

**Raynham Board of Selectmen**

**Regular Meeting and Executive Session**

**March 19, 2024 @ 6:45 p.m.**

**Veterans Memorial Town Hall**

**558 South Main Street**

**Raynham, MA 02767**

**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 6:45 p.m. and asked for a motion to go

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

1. Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 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, Highway Superintendent.

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

6:59 p.m. – The Board returned to open session, and Ms. Riley asked for a motion to recess the meeting.

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

7:00 p.m. – Ms. Riley reconvened the Board of Selectmen’s meeting and informed the public that the Board is returning from Executive Session with nothing to report at this time. She also announced that the meeting is being broadcasted live on Comcast Channel 98 and Verizon Channel 34, and it is also being recorded by RayCAM for replay on the Raynham Channel and later on YouTube.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Acceptance of Minutes – March 12, 2024**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes of March 12, 2024, as printed. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Department Head Reports**

**Fire Chief Bryan LaCivita - monthly report**

The total unforeseen overtime, extended coverage totals $36,169.90 for the year thus far, and the Department has one firefighter who is currently on Injury On Duty (IOD) status.

The February activity report includes: Fire incidents - 74 calls; Ambulance responses – 175 calls; and Inspectional Services provided – 134 calls. The number of incidents for 2023, as of February 28, 2023, totaled 598. The number of incidents for 2024, as of February 29, 2024, totals 576, a decrease of 22 incidents for this year compared to the same time period last year.

Ms. Riley thanked the Chief and the members of his department for all that they do.

**Appointments**

**Re-nomination of Sarah Mullen to Massachusetts Division of Health to be Inspector of Animals for Term of May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to re-nominate Sarah Mullen to the

Massachusetts Division of Health to be Inspector of Animals for the Term of May 1, 2024 through April

30, 2025. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Re-nomination of Paula Rossi-Clapp to Massachusetts Division of Health to be Inspector of Animals for Term of May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025**

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to re-nominate Paula Rossi-Clapp to the

Massachusetts Division of Health to be Inspector of Animals for the Term of May 1, 2024 through April

30, 2025. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

**Public Hearing**

There are no scheduled public hearings.

**Completion Old/Continuing Business**

There was no discussion.

**New Business**

1. **Discussion & Review of Surplus Goods Policy**

Mr. Barnes stated that the Town, from time to time, has a need to dispose of scrap metals and materials, residue inventory and surplus equipment. The proposed policy outlines the instructions and procedures to follow in disposing of items while complying with State law. A draft policy was presented to the Board for their review. If the Board is comfortable with how the policy is written, Mr. Barnes will distribute it to Department Heads for their review.

Mr. Pacheco stated that he was comfortable with the way the policy was written.

Ms. Riley advised that, in accordance with the Board’s policy on policy adoption, the Board should take it under advisement until the next meeting when a vote could take place.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to table until the next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting on March 26, 2024 for any further discussion and a vote. Discussion: None. Vote: 3-0-0

1. **Request for Memorial Day Parade Permit – R.A.V.E.**

Present was Ms. Rebecca George, Volunteer Coordinator, representing the Raynham Association of Volunteers for Education, (R.A.V.E.), Inc. She stated that the R.A.V.E. Board of Directors and R.A.V.E.’s “Salute To Our Veterans” Committee wished to request a parade permit to hold the 10th Annual Raynham Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 25, 2024. She explained that through successful fundraising efforts, R.A.V.E. has been able to purchase American flags to decorate the center of Town for patriotic holidays since 2012 and sponsor Raynham’s Annual Memorial Day Parade since 2013.

Ms. George acknowledged the efforts of the Highway Department under Mr. Ed Buckley in setting up the flags each year and the Fire Department under former Chief James Januse and current Chief Bryan LaCivita for watching over them, taking them in and packing them away. She also acknowledged the Fire and Police Departments for their assistance each year along with American Legion Post 405 for their continued support. She noted that, once again this year, the parade will have professional bands and a trolley for Veterans to ride in. Last year the parade had more local sports groups and school groups than ever and the hope is that as many Town departments and organizations as possible will join in the activities this year.

