda to bring to the Board’s attention that the full-time position is now open with the resignation of Ms. Colleen Morse effective February 28th. He suggested the Board take the matter under consideration for further discussion, possibly next week.

Ms. Riley asked Mr. Barnes if the Animal Control/Animal Shelter Study Committee, which was appointed for animal control and animal shelter issues, will be making any recommendations regarding staffing.

Mr. Barnes informed that the Animal Control/Animal Shelter Study Committee voted at its meeting last Thursday to request that before the Board takes any action, the Study Committee be allowed to issue their recommendations regarding the Animal Control Officer’s position.

Mr. Pacheco informed that the Board received correspondence from Interim Health Director Alan Perry who suggested not filling the full-time position but instead recommended assistance for the part-time Animal Control Officer. Based on Mr. Perry’s recommendation, Mr. Pacheco said, “It wouldn’t be fruitful to put the discussion on the agenda for the next meeting, but rather to put forth a posting for a part-time position.”

Mr. Schiavo replied that with the part-time position that the Town has, there has not been any articulation of the qualifications for the position, such as certifications, licenses, accreditations. He said, “Before taking any recommendation from the Interim Health Director, the Board should find out the qualifications for the position so that we know the job is being done in an efficient and competent manner.” He also suggested looking at the state requirements for qualifications.

Mr. Pacheco motioned to post the part-time position.

Mr. Schiavo replied that it was a year ago that the Board agreed to appoint a full-time Animal Control Officer. He said, “The reason the Board did this was because of the difficulties we were having trying to hire a second part-time person. The Board went for almost a year and a half without a second person which left a lot of unfinished work, especially on the reporting side.” Mr. Schiavo read a list of seventeen communities that currently have a full-time ACO. He added, “It’s not wrong to consider part-time, but we should consider that Raynham does not have a full-time person when everyone else does.”

Ms. Riley seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr. Pacheco stated that based on the recommendation from Mr. Perry, he was maintaining his motion, He also informed that the information from Mr. Perry included information about the volume of calls for animal control, which, in the month of December, was only a total of 22 calls over 31 days or an average of less than one call a day.

Mr. Schiavo commented on the number of activities and pointed out that the number of calls will be less if the department is not fully staffed, especially if there is only a part-time person who is not regularly available. He explained that if there was a full-time person, there would be more presence in the field and more opportunities to respond to calls and concerns.

Ms. Riley asked Mr. Pacheco if his intent was to post the part-time position to be filled on a temporary basis until a recommendation comes from the Animal Control/Animal Shetler Study Committee and the Board

makes a final decision. She sked Mr. Barnes if he would support the motion to hire someone on a temporary basis until recommendations are forthcoming from the Study Committee.

Mr. Barnes said he would ultimately support the Board’s decision, but it would make sense to hire someone on a part-time temporary basis.

Mr. Schiavo suggested tabling for further discussion based on the time it took the Town to find a full-time person.

Mr. Pacheco informed that there is no obligation to fill the position, only to post for the position.

Mr. Schiavo recommended posting a full-time position. He stated that he will not support a part-time position. He said, “The Town cannot manage an animal shelter without a full-time person.”

Mr. Pacheco said he could not support the option to post for a full-time position.

Mr. Schiavo asked the Board to table for further discussion from the Study Committee and not to act only on the recommendation from the Interim Health Director.

Mr. Pacheco maintained his motion.

Ms. Riley seconded the motion with the expressed qualifier that this is only a temporary solution until the Study Committee has an opportunity to make a recommendation to the Board. She explained this would give temporary assistance until a final decision is made.

Vote: 2-1-0 (Mr. Schiavo voted No)

*Approval of revised Fee Schedule for Sealer of Weights & Measures*

Mr. Schiavo informed that the fee schedule increase is modest.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to approve the revised Fee Schedule for Sealer of Weights & Measures as presented. Discussion: Mr. Pacheco informed that the last increase was five years ago. Vote: 3-0-0

Present was Paul Farrell, who serves as Sealer of Weights & Measures for the Town. Mr. Farrell informed that the increase is within line with the fees charged by other towns.

Mr. Barnes stated that the intent of the fees, by law, is not to make a profit, but rather just to cover the cost of providing the services.

**Town Administrator’s Report**

*Mr. Gregory Barnes*

A new proposal has been put forth by the Governor for Chapter 90 funds in the amount of $499,034.28.

Late last week, Mr. Barnes received an email from the Town’s Representative at the Federal level and another from Senator Warren’s Office. They indicated that they would like any Earmark proposals that the Town may have as the deadline for filing is tomorrow, March 8th, and the Senate is meeting next week. Mr. Barnes said King’s Pond/Dam would be a project to focus on because the Town could lose the grant funding that has bneen allocated for the project if it does not go forward and the Town could also face fines if the situation is not corrected. Mr. Barnes informed that Congress is focused on infrastructure, therefore, the project would potentially have a higher likelihood of success. Repairs at Hewitt’s Pond or Johnson’s Pond are also suggestions. Mr. Barnes asked if the Board had any other ideas to share.

A Department Head meeting was held last week, and that was very successful.

Mr. Barnes would like to discuss with the Board at a future meeting the software that is used for Town business.

Mr. Pacheco informed that Congressman Jake Auchincloss also reached out to him. He said that last year, the Congressman was successful in working to get Federal funds for the South Street bridge project. He added that he feels the projects Mr. Barnes referenced are worthy to advocate for.

**Selectmen’s Report**

*Ms. Riley*

The Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School hosted a Robotics Tournament this weekend with thirty schools participating. Bridgewater-Raynham came in #1. The team has two local meets before they are off to Texas to compete during April school vacation week. Ms. Riley congratulated B-R’s Robotics Team and wished them luck.

The School District has scheduled a Public Hearing on the budget tomorrow evening at the High School.

RAVE will be hosting a “Salute To Our Veterans Comedy Night” on Saturday, March 18th at American Legion Post 405. All proceeds will support the Raynham Memorial Day Parade, RAVE’s American Flag project and the Veterans’ Day assemblies that RAVE sponsors in the Raynham Schools. The ticket cost is $25 each and can be purchased online or by contacting RAVE Coordinator Becky George.

*Mr. Pacheco*

The Town will be hosting a household hazardous waste day on April 1, 2023, with a second one scheduled for September.

Mr. Pacheco spoke recently to the Principal at Bristol-Plymouth Regional High School and the ground breaking for the new school project is between April and June 2023. There were some modifications on the design for the project due to the rising cost of construction, but it looks like the project is well under way.

*Mr. Schiavo*

Mr. Schiavo requested status on the Senior Center Renovation Committee.

Mr. Barnes informed that they will be meeting next Wednesday, and the meetings are scheduled at the Senior Center so that members of the Committee are able to see what is being discussed.

**Citizen Input**

Present was Chris Shaw of Locust Street, who serves as Chairman of the Park and Recreation Committee and on the Animal Control/Animal Shelter Study Committee. He asked Mr. Schiavo for a copy of the list of Towns that he read who currently have full-time Animal Control Officers.

***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 March 7, 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 March 7, 2023. Discussion: None.

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

Mr. Schiavo asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Ms. Riley to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting of March 7, 2023, at 7:27 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 28, 2023

• Recommendation letter from Mr. Alan Perry, Interim Health Director

• Colonial Roadrunners – 11th Annual Frosty Half Marathon, December 3, 2023

• Revised Fee Schedule for Sealer of Weights & Measures

• March 7, 2023, Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants

         • March 7, 2023, Town of Raynham Police Invoice and Payroll Warrants