

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY EVENING - FEBRUARY 7, 2018

PRESENT: Calouro, Sweeney, Tyska, Parella, and Stuart

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Contente, Town Administrator

The Council met in special session on Wednesday evening, February 7, 2018 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 6:35 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Calouro presiding:

1. Public Service Interviews/Appointments
 - a. Bristol Housing Authority - Tenant Position (term to expire January 2023)
 1. Ruth Lombardi, 1014 Hope Street, K7 - interest/appointment
 2. Patricia A. Sardinha, 1014 Hope Street, E2 - interest/reappointment (currently serving-no interview required)

Councilman Stuart nominated Ms. Sardinha for reappointment.

There were no counter-nominations.

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to close nominations and to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Ms. Sardinha, with term to expire in January 2023.

Prior to the vote taken, the Council interviewed Ms. Ruth Lombardi who also expressed interest in this position. Ms. Lombardi informed the Council that she was essentially unaware of the duties of the position and assumed that it was a sort of liaison between the Housing Authority's tenants and the Town Council.

The Clerk explained that this was the position of tenant-representative to the Bristol Housing Authority and that the Authority makes decisions for the Benjamin Church Manor.

Ms. Sardinha informed the Council that she would be the "perfect person" for this position since she worked for the Bristol Highway Department for 12 years and later worked for the State of Rhode Island. Ms. Sardinha also informed the Council that she was encouraged by former Town Clerk Orlando J. Bisbano to serve

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on the Charter Commission sometime during Mr. Bisbano's tenure (1969-1984).

Ms. Sardinha also noted that she was responsible for the Tri-town Mental Health Committee at one time.

Ms. Sardinha explained that she enjoys keeping busy.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if Ms. Sardinha would like to change anything about the Bristol Housing Authority with Ms. Sardinha explaining that she moved back to Bristol in 2017, and had been previously residing in Johnston and West Warwick. She noted that the move was for "personal reasons" and that she was very pleased to be back. She explained that she wishes to "get involved" in the community and help people.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know if there are any issues at the Housing Authority which are not being addressed.

Ms. Sardinha responded that she was unaware of any unaddressed issues.

Councilwoman Parella explained that the meetings of the Housing Authority are open to the public and that Ms. Sardinha would be welcome to attend these meetings even if she was not appointed to serve on the Board of Commissioners.

Councilwoman Parella asked Ms. Sardinha the type of position that she held with the State with Ms. Sardinha explaining that she worked for the unemployment office.

Councilmembers thanked Ms. Sardinha for her interest in the position.

Ms. Sardinha asked to know how she may be informed about the Council's decision concerning the appointment.

Councilman Stuart explained that the Clerk will send Ms. Sardinha a letter.

Council Chairman Calouro noted that there is a currently serving individual who seeks reappointment to the position.

Councilwoman Parella noted that if Ms. Sardinha is appointed, she will be responsible to participate as a Commissioner in making the decisions of the Housing Authority. She added that

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Ms. Sardinha may also attend the Authority's public meetings as a member of the public if she is not appointed this time.

- b. Juvenile Hearing Board-Alternate (term to expire December 2020)
 1. Henry Cabral, 54 Sefton Drive - interest/ appointment
 2. Marjorie J. McBride, 3 Avenir Court - interest/reappointment (interviewed January 10, 2018)

Councilman Stuart nominated Mr. Cabral for appointment.

There were no counter-nominations.

Stuart/Tyska - Voted unanimously to close nominations and to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Mr. Cabral with term to expire in December 2020.

Prior to the vote taken, Mr. Cabral explained that he started coaching at Davies in 1994. He also explained that he tries to provide young people with the benefit of the doubt and that he believes that he will try to make a difference as a member of the Juvenile Hearing Board and that he plans to help in a positive way.

Council Chairman Calouro asked Mr. Cabral to provide an example of a challenged child with Mr. Cabral explaining that many of the students at Davies are difficult and that many of them have complicated lives. He provided an example of how he was able to guide a troubled child who was twice-orphaned and lived with an uncle. He explained that he was able to help her to achieve success even though she was a "difficult person."

Councilwoman Parella noted that many children have difficulties, especially those who reside in the inner cities. She explained that she is concerned that the currently serving person is on the School Committee and that the students appearing before the Juvenile Hearing Board are mostly Mt. Hope High School students. She expressed concern that it would be difficult to remain objective in this case and that she hopes that the Board can be fair and balanced.

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Councilwoman Parella noted that Mr. Cabral is an assistant coach at the High School and asked to know if he sees a conflict between that position and the Juvenile Hearing Board.

