

 **Raynham Board of Selectmen**

**Raynham, Massachusetts**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 5, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Veterans Memorial Town Hall**

**558 South Main 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 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 27, 2024**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes of February 27, 2024, as printed. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Department Head Reports**

*Bob Iafrate, Building Commissioner - Quarterly Report*

The calendar year report for the first two months is as follows: 29 Electrical Permits, 43 Plumbing and Gas Permits, 54 Building Permits, 4 Sheet Metal Permits and 4 Trench Permits for a total of $36,544. The Building Department is still experiencing a slower-paced cycle. There is a renovation project going on at the Gap Restaurant on Rt. 138, which will reopen as a high-end brick oven pizza restaurant.

Mr. Iafrate also reported that a pre-submission meeting was held today by the engineer who completed the design to address the issues at 539 South Street East. Plans are complete including the engineering report for the drainage and should be submitted to the Planning Board within the next week. The Planning Board will forward the plans for a third-party review to make sure the design will work to help solve the drainage issue. During the meeting, Department Heads in attendance supplied information to the engineer.

The proposed Popeyes on Rt 44 has not applied for a building permit yet; however, it has been approved by the Planning Board. The applicant is finalizing items with the Conservation Commission. There is a stream next to the parcel which empties into the river across the street; therefore, there are some flood zone issues that they are trying to manage.

The Planning Board has plans in front of them for a subdivision on Pine Street. The applicant is in the process of deciding whether to have it designed as a cluster or as a regular, full-lot-size subdivision.

SRPEDD will be meeting with the Planning Board to kick off work on the Master Plan implementation. As the Planning Board receives more information, Mr. Iafrate will update the Board.

 *David LaPlante, Police Chief, Monthly Report*

Chief LaPlante reported the activity for the month of February which included a total of 1,763 calls with 388 of them received as 911 calls and 66 as emergency medical dispatch calls. There were eleven arrests and several criminal summonses. The Department did not have any significant incidents last month.

The Chief recognized Detective/SRO Lou Pacheco and Patrolwoman Jennifer Lang for giving a local Brownie Troop a tour of the Raynham Police Department on February 6th.

On February 10th, Patrolman Daniel Kelly went above and beyond when he used his own money to purchase gas for a stranded motorist.

On February 22nd, Patrolwoman Lang and Patrolman Patrick Leahy visited the Senior Center to give a presentation on current scams. Chief LaPlante thanked them both for a job well done.

Chief LaPlante commended Communications Clerk Kelly Gormley for her excellent job on February 25th obtaining information by pinging a cell phone to confirm the address and identify of a young person in crisis. Due to her efforts, the officers were able to get the person the proper services.

On February 26th, Zachary DeAndrade and Nick Poulin began the Plymouth Police Academy with an expected graduation date in August.

The Department still has two officers who are out on Injury On Duty (IOD) status.

Ms. Riley thanked the Chief for the update on the good things going on in the Department because the Board does not always hear about the positive things that are happening.

Mr. Pacheco commented that he agreed with Ms. Riley’s remarks as he noted that hearing about examples of that positive human touch is good, not just for the Board, but for everyone.

Mr. Collins commented on the good news about having the two new officers now attending the academy.

Chief LaPlante will be visiting the LaLiberte Elementary School tomorrow to participate as a special guest reader in the Read Across America program.

**Appointments**

No appointments were scheduled.

**Public Hearing**

 Shaw’s Supermarkets, 300 New State Highway, Change of Manager to Jason Russell Perry

**7:08 p.m.** - Ms. Riley opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of Shaw’s Supermarkets were Attorney Nick Zozula from McDermott, Quilty, Miller & Hanley LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA, and Shaw’s Supermarket’s new manager, Jason Russell Perry. Attorney Zozula explained that the request is to change the manager of record from Kayla Nunes to Jason Russell Perry in order to update the liquor license. Mr. Perry has never been a manager of record on a liquor license although he has over twenty-five years of experience in the industry. Mr. Perry has been with Shaw’s and Star Market since 1997. He is Serve Safe Certified, and certification has been provided to the Town. Mr. Perry has familiarized himself with the rules and regulation of the Town for the sale and service of alcohol. There are no other operational changes to the store and no changes to the layout of the store or store hours.

