

Selectmen's Meeting
January 8, 2018
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the meeting room of Town Hall. Members present were: Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman; and Margaret Serpa. Also present was Town Administrator Pamela Dolby.

At 4:00pm Mr. Smadbeck opened the meeting and the first item on the agenda which was a public shade tree hearing for 22 N. Water Street to remove a holly tree and a cypress tree along the Winter Street side. Present for the hearing was agent Gerret Conover, Jr. and Tree Warden Stuart Fuller.

Mr. Conover stated that they were going to install a sidewalk and would replace the trees with three linden trees.

MR. Fuller stated that it would be a good enhancement for the town to add a sidewalk and add three trees after removing two.

It was asked who would pay for the sidewalk.

Mr. Conover replied that the owner of the property would be paying for the sidewalk.

There being no further comment, Mr. Smadbeck closed the hearing. Ms. Serpa moved to approve the removal and replacement of the trees by June 30, 2018. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then opened the Eversource Hearing for a new pole on Pease Point Way S. in front of 80 Pease Point Way South owned by Mary Jane Rogers. Present were ROW Agent Jessica Elder, Highway Superintendent Stuart Fuller and Ms. Rogers.

Ms. Elder stated that there was a failed tree guide and they would like to add a pole in this location.

Mr. Fuller wanted to make sure the pole and lines were high enough for boats on trailers to pass under. This road is frequently used by boats being transported from storage to the harbor.

Ms. Rogers wanted clarification of where the pole would be in relation to her hedge.

Ms. Elder could not answer the question.

Ms. Serpa moved to continue the hearing until the following Monday meeting at 4pm for clarification and to have the linemen stake the location. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then opened the second Eversource hearing. This one was to run 50' of conduit and cable to 108 Pease Point Way North. Present were Ms. Elder and Julia Celeste, abutter.

Ms. Elder explained that this project was to run 50' of conduit and cable under Pease Point Way North to serve a hand hole at #108. They would also be replacing the 30' pole with a 40' pole.

Ms. Celeste asked if this would be one hand hole to serve the whole subdivision or if there would be future boxes for the rest of the subdivision. She was asking what the visual impact would be when the project was finished.

Ms. Elder could not answer the question.

Ms. Serpa moved to continue the hearing to the following Monday meeting at 4:05pm to get Ms. Celeste's questions answered. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then moved on to the next item on the agenda which was a presentation by Integrity Testing LLC on the process for hiring a new police chief. Present was Mr. Rick Stanley from Integrity Testing LLC, many members of the Edgartown Police Department and many concerned citizens.

Mr. Stanley introduced himself and gave a brief description of his company and he and his partner's backgrounds. He then went over the process his company would go through which is tailored by community. They would start by advertising in many outlets. All applications will come to the company for vetting and be whittled down to a list of 8-12 people. Mr. Stanley will then meet with the town committee who will help decide the next step for exercises and testing that will be specific to Edgartown. He then described many possible exercises and tests. These will be held in Edgartown at an as yet to be determined location. The top three after this process will be publicly interviewed by the Board of Selectmen for final selection. He stated that he has

reviewed the blueprint for excellence and feels this is a great jump off point for a new chief. He guaranteed to move the process along.

Ms. Christy Edwards wanted to know how the company was chosen.

Retired Chief Rossi responded that he was asked by the Board to look into companies. The Town received three bids and this was the lowest one.

Ms. Maria Speight asked why they were using a company.

Mr. Smadbeck responded that the Board had received criticism in the last process. They chose to go this way. To use an outside company to avoid any perceived issues.

Mr. Peter Look asked about the Committee, who would be on it and if they would adhere to the open meeting law. He was concerned there would not be enough public input.

Mr. Smadbeck replied that the Committee would be appointed shortly and that they would of course adhere to the open meeting law by having posted public meetings and be able to meet under executive session in certain circumstances.