Mr. Cabral suggested that as long as the person is fair-minded, there should not be a conflict.

Councilwoman Parella stated that she is persuaded that it is not in everyone's best interest to have individuals who may have a conflict of interest on the Board.

Mr. Cabral noted that he is involved with 50 students versus a School Committee member who is involved with all of the students in the school.

Councilman Stuart noted that there is also a lesser likelihood that student athletes will be brought before the Board than students in general.

Councilwoman Parella stated that she would prefer if there was no identifiable source of conflict.

Councilman Stuart noted that the athletes tend to be more closely mentored since they participate in after school activities. He also noted that most tend to stay out of trouble since they may be banned from participating in athletics if they misbehave.

2. Five-Year Capital Improvements Program Update

It is hereby noted for the record that the Council took no action on this agenda item.

Town Treasurer Goucher explained the Capital Budget document and agreed to provide a .PDF of the document by request. She also explained that there are narratives which provide additional information and that these are organized by year.

A discussion ensued regarding the former school building leases. Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the Town is receiving sufficient rents from the tenants.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the rents will be raised 5% per year for two years in order to get the rents in line with \$.75 per square foot per month. He also explained that the purported market rate for similar rentals is \$1 - 1.10.

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Councilman Sweeney asked to know if the buildings are self-sustaining with Town Treasurer Goucher stating that she will do a new financial analysis of the former school buildings.

Town Administrator Contente reported that the buildings are undergoing extensive repairs. He noted that the hardwood floors and restrooms are being refurbished and that he plans to continue to invest in these types of repairs which should make the buildings more attractive to higher rents.

Town Administrator Contente noted that the Town will also soon see repairs to the soffit and gutters of the Walley School. He added that there will work to paint and repair the Walley School cupola and also to abate the asbestos previously discussed.

Town Administrator Contente stated that he plans to have the building occupied within 2 ½ years and that the Town plans to oversee the renovations itself.

Town Administrator Contente explained that the 2009 capital plan suggested the consolidation of Town offices and suggested that it may be more efficient for the Town to locate these offices in the Walley School. He added that there is a misconception that the 2016 bond would allow funds to renovate Walley School as a rental property and that the bond funds may only be used if the building is used for municipal purposes.

Town Administrator Contente stated that nonetheless the Town plans to renovate the building and that the alternate use would be similar to the use of the Byfield and Reynolds buildings.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of selling and/or leasing 9 and 10 Court Street.

Councilman Tyska asked to know if the 2 ½ year program to rehabilitate Walley School might be somehow accelerated.

Town Administrator Contente noted that the Town has much going on and that he recommends that progress would be better made slow and steady with the Town managing the project itself.

Town Administrator Contente noted that parking will remain a concern.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know if Walley School may be made to be accessible with Town Administrator Contente explaining

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that the Brewster Thornton plan indicates an elevator at the north entrance.

Councilwoman Parella agreed that parking will be an issue, particularly night time and when there are events in the area.

Councilman Stuart noted that it will be necessary to maintain a good relationship with the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School and Church since there are school activities and weekday funerals to consider.

Town Administrator Contente noted that 9 Court Street traffic has diminished considerably due to e-permitting. He reported that he is informed that there is a 90% drop-off in office visits with customers preferring to obtain their building, etc., permits through the internet.

Town Administrator Contente noted the Community Development capital budget concerning rainwater mitigation and also noted the requests of the Police Department.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know about the proposed State expansion of the intersection at Bay View and Metacom Avenues.

Town Administrator Contente reported that the point person for this project is Principal Planner Tanner and that there is an effort to meld both the Police Department's plan with the one of the State Department of Transportation.

Town Administrator Contente also reviewed the capital plan for Silver Creek improvements.

Councilman Stuart asked to know about the field project at Mt. Hope High School.

Town Administrator Contente explained that there is a plan to study the Silver Creek watershed from the golf course to the Leila Jane Drive neighborhood.

Director of Community Development Williamson reported on the Community Development Capital plan to continue with the wayfinding program. She explained that the Council will likely hear the results of the remaining wayfinding bid at its March 14 meetings.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know the intended result of the new signage with Director of Community Development

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Williamson responding that this will be continuation of the previous signage program and will result in an overall uniformity to the Town's signs. She explained that the new signs will consider routes to parking areas and also to direct visitors from Metacom Avenue to Hope Street and the Town's points of interest. She noted that some current signs which are intended to lead visitors to parking areas do not fully lead to the destination. She added that the Town received a grant from Commerce RI for the current year and there is also a new partnership with the Bristol Harbor Inn to add clarity to the use of the Library parking lot on Thames Street.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if some of this signage may be accomplished with private funding with Director of Community Development Williamson explaining that she is always seeking grant opportunities and many of the signs currently installed were paid for through grant funding. She noted that the recently installed informational kiosks were obtained with the help of a grant from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and that the historic and flood awareness signs were obtained through grant funding. She noted that the overall sign program has a six to eight year evolution.

