

 **Raynham Board of Selectmen**

**Raynham, Massachusetts**

**Regular Meeting**

**February 27, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Senior Center**

**2215 King Philip Street, Raynham, MA**

**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, but it is not being broadcast live because it is being held at the Senior Center. The meeting is at a new location this week because the Donald McKinnon Municipal Meeting Room at Town Hall is being used for early voting in advance of next week’s Presidential Primary Election. The meeting is being recorded by RayCAM as usual, however, 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 20, 2024**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes of February 20, 2024, as printed. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Department Head Reports**

*Bob Iafrate, Building Commissioner, Quarterly Report*

Mr. Iafrate is ill this evening; therefore, the Board will reschedule his report for a later date.

**Appointments**

No appointments were scheduled.

**Public Hearing**

No Public Hearings were scheduled.

**Completion Old/Continuing Business**

 **Raynham Recognition Award – Kathi Voller**

During the Board’s meeting last week, members unanimously approved the selection of Kathleen Voller for the Raynham Recognition Award as nominated by Riley Menconi, who serves as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission. Ms. Riley told Ms. Volller that Mr. Menconi submitted the nomination to honor her “for the positive impact you have had on so many Raynham lives through your dedicated service as a classroom teacher in our Raynham Schools for so many years and for continuing your efforts in your retirement as a tutor, in addition to the legacy you helped create through your earlier efforts starting a summer playground program that evolved over the years into a successful summer recreation program for our Park and Recreation Department and for serving as one of the founding members of the Raynham Association of Volunteers for Education and of the Friends of the Raynham Library.”

The Board presented Ms. Voller with the Raynham Recognition Award.

Ms. Voller thanked Mr. Menconi for his nomination and the Board for the honor. She remarked that she grew up in Raynham, spent her entire career in Raynham, and now has the opportunity to enjoy her retirement in Raynham.

Mr. Pacheco commented that, unfortunately, he never had the opportunity to have Ms. Voller as a teacher, but he recalled how students all knew her and wanted her for their teacher. He also commented on the traveling Ms. Voller has been doing since retiring and wished her many more years of a well-deserved, happy retirement.

Mr. Collins congratulated and thanked Ms. Voller for her efforts in teaching.

Ms. Riley also thanked Mr. Menconi for submitting the nomination.

 **Flag Pole Policy**

Ms. Riley read the “Policy for Display of Flags on Town-Owned Flag Poles” in its entirety.

Mr. Pacheco stated that he has no issue with the policy as written. It is comprehensive and, as discussed last week, it models the policies of other nearby communities.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the “Policy for Display of Flags on Town-Owned Flag Poles” as presented. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Stormwater Run-off Issue Update – 539 South Street East**

Back in January, property owner Mr. Michael Keith was present to discuss the stormwater run-off issue at 539 South Street East. At that meeting, the Board voted to continue the discussion at its February 27th meeting if Mr. Keith had not submitted plans to rectify the issue to the Planning Board by that date.

Mr. Barnes informed that today the Town received a proposed Site Plan that will be reviewed by a Pre-Submission Committee next week. Once comments are received from the Pre-Submission Committee, the applicant should take into account any concerns and incorporate them within a set of plans. Plans should then be drafted and forwarded to the Planning Board for a Site Plan Review in late March or April. During the process, there will be an independent third-party review of the Site Plans.

Mr. Barnes recommended a vote by the Board for the applicant to submit a final plan within two weeks after receiving the comments from the Pre-Submission Committee.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to request the applicant submit a final plan within two weeks following the receipt of comments from the Pre-Submission Committee. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Compliance Check Violation Update – Hibachi Sushi Buffet, 59 Rt. 44**

During the violation hearing in January, the manager of Hibachi Sushi Buffet was directed to provide a remediation plan to the Police Department within 30 days.

Mr. Barnes informed that Police Chief David LaPlante did receive a remediation plan and found it to be acceptable. The Board had voted for an additional suspension of alcohol sales on March 3-6, 2024, if an acceptable plan was not submitted within the 30-day period. Mr. Barnes reported that even though the manager has submitted an acceptable remediation plan, he intends to honor the additional four-day suspension of alcohol sales as a show of good faith. Mr. Barnes confirmed that no further action is needed by the Board.

**New Business**

1. **Discussion on Pine Street Culvert – Design and Possible Timeline**

Kim Armstrong from Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., an engineering, design, planning, and construction

 company, appeared on screen through an Internet connection for a video presentation.

Mr. Barnes explained that the Town is in the process of designing and engineering the replacement of the Pine Street culvert, which is extremely important as there is only one way into Pine Street. The culvert has degraded and there is currently a restriction on the weight over the bridge. Of particular concern with the deteriorating condition of the culvert is the threat it could pose to getting public safety vehicles to the area for emergencies. The estimated cost of the proposed replacement project is $1.75-2 million.