Mr. Pacheco reminded Mr. Perry and Attorney Zozula of Raynham’s zero-tolerance policy, and he pointed out the significance of that because seven businesses failed the annual “sting” compliance checks that took place in December. Mr. Pacheco noted that Shaw’s Supermarket was not one of those businesses that failed, but the Town is paying extra special attention as failing compliance checks is unacceptable to the Board. He emphasized his appreciation of Shaw’s for passing the compliance check.

Ms. Riley asked for public input. No public comments were offered.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the request for a change of manager for Shaw’s Supermarkets, 300 New State Highway, to Jason Russell Perry. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**7:12 p.m**. Ms. Riley closed the Public Hearing.

**Completion Old/Continuing Business**

 **Update on Highway Superintendent Search**

Mr. Barnes informed of the results from the Collins Center’s search for candidates for the Highway Superintendent’s position. Four candidates applied for the position and all candidates were interviewed by the Collins Center. The Collins Center forwarded a recommendation to the Board, which stated: “After thoughtful deliberation, the Center recommends the Town interview Norman Sturtevant for the position. While others had positive attributes, the Collins Center team felt they do not possess all of the attributes the Town has identified as critical for the Highway Superintendent’s position. Mr. Sturtevant exhibited the leadership, team-building, and technical knowledge to best serve the Town.”

Mr. Pacheco remarked that, historically, the Board has endeavored to have multiple candidates come forward and obviously that is not happening in this situation for several factors including the job market. He said he would be less inclined to move forward if the recommended candidate was an external candidate. Mr. Pacheco added that he feels comfortable moving forward with an interview of the candidate especially since the selected candidate is a Raynham resident, an employee of the Town for over twenty years, has good local references, and a recommendation from former Highway Superintendent Ed Buckley. Mr. Pacheco said he supports bringing in Mr. Sturtevant for an interview, and, at that time, the Board can decide to move forward with the recommended candidate or extend the pool.

 Mr. Collins commented that he supports an interview with Mr. Sturtevant. He said he is not opposed to

 interviewing more candidates, but, he added, the Board did put this out to a private agency for a reason,

 and the agency did their due diligence.

 **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to schedule an interview with Mr. Sturtevant

 on March 12, 2024. Discussion: Kelly Usher, Human Resources Director, was present and commented

 that she was in agreement with following the Collins Center’s recommendation to schedule an interview

 with Mr. Sturtevant. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Update on the Veterans Agent Search**

Mr. Barnes informed that this is a joint hiring and joint decision with the Town of Bridgewater since the position will serve both Raynham and Bridgewater. Two finalists will be interviewed on Friday by a screening committee with a recommendation coming to the Board once the process is complete.

Human Resources Director Kelly Usher asked if, once the interviews are conducted by the screening committee referenced by Mr. Barnes, would the Board want to interview the screening committee’s recommended candidate(s). The Board members agreed they would want to interview the recommended candidate(s).

**New Business**

1. **Discussion and vote on Contract with GPI for Design and Permitting Services for Mill Street Roadway Improvements – Phase II (Lakeview Drive to Tracy’s Corner)**

Mr. Barnes reported that the Mill Street Bridge project should be complete by May 2024. The roadway improvements, which include sidewalks and drainage on Mill Street, have been broken down into two phases. The Town already has a contract for Phase 1 and is in the process of getting bids. Lakeview Drive to Tracy’s Corner is Phase 2 of the project, which is for engineering and design at an estimated cost of $200,150. Mr. Barnes recommended approving the contract with GPI for the design and permitting engineering services for Mill Street Roadway Improvements – Phase II.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Contract with GPI for Design and Permitting Services for Mill Street Roadway Improvements – Phase II (Lakeview Drive to Tracy’s Corner). Discussion: Funding for the project will be allocated from ARPA funds. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Discussion and vote on Contract with SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District) for Route 138 Zoning Review**

Mr. Barnes explained that a grant was received through the State to conduct a comprehensive zoning bylaw review on Rt. 138. The proposal is a contract for SRPEDD to perform the work and work closely with the Planning Board**.** The process includes an extensive outreach in the community and a number of workshops. The total cost of the contract is $110,000 with $90,000 coming to the Town through grant funds and with $20,000 supplemented through a Town Meeting vote.