Town Administrator Contente reviewed the request for the Department of Public Works road program.

Councilman Stuart noted that the program asks for \$850,000 but that it may be necessary for there to be \$150,000 additional.

Town Treasurer Goucher noted that she is reviewing some old bonds and there may be existing funds available for road repairs. She added that she believes that the amount available for road repairs may be \$1 million in the end and that there will be a need for the Council to adopt a reimbursement resolution.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know when the list for this year's road program will be available. He explained that he is concerned about a section of Perry Street.

It was noted that the damage on Perry Street was due to water damage.

Town Administrator Contente noted that BETA is doing a study which includes Perry Street.

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Councilman Stuart noted that it must be communicated to the public that the road program list may be amended once approved, due to emergency situations. He explained that it would be unfair to imply that the approved list guaranteed that the listed roads would be improved. Councilman Stuart also suggested that the list should be practical so that it does not build unreasonable expectations.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know how many "disasters" there were due to the below zero degrees F. weather.

Public Works Director McBride reported that there have been over twenty emergency road cuts due to temperature related issues. He noted that the severe temperatures have also delayed the completion of the road program list and that he plans to complete this soon and meet with Councilman Stuart concerning same.

Public Works Director McBride also reported that he is hopeful that the bid for the listed repairs will come in under budget which will allow for the list to be somewhat expanded. He noted the previous comment regarding Perry Street and reported that he plans to have Perry Street on the list.

Council Chairman Calouro noted that the road program list helps the matter to remain focused.

Public Works Director McBride noted that the repairs to projects on the road program list are funded completely by the Town and also that the Town receives no State funding for these particular road repair projects.

Councilman Stuart noted that he will share the updated list with the Council once it is finalized.

Town Administrator Contente noted the list of trucks slated for replacement and asked the Council to pay particular attention to the age of these trucks.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know if the Town uses a lease to own financing program with Town Treasurer Goucher explaining that the financing is approximately seven years.

Town Administrator Contente noted the plan to fully automate recycling he explained that the first year to complete one half of the Town will cost approximately \$595,000 and has promise to cut the Town's cost for worker's compensation significantly.

Councilwoman Parella expressed concern that automating the recycling program may remove the workers' surveillance from the process. She noted that RI Resource Recovery Corporation can reject loads of recyclable materials that contain non-recyclable contamination.

Public Works Director McBride stated that the recycling trucks will dump their loads into a trailer and that the trailer will be inspected for contaminants. He reported that the Town of Bristol has not experienced any rejection due to contamination by RIRRC.

Don Hemond, a member of the Capital Project Commission noted that the Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, requires their citizens to sort recyclables.

Public Works Director McBride explained that the Rhode Island accepts mixed recycling and that it is not necessary for citizens to sort their recycling. He added that the new equipment may allow that recycling will be picked up every other week while non-recyclable rubbish will be picked up every week.

Town Administrator Contente referred to Tanyard Brook Phase II and noted that the initial plan is to complete the construction in two phases over two years. He reported that there may be a grant available to offset the cost of the project.

Town Administrator Contente noted the capital projects for the Police Department and explained that there is a plan to upgrade the communication system from analog to digital. He suggested that there may be grants available for this project.

Town Administrator Contente noted that the capital plan considers additional repairs to the Prudence Ferry Dock with Director of Community Development Williamson explaining that she submitted a grant application to Senator Whitehouse and that she is optimistic about this grant application and that it considers public transportation. She further explained that the Town may partner with RIPTA to complete the grant project.

Councilman Stuart asked to know if work on this dock could coincide with repairs to the Independence Park boat ramp.

Director of Community Development Williamson noted there may be a possibility for a boating infrastructure grant for this repair and that these may require a significant match.

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Harbormaster Marsili noted that it may need as much as \$300,000 to repair the boat ramp and that he viewed a similar facility in Little Compton which was recently upgraded.

A discussion ensued regarding the Harbor Patrol boat and the Harbormaster's pickup truck. It was noted that the truck has 56,000 miles but it is rusting-out. Town Administrator Contente stated that the plan is to replace the truck with a new truck.

Harbormaster Marsili explained that truck gets a heavy use despite its relatively low mileage.

