

**PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2017  
MINUTES**

6:00PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

6:00 PM

**SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Objection by Mr. Thomas Griebe for the Town Council going into Executive Session with regards to discussing Aquidneck Island Trust's purchasing of Spruce Acres and with the Town of Portsmouth giving money towards the purchase of the land. A compromise was made where the Council would listen to the proposal but no action would be taken until in Open Session on February 27, 2017.

Motion made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Gleason to go into Executive Session. Amended motion made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro to make no decision on purchasing Spruce Acres while in Executive Session and to bring it forward to open session at the Town Council Meeting on February 27, 2017. Motion to amendment passed 6-0. Main motion passed 5-1 with Ms. Pedro against.

6:04 PM

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(5) – Any Discussions or Considerations Related to the Acquisition or Lease of Real Property for Public Purposes Wherein Advanced Public Information Would be Detrimental to the Public Interest.

No votes taken.

2. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(5) – Any Discussions or Considerations Related to the Disposition of Publicly Held Property Wherein Advanced Public Information Would be Detrimental to the Interest of the Public.

No votes taken.

Motion to seal the minutes and go into Open Session made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Kesson. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 7:01 PM

**ADJOURN**

7:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

Time: 7:04 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

1. Presentation to Award the Portsmouth Police Department with the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission's (RIPAC) Accreditation. / C. Crocker, RIPAC Executive Director

Middletown Police Chief Michael Pesare, Vice Chair of the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission presented Colonel Thomas Lee, Award of Accreditation to the Portsmouth Police Department on completion of the Rhode Island Police Accreditation. They are the 19<sup>th</sup> Police Department in Rhode Island to complete the accreditation.

Ms. Christine Crocker presented awards of recognition to Town Administrator Richard Rainer, Colonel Thomas Lee, and Sargent Maryann Perry.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Bills – Motion made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro to receive and place bills on file. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

**SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

1. Entertainment License:
  - a. New England Softball Club, Jose L. Frias, Coach, 54 Easton Ave., Portsmouth, Tournament for the Troops, Portsmouth High School and Portsmouth Middle School, May 21-22, 2017 – Motion made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro to approve entertainment license. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

Motion made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

## **ADJOURN**

## **PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Mr. Hamilton thanked the Police, Fire and DPW for their coverage over the past 5-6 days with regards to the inclement weather. He also mentioned that two items related to Acquisition or Lease of land was discussed during Executive Session. One item will be brought forward to Open Session of the next Town Council Meeting on February 27, 2017. No votes were taken on either item.

## **TAX VOUCHERS**

Request Approval for Tax Vouchers #20170213-01 to #20170213-02. / M. Helfand- Motion to approve the Tax Vouchers by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### 1. Welcome Aboard to New Finance Director

- John Menke began serving as Portsmouth's finance director last week after a turnover from the interim Director, David Faucher.
- I would like to publicly thank Mr. Faucher for returning to his former position as our interim finance director. It was a pleasure to work with him over these last few months and I am very grateful for his unselfish commitment to the Town during this transaction period.
- John- welcome aboard.

### 2. Report on RI League of Cities and Towns Convention

- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the RI League of Cities and Towns held their 17<sup>th</sup> annual convention. The theme year was "United in Improving Local Government".
- This year there were almost 100 Exhibitors representing categories ranging from asset management to waste and recycling.

- The convention program included 3 sessions of concurrent workshops in various subject areas of importance to local governance.
- In addition to myself, the convention was attended by the Business Director, Fire Chief, and Chief of Police.

### 3. Budget Process Update

- As most are aware, we are now working earnestly on the draft budget for FY 17-18.
- The plan as presented to the Council last December is on track.
- We have so far worked through draft department budgets for Police, Fire and DPW. The remaining sections of the budget will be addressed over the next two weeks.
- From the input received and information shared at the meetings held, Finance and I will prepare for a second round of budget talks next month.
- A draft budget will be turned over to the Council on 10 April for discussions to begin on 24 April.

### 4. Passing of Thurston Gray

- Lastly, I sadly report that Thurston Gray, a devoted member of the Melville Park Committee as well as numerous other environmental activities passed away on 3 February.
- In addition to the Park Committee, Thurston participated in the URI Coastal Systems Water Watch program for 20 years, surveying Melville Upper Pond weekly. He was an active participant in the Save the Bay program to restore eelgrass beds; the effort to return the Portsmouth pond access to Mount Hop Bay; and the Navy-Environment Advisory Board.
- As a member of the Melville park Committee he singlehandedly doubled the size of the Orange Trail and located the farmhouse foundation on that trail. I'm sure I speak for the entire town when I say he will be sorely missed.

## **REMOVALS, RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### 1. Removal/Rescind Previous Appointment:

- a. Zoning Board of Review – P. Henriques – Motion to remove and advertise position made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 5-1, Mr. Gleason against, Mr. Aguiar absent.