Ms. Amstrong reviewed the state of the culvert which has deteriorated on both the upstream and downstream ends. The roadway over the culvert is narrow with guard rails on both sides. Beyond the culvert, the embankments are steep, and the southbound roadway is currently restricted for traffic.

A portion of the project would be to widen the roadway to meet MassDOT criteria for the safe passage of vehicles and for the shared use with bicycles.

One option is the use of a pre-cast box culvert which is scour resistant and will stop the stream from washing away the soil underneath the foundation. Because the project is partially DEP funded, the project is not allowed in the wetlands, therefore, retaining walls are required. Ms. Armstrong explained that the two options for retaining walls include either cast-in-place concrete retaining walls or a precast concrete block retaining wall system.

Cast-In-Place Concrete Retaining Walls have a form-liner that simulates stone masonry. There is a longer construction time (4 months) and a higher cost ($310,000).

Precast Concrete Block Walls have a rapid construction time with a lower cost. This style will react better to the settlement caused by the significant presence of organic matter compared to the cracking that will be associated with a concrete system.

Both retaining wall systems can be paired with an aesthetic crash-tested concrete Texas Barrier Rail or a standard Steel Thrie-Beam guardrail including a handrail along the sidewalk side.

The Concrete Texas Barrier Rail has a longer construction time and higher cost but a longer life span of approximately 75 years.

The Steel Thrie Beam and Handrail on the Sidewalk Side has less construction time and a lower cost but a shorter life span of approximately 35 years.

For the Precast Concrete Block Walls with the Concrete Texas Barrier Rail, the preliminary base price is estimated to be approximately $1,850,000. The cost includes a 20% construction contingency.

Ms. Armstrong reviewed the anticipated schedule, bidding, and construction timeline with the completion date of construction in November 2026.

Mr. Pacheco said he would opt to go with the Precast Concrete Block Walls with the Concrete Texas Barrier Rail. The difference in pricing is $100,000, but the longer life expectancy outweighs the cost.

Mr. Collins agreed with Mr. Pacheco to opt for the Precast Concrete Block Walls. He said he would also agree with choosing the Concrete Texas Barrier Rail, which is more expensive but would last much longer.

Mr. Barnes noted that funds would need to be set aside for the project because it is of great importance even though there are many other projects that the Town has that are also of importance.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Precast Concrete Block Walls with the Concrete Texas Barrier Rail, contingent upon funds for the project. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Regret Distillery – Change of Manager/Officers/Directors**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to schedule a Public Hearing for March 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **J&A Auto Center, 211 Broadway – Amended License Request**

 The proposal from J&A Auto Center is to increase the number of vehicles allowed on site from 40 to 55.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to schedule a Public Hearing for March 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Kennel Inspection – Calluna Kennels, 197 Carver Street**

Animal Control Officer Sarah Mullen completed the kennel inspection and has recommended approval of the Kennel License for Calluna Kennels at 197 Carver Street.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Kennel License for Calluna Kennels, 197 Carver Street. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Kennel Inspection – Northeast K9, 1789 Broadway**

Animal Control Officer Sarah Mullen completed the kennel inspection and has recommended approval of the Kennel License for Northeast K9 at 1789 Broadway.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Kennel License for Northeast K9, 1789 Broadway. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Kennel Inspection – Pineland, 321 Leonard Street**

Animal Control Officer Sarah Mullen completed the kennel inspection and has recommended approval of the Kennel License for Pineland at 321 Leonard Street.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Kennel License for Pineland, 321 Leonard Street. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Town Administrator’s Report**

*Mr. Gregory Barnes, Town Administrator*

As Mr. Barnes previously reported, the Town needs to notify County officials by March 1st exactly how it intends to spend the ARPA funds allocated to the Town through the County, and those projects have to be either completed by December 31, 2024 or under contract. In order to be sure not to lose any of those funds, Mr. Barnes previously recommended, and the Board approved, reallocating some of those funds. Since then, however, Mr. Barnes has learned that certain projects identified for funding would not be eligible under the definitions in the ARPA funding requirements. Roadways are allowed, but the type of roadway is defined, and the type proposed by the Town could potentially be problematic and will also require the Federal Government to sign off on the project. The Town has already gone out to bid on a majority of the identified projects through Southeastern Mass Contracts, and several drainage projects are almost ready to go out to bid. Mr. Barnes would like to move forward with the following alternative proposal for the County ARPA Funds:

The Pine Street Culvert Project design - $189,000.00

Mill Street Bridge (drainage/stormwater only) - $155,616.00

Mill Street roadway and sidewalk improvements (drainage/stormwater only) - $145,268.00

Hall Street (drainage/stormwater only) - $30,000.00

Pleasant Field Subdivision (drainage/stormwater only) - $220,000.00

Tracey Corner design (drainage/stormwater only) - $60,000.00

Tracy Corner construction (drainage/stormwater only) - $187,700.00

Tracy Corner retention basin - $50,000.00

Grant total $1,037,584,00

Mr. Barnes also proposed that the sewer pump station improvements remain at the previously-voted amount of $696,521. He recommended only requesting $29,030.00 of the previously stated $100,000.00 for the Town Hall HVAC replacement project and the water faucet replacement project. He noted that those two projects could be paid for with alternative funds. The remainder of the request for the County ARPA funds would be the previously-approved Raynham Center Water District Project and the North Raynham Water District Project.