A discussion ensued regarding the marina expansion project with Patrick McCarthy explaining that he represents the many persons who are on the Town's waiting list for marina slips.

Mr. McCarthy asked to know the next steps and how the project can move forward. It was noted that the Town has a study completed by Pare Engineering and that this should be shared with the Harbor Commission.

Mr. McCarthy asked to know if the project would be put out to bid as a next step.

Council Chairman Calouro stated that the Council, Administrator, and department managers must fully vet the proposed capital plan to determine the next steps overall.

Council Chairman Calouro also stated that he has some concerns regarding access to the proposed marina area and that there is also a need to consider the costs and the economic impact of the project. He suggested that it may be advisable to have some type of workshop to consider all of these sometime before the budget workshops commence.

Director of Community Development Williamson noted that the CRMC permitting process for a project like the one that is contemplated is very extensive and that it will require a "full blown" hearing with the full Coastal Resources Management Council. She added that there may be many steps before the project would be approved.

Councilman Stuart stated that he would like to be part of the conversation cited by Director of Community Development Williamson and also that there were some intricacies concerning

the riparian rights in the subject area that must be better understood.

Councilman Tyska suggested that the marina might be expanded without using the riparian rights and that these might be better reserved to enhance the redevelopment of the Robin Rug property whenever this happens.

Councilman Tyska also suggested that it was impractical to budget \$3 million in one year for the project since the most that could possibly be expended next year was \$500,000.

Councilman Tyska also noted that there may be environmental issues that would have to be considered as part of the review process. He recommended that next year's capital budget should not include \$3 million for the marina.

Mr. Hemond also took exception to the \$3 million figure for the marina and suggested that a marina could be built for far less. He noted that he was familiar with the Community Boating Center in Providence and that the Town has been viewing the matter of a marina expansion incorrectly.

Mr. Hemond agreed to "facilitate the whole thing for free."

Council Chairman Calouro explained that the Council does not plan to resolve the matter of the marina expansion during this evening's meeting and that rather there will be an opportunity at some point to further examine the matter at a public workshop.

A discussion ensued regarding the Fire Department capital budget with Fire Chief DeMello stating that he was available this evening to answer any questions which may arise.

Town Treasurer Goucher noted that the Colt-Bannister restricted funds would supply the funding for a new ambulance.

A discussion ensued regarding the soon to be retired ambulance with Fire Chief DeMello explaining that the old unit may be used for parts.

A discussion ensued regarding Marine 1 with Fire Chief DeMello explaining that he is being proactive and that he has been advised that the Town should be planning to replace the vessel since it is 10 years old. He also noted that there may be some

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grants available from the State since Marine 1 is used for mutual aid around Narragansett Bay, serving other communities.

Fire Chief DeMello outlined some of the repairs contemplated for the various fire stations including heat and repointing.

Council Chairman Calouro asked to know if there would be an effort to get volume pricing.

Fire Chief DeMello noted that he was planning to find suppliers via the Master Purchasing Agreement (MPA).

Councilman Sweeney asked to know is there was a long term plan to consolidate the Town's fire station buildings.

Fire Chief DeMello reported that there perhaps should be an analysis to determine what would work best for Bristol concerning its fire stations.

Town Administrator Contente stated that he was not sure if the buildings need all of the repairs outlined by Fire Chief DeMello and stated that he considers that the Town should utilize it's "on-call" mason and carpenter since their rates are very favorable. He suggested that \$100,000 "would go a long way" by utilizing this efficient type of service.

Town Administrator Contente also noted that having the various stations work keep the Town's volunteer system healthy and suggested that there would be no need to do a building analysis.

Town Administrator Contente noted the capital items for Parks and Recreation.

A discussion ensued regarding the basketball court on the Town Common with Councilmember noting that the court seems to get a good amount of use.

Councilman Stuart suggested that the "summer leagues" might be returned to the court since these were very popular.

A discussion ensued regarding the budget item for replacement of the department's dump truck with Town Administrator Contente explaining that the current truck is a 2001 model with over 150,000 miles.

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A discussion ensued regarding the \$11 million total budget with Council Chairman Calouro explaining that having the capital budget document helps keep the various projects on track.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know how much of earlier year's suggested expenditures have been moved forward into this budget with Town Treasurer Goucher explaining that this budget contains \$3 million in projects from last year.

Town Treasurer Goucher stated that it may be useful to look at a list of completed projects over time. She also provided a listing of all of the projects which are supported by grant funding.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Stuart, seconded by Councilman Sweeney and voted unanimously the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:35 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC
Council Clerk