Ms. George also reported that R.A.V.E.’s “Salute to Our Veterans” Comedy Night was held on Saturday, March 16th, and the event had a sellout crowd. She thanked everyone who contributed to the successful fundraiser especially event sponsors Chris Shaw, the Raynham Police Officers Charitable Association, Carol Sullivan Real Estate, Raynham Flea Market, John Noblin with King Philip Realty Trust, MD Cabinetry, the Riley Family, Slowhawk Performance, Correira Insurance Agency, John Holbrook, retired Police Chief Peter King and family, Jenny Plausse with Keller Williams Elite, and American Legion Post 405. Ms. George personally thanked “Salute To Our Veterans” Committee Chairperson Sandy Leahy, and members Lisa McCoy, Becky Mello, Kim Dolan, Nicole Williams, Robin Burns and Ms. Riley.

The first parade meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pacheco and seconded by Mr. Collins to approve R.A.V.E.’s request for a Memorial Day Parade Permit to be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024. Discussion: Ms. Riley stated that, as a member of the R.A.V.E. Board of Directors, she would be abstaining from voting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Pacheco – Aye, Mr. Collins -Aye, Ms. Riley- Abstain. Vote: 2-0-1

**Town Administrator’s Report**

*Mr. Gregory Barnes, Town Administrator*

Mr. Barnes advised that an Executive Session would be scheduled for the Board on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, regarding preparation for collective bargaining with the Office Professional Union (OPEIU). A bargaining session is scheduled with the Union on April 1, 2024.

The Finance Committee is continuing its deliberations regarding the preparation of the FY2025 Budget.

Mr. Barnes informed that he will have a date next week for when Articles will be due for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

**Selectmen’s Report**

*Mr. Pacheco*

Mr. Pacheco was contacted by a resident who questioned why individuals addressing the Board are requested to state their name and address. He requested the Board obtain a legal opinion.

*Mr. Collins*

Mr. Collins has nothing to add at this time.

*Ms. Riley*

Ms. Riley attended the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee’s FY 2025 Budget Hearing last week. The district’s funding comes mainly from Chapter 70 state aid and the two member towns. Projected State Aid funding has not increased as much as anticipated and not as much as the past three fiscal years. The implicit price deflator index for state and local government for the rate of inflation for FY2025 is 1.35%. It had been 4.5% for the past two fiscal years, which meant an increase of $4M each year. The 1.35% increase results in only an additional $549,693 in state aid to the district. The increased expenses for FY2025 are $5.6M over the current budget. The cost-drivers include transportation, out of district tuition and special education costs, utilities, health insurance contract increases, and contractual increases. The Bristol- Plymouth High School Project Assessment will begin next year and have a financial impact on both towns. The District is factoring a 2% increase from the Town of Raynham and a 3.15% increase from the Town of Bridgewater. In order to close the $5.6M deficit in next year’s budget, the School District is cutting as many supplies as possible, looking at all cost-saving measures as well as attrition, and using any available excess and deficiency funds and revolving account funds. They will be taking $2M out of their $3.5M excess and deficiency account, and all of the 61 initially proposed positions are not possible for next year’s budget. There may be open positions. The District is currently in contract negotiations with three out of their four bargaining units.

Ms. Riley noted there have been difficult times in the past and yet you always have to try to move forward and make improvements with what you have to work with. Still, addressing the main concern of increasing class sizes may not be possible.

Ms. Riley also reported that the Board received correspondence from a ten-year old named Tyler. He expressed his concerns with posters and advertisements for cigarettes. He wrote, “They can be very dangerous and life-threatening to everyone who uses them.” He listed the reasons why he believes cigarettes are dangerous and requested that on Sundays, Saturdays, Mondays, and holidays, there should be no smoking allowed, and if someone does smoke on those days, they should receive a $5 fine.

Ms. Riley thanked Tyler and said the Town has a future Selectman. Tyler not only identified a problem, but he offered a solution.

**Correspondence**

No other correspondence was received.

**Press Time**

No members of the press were present.

**Emergency Business**

No Emergency Business was discussed.

**Citizen & Community Input**

No input was offered.

**Performance of Administrative Duties**

Ms. Riley reported that she has reviewed and signed the Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated March 19, 2024.

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 19, 2024, at 7:18 p.m. with no additional business to be conducted. Vote: 3-0-0

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dawn Caradonna*

*Recording Secretary*

List of Meeting Documents:

* Minutes – March 12, 2024
* Fire Department - monthly report
* Re-nomination of Sarah Mullen to Massachusetts Division of Health to be Inspector of Animals
* Re-nomination of Paula Rossi-Clapp to Massachusetts Division of Health to be Inspector of Animals
* Draft of Surplus Good Policy
* Request from R.A.V.E for the Memorial Day Parade Permit
* Letter from 10-year-old Raynham resident re: cigarettes
* Town of Raynham Invoice and Payroll Warrants dated March 19, 2024