Mr. Pacheco underscored what Mr. Barnes said about having a lot of community engagement throughout the process.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Contract with SPREDD (Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District) for Route 138 Zoning Review. Discussion: John Kokoroyannis of 283 Broadway commented on the process and asked if committees were going to be formed for the study. Mr. Barnes informed that SRPEDD will be meeting with the Planning Board on Thursday, and questions will be answered during the meeting. Vote: 3-0-0

 **Town Administrator’s Report**

*Mr. Gregory Barnes, Town Administrator*

Mr. Barnes continues to work through the budget process. The Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow night with the Police Department and Fire Department to discuss their budgets. The objective is to present a balanced budget for the upcoming year. The Finance Committee has been putting in a lot of time and effort in their review. Mr. Barnes pointed out, “We have totally revamped the budget forms and procedures this year for both the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget.”

**Selectmen’s Report**

 *Mr. Pacheco*

Mr. Pacheco reminded everyone that 35 minutes is remaining to vote in the Primary Election with the polls closing at 8 p.m. He said the Town appreciates everyone who votes.

 *Mr. Collins*

Mr. Collins has nothing to add at this time.

 *Ms. Riley*

The Economic and Business Development Commission held a meeting on Monday and announced that they will present their annual awards at their next meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024.

Ms. Riley wanted to thank Margaux Fortier from the Raynham Channel who joined her at the Senior Center for an interview with Director Erin Medeiros about all the activities, programs and services offered at the center. A focus of interest during the interview with Ms. Medeiros was her attempt to form a Friends Group, which would be a separate nonprofit organization providing support to the Senior Center, similar to the Friends of the Raynham Library. A draft proposal of the Articles of Organization and Bylaws has been completed by an attorney. Volunteers interested and willing to serve on the Board of Directors or as members of the group can contact Ms. Medeiros. The stated purpose, as proposed, would be (1) to raise funds to renovate and enlarge the building currently housing the Senior Center, (2) to raise funds for the purpose of assisting the Council On Aging in obtaining any and all items of equipment, furniture and any other tangible property deemed desirable for their activities, and (3) to assist in the funding of programs and activities to be conducted and/or sponsored by the Raynham Council On Aging.

Upcoming activities at the Senior Center include a luncheon and presentation about Fire Prevention with Fire Department Captain Jeff Kelleher on March 19, 2024, and a presentation on Backyard Astronomy with Raynham native Stephen LaFlamme on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 2:15 p.m. All activities at the Senior Center are listed on their newsletter which can be accessed through the Town of Raynham website.

**Correspondence**

 Tag Day Request – TDE Dance Company, Dartmouth, MA

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the Tag Day request from TDE Dance Company, Dartmouth, MA on April 7, May 5 & 19, and June 2, 2024. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Press Time**

No one was present from the press.

**Emergency Business**

No Emergency Business was reported.

**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 March 5, 2024.

**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 March 5, 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 27, 2024
* Bob Iafrate, Building Commissioner - Quarterly Report (verbal)
* David LaPlante, Police Chief, Monthly Report
* Application for Change of Manager - Shaw’s Supermarket, 300 New State Highway,
* Collins Center Recommendation Re: Highway Superintendent Search
* Update on Veterans Agent Search (verbal)
* Contract with GPI for Design and Permitting Services for Mill Street Roadway

 Improvements - Phase II (Lakeview Drive to Tracy’s Corner).

* Contract with SPREDD (Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development

 District) for Route 138 Zoning Review

* Tag Day request - TDE Dance Company
* Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated February 27, 2024