There was discussion with Mr. Look and others to answer some of their concerns.

Ms. Serpa then moved to go forward and advertise the position. Applications will be due 30 days from the date of advertisement. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then moved to appoint the following people to the Police Chief Selection Committee: Edgartown School Principal John Stevens, COA Director Paul Mohair, Fire Chief Alex Schaeffer, Personnel Assistant Kim Lucas, and Retired Police Chief David Rossi. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Gail Gardener asked about the job description.

Acting Chief Dolby replied that the job description already exists under department policy.

Officer Jeffrey Trudel made a statement for the Patrolman's Union. He read aloud a letter opposing Retired Chief Rossi's appointment to the Committee. The Union would like to have one of their own appointed and Chief Blake from Oak Bluffs.

Mr. Smadbeck replied that the Board takes this letter seriously and will take it under advisement.

Acting Chief Dolby then made a statement. He is not applying for the position. He feels there is a lot of internal issues within the department. A lot of people had issues with the last process. He feels it would be important for the Board to bring in someone with experience in from away. He is requesting a professional experienced chief to keep the department heading on the right path and to help the officers become a better department in the future.

Sgt. Craig Edwards disagreed and thought there were a lot of options inside the department.

Sgt. Michael Gazaille agreed with Acting Chief Dolby.

Then discussion ensued, some heated at times, of officers and members of the public stating the benefits and detriments of hiring someone from away and that there were options within.

Mr. Smadbeck thanked everyone for coming in and reminded everyone it was open to whomever wanted to apply.

The Board then stated that they had two proposals for the Yellow House. The first from Michael Hegarty and the second from Trademark Services LLC. They voted to send them to the Yellow House Committee for consideration.

The Board of Selectmen then moved on to the final thing on the agenda which was the retirement of Fire Chief Peter Shemeth and the swearing in of new Fire Chief Alex Schaeffer. Present was most of the Fire Department and the Chiefs' families.

Ms. Serpa moved to appoint the following persons to the following positions: Alex Schaeffer, Fire Chief; R. Andrew Kelley, Deputy Chief; Geoffrey Freeman, Assistant Chief; and Brendan Cooney as Ambulance Coordinator. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

These appointees were then sworn into their new positions by Town Clerk Wanda Williams. Followed by a round of applause. Chief Schaeffer then signed his new contract.

Chief Schaeffer then gave a nice speech and thanked Chief Shemeth for his many years of service. He presented Chief Shemeth with a certificate of appreciation from the Town.

Chief Shemeth made a short speech and thanked everyone.

There not being a dry eye in the room and full of raucous applause, he was escorted down the corridor lined with fire personnel in dress uniform and out the front door of Town Hall to an awaiting fire truck with all the lights going on Main St. for his last ride as chief.

The Board then approved the following items:

Minutes of 11/6/17, 11/13/17, 12/4/17, 12/11/17, & 01/02/18

To appoint Melissa Vincent as able to approve mortgage subordinations on behalf of the Town.

To sign and approve the Seasonal Population Increase form for the ABCC.

The Board then addressed a letter from CVEC asking to extend the adder through FY19.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that he had many issues with that. The inverter at Nunnepog issue was one and the dead trees were still another. The Town has been paying to fix all the issues and do the landscaping out of their own solar income.

Ms. Serpa moved to authorize Ms. Dolby to contact CVEC replying no to their request. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Dolby stated that while they were on the subject of the noisy inverter at Nunnepog, the Board had a letter of advice from the sound proofing company.

Ms. Serpa moved to accept option #2 which was to shut off the noisy inverter from May to October when it was the most noisy. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Dolby mentioned that there are about 15 dead trees that need to be replaced at Nunnepog. There are more in Katama. She reminded the Board that the first budget hearing would be that Wednesday the 11th.

At 5:12 PM Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous

Approved:

Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

Michael J. Donaroma

Margaret E. Serpa
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant

January 8, 2018