Mr. Pacheco commented that he is supportive of the projects identified for the County ARPA funds except for the reduction to the Town Hall projects, specifically the HVAC. He emphasized that he asked for this in the original package because of the working conditions at the Town Hall for employees.

Mr. Barnes said he was targeting items that the Town already has under contract or has bid specifications for, but that does not mean that he does not intend to move forward with the HVAC and water faucet replacement project because he most certainly does.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the projects as presented by Mr. Barnes as long as the Town Hall HVAC project and water faucet replacement project also move forward. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

Mr. Barnes also reported that the Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024. Department budgets have been received. He commented, “We will have a much better idea of where we stand financially in a few weeks.”

**Selectmen’s Report**

 *Mr. Pacheco*

Seven months into the State’s budget, the State has yet to meet revenue benchmarks for a single month, and it seems like that is going to hold true again in February. At the state level, there are proposed plans for additional cuts in the FY25 budget.

Mr. Barnes agreed that the Town and School District are already facing reductions in local aid from the State, and the trends in State revenues are not positive and could lead to further reductions.

 *Mr. Collins*

Mr. Collins has nothing to add at this time.

 *Ms. Riley*

Last week, the Board received correspondence from the Town Clerk requesting the Board’s consideration of opting out of the voting by mail option for the local Town election. A Public Hearing is scheduled for the Selectmen’s meeting on March 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. If any members of the public feel strongly about this, they can contact the Selectmen’s office or attend the hearing in two weeks.

Raynham CERT Team classes will be held on Monday evenings, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Bridgewater VFW at 40 Orange Street in Bridgewater. For more information, contact Raynham’s CERT Team Director Kevin Moreira at RaynhamCERT@gmail.com.

Friends of the Raynham Library are accepting donations of jewelry for their spring fundraiser, Trinkets and Treasures. Donations can be dropped off at the main desk during regular Library hours. The Trinkets and Treasures event will take place on March 7th through March 9th.

The R.A.V.E. Organization is sponsoring Read Across America Week in the Raynham Schools next week. Special guest readers and R.A.V.E. hostesses will visit the Laliberte Elementary School on Wednesday, March 6th, Raynham Middle School on Thursday, March 7th and the Merrill Elementary School on Friday, March 8th. Volunteer Coordinator Becky George is heading up the event.

The Bridgewater-Raynham Educational Foundation’s fundraising event will take place on Saturday, March 9th. The 3rd Annual Gala featuring the Flying Ivories takes place at Bridgewater University and tickets can be purchased at the foundation’s website, [www.bridgewaterraynhameducationalfoundation.com](http://www.bridgewaterraynhameducationalfoundation.com)

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to report.

**Press Time**

Taunton Gazette reporter Dan Schemer was present but had no questions for the Board.

 **Emergency Business**

Mr. Barnes reported that the home of a Raynham family at 424 Church Street is currently undergoing major repairs due to flooding, and those repairs could take up to 4-5 months to complete. The Board received a request to place a temporary mobile home trailer on the property while the family’s home is being repaired.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr.Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the request to place a temporary mobile home trailer on the property at 424 Church Street, contingent upon the approval of the Building Commissioner. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**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 27, 2024.

Mr. Barnes gave a shout out to Human Services Coordinator Erin Medeiros for setting up the facility for the meeting this evening and for assisting with the video presentation.

 **Adjournment**

Ms. Riley 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 27, 2024, at 7:50 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 20, 2024
* Raynham Recognition Award nomination and certificate - presented to Kathi Voller
* Policy For The Display Of Flags On Town-Owned Flag Poles
* Stormwater runoff update, 539 South Street East
* Compliance Check Violation update, Hibachi Sushi Buffet, 59 Rt. 44
* Pine Street, design and timeline presentation
* Regret Distillery – Request for Change in manager/officers/directors
* J&A Auto Center, 211 Broadway – Amended License Request
* Kennel Inspection – Calluna Kennels, 197 Carver Street
* Kennel Inspection – Northeast K9, 1789 Broadway
* Kennel Inspection – Pineland, 321 Leonard Street
* Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated February 27, 2024