2. Resignations:

- a. Melville Park Committee – S. Luce – Motion to accept resignation made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

3. Appointments:

- a. Harbor Commission (Re-Appt.) – D. Anderson- Motion to accept reappointment of Mr. Anderson, made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

Time: 7:23 PM Mr. Aguiar arrived.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Request Approval of a Resolution Requesting a Non-restoring Line of Credit in the Amount of \$2,500,000 to be Allocated in \$300,000 Installments as Needed to Continue Funding for the Community Septic System Loan Program (CSSLP) – Motion made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa to authorize the Town Administrator to send a letter the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to Authorize the installments. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Discussion/Action – Lower Glen Farm Operation and Concession Agreement. – Motion to table the discussion for further review by the legal staff and bring back on February 27, 2017 made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 7-0
3. Discussion/Action – RFP for Legal Services for Town. – Motion by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Gleason to have the Town Administrator incorporate Ms. Ujifusa’s changes to the RFP for Town Solicitor and have it brought back to the February 27, 2017 meeting for approval. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Request Acceptance of Randolph Way as a Public Road and Release of Road Bond. –Motion to approve by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Kesson recused from discussion and vote.

5. Discussion/Action – Memorandum of Agreement by and Between the Town of Portsmouth and the Town of Bristol for the Ferry Service to and From Prudence Island. – Motion made by Mr. Aguiar, seconded by Mr. Kesson to approve not up to exceed \$70,000 to be taken from the Prudence Island Road Bond to repair the Prudence Island Ferry dock in Bristol contingent upon approval by the Bond Council. Motion passed 7-0. Motion made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Dr. Ryan that if the Bond Council disapproves taking the money from the road bond then the Town may use up to but not to exceed \$70,000 be taken from the current year’s contingency line item to fund the repairs. Motion passed 7-0. Motion made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Bristol contingent upon signing by Bristol. Motion passed 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Letter Requesting Support of the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (ERICD) and ERICD Mission Statement. / S. Churgin, ERICD – Ms. Pedro created a resolution in support of the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District (ERICD) and the other RI Conservation Districts to receive \$50,000 each, from the federal grant dollars that the State received in the 2018 budget to be forwarded to the state legislation and governor. Motion made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Aguiar to task Mr. Rainer to consider the placement of the civic support to the 2018 budget. Motion passed 7-0.

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH  
RESOLUTION # 2017-02-13 E**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO RI CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

- WHEREAS, The RI Conservation Districts are organizations that function as facilitators for meeting the needs of the local land user in the conservation of soil, water and other related natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, The RI Conservation Districts benefit the people of Rhode Island by addressing the issues concerning natural resources through community-based approaches such as education and outreach, technical assistance, and partnership with other agencies; and
- WHEREAS, The RI Conservation Districts are essential for ensuring safe public and private drinking water supplies statewide; and
- WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to over 1200 farms and farming is one of the major program areas that the RI Conservation Districts support; and
- WHEREAS, If Rhode Island farms remain viable and sustainable, the greater the benefit for the RI economy; and
- WHEREAS, Portsmouth recognizes and strongly supports the heritage and importance of their farming community, including the aesthetic and economic benefits that these entities provide; and
- WHEREAS, The RI Conservation Districts are required to exist by law but are struggling to keep their doors open, since State funding has been decreased by 76% between 2006 and 2015, with no funding received in 2016; and
- WHEREAS, In FY17, the State of Rhode Island received \$39.4M in Federal funds for natural resource agencies, and in FY18 the budget shows \$35M in Federal funds for natural resource agencies; and
- WHEREAS, The Town Council of Portsmouth joins with the citizens and officials of Portsmouth, expressing support for the full funding of \$50K to be restored to each of the RI Conservation Districts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of Portsmouth, do hereby support the full funding of \$50K to be restored to each of the RI Conservation Districts.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL ACTION  
February 13, 2017

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Keith E. Hamilton, President  
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer West, Town Clerk

2. Request Approval to Amend Resolution #2016-02-10 – Exemption from Taxation of the Real Estate of Certain Income Eligible Senior Citizens. Motion to approve the exemption made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Aguiar. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Presentation of OPEB Commission Findings. Motion to place on file the findings of the OPEB Commission made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 7-0.
  - a. Retiree Healthcare Update & Alternative Designs, FY ending 6/30/15
  - b. OPEB Commission Meeting Minutes 10/6/16
4. Presentation Regarding Medical Marijuana. – Rhode Island Assistant Attorney General Joee Linbeck made a presentation regarding medical marijuana, decriminalization, and the concept of local ordinances with zoning. The Council will take the matter up at a future date and look at creating Town Ordinances. Motion to receive and place on file was made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson. Motion passed 7-0.
5. Request a Resolution in Support of Opposing the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville, RI. – Motion made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Gleason to support resolution created by Ms. Ujifusa in Support of Opposing the Clear River Energy Center in Burrillville. Motion passed 7-0.
6. Request Resolution in Opposition to the Preferred Alternative of the Northeast Corridor

FUTURE, Washington, DC to Boston, MA Tier 1 Final EIS. - Motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro to support a resolution in Opposition. Motion passed 7-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Portsmouth Historical Society is Requesting Support for an Annual Appropriation of \$10,000 for the Unrestricted Use of the Society.
2. Summary of RIDOT Evaluation and Traffic Analysis Results for East Main Road ADA Improvement Project.  
Motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Gleason to receive and place on file. Motion passed 7-0

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

February 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
March 13 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
March 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
April 10 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

Ms. Pedro mentioned that the Dog Park committee chair would like the Council to put forth a date that they would be available for the dedication of the park. April 29<sup>th</sup> was suggested. Ms. Pedro will contact the chair with that date.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Aguiar. Motion passed 7-0.

Time 10:10 PM

### **ADJOURN**

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk