

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2016**

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Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 7:36pm, and introduced Ellen Allen, Gregg McBride, Alison Demong and Town Administrator Peter Morin. Mr. Brown said that the board had been in Open Session discussing various matters before the board.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Gregg McBride, to approve the agenda as amended, postponing the AFC discussion to a future BOS meeting. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Gregg McBride, to approve the April 6<sup>th</sup> open meeting minutes. Unanimously voted*

**Citizen Comments**

None

**Selectmen's reports**

None

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Morin stated that the DOR has certified the Town's \$2.259 million in free cash. He thanked all of the department heads for a job well done saving on operating expenses, and also stated that actual revenue is half again higher than anticipated revenue. Good job to all!

**Bylaw Review Committee**

In attendance; Sally Turner, Chair, Lois Barbour, Vice Chair, Skip Joseph, Clerk, Bob Woodill, At Large member.

Mr. Brown, who is the BOS rep-on the committee, gave a brief overview of the committee's role in reworking the general and zoning bylaws. The Zoning Bylaw Review committee (ZBRC) was more active in this process to date. Recodification and reorganization of the bylaws will bring order and sense to a confusing document. The Town has contracted with General Code to recodify the zoning bylaws. He described the review process, during which it was discovered that the general and zoning bylaws were intertwined; one group couldn't work without the other. Mr. Brown asked the BOS to task the ZBR Committee with also reviewing the general bylaws. Consequently, it will be renamed the Bylaw Review Committee and there will no longer be a separate General Bylaw Review Committee.

Ms. Turner gave an update of the ZBRC's work in the last year. She would like input from the BOS to create an updated mission statement as part of the charge to rework the general bylaws. Ms. Turner gave an overview of the general bylaws, stating that every committee in the Town is organized under the general bylaw code. She would like this Bylaw Review Committee to meet with each one. The committee would like the BOS to develop this updated charge, which could then become a cover letter to the different groups and committees. Per Mr. Morin, he and the BOS can make the letter a joint effort. Discussion ensued about the process to rework the general bylaws and the steps needed to accomplish this goal and end up with a "user friendly" product, including updates resulting from the charter change. The committee voted this evening to approve the reworked Table of Contents and send it to General Code. Ms. Turner estimated that they could have the reformatted "original bylaws" version ready for the 2017 Special/Annual Town Meeting. Per Mr. McBride, this will provide a framework for the rest of this project. The BRC's task will be to edit the current ZBRC document to a BRC document. Mr. Brown will draft a memo to send out to the various boards and departments.

**Public Hearing, National Grid Pole Placement**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Gregg McBride, to reopen the public hearing for National Grid pole placement. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen seconded by Gregg McBride, to continue the hearing to September 28, 2016 at 8pm. Unanimously voted*

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**Bylaw Review Committee, cont'd.**

Discussion ensued about the mechanics of how to complete this task before next year's Town Meetings. Ms. Turner would like to ask various boards to review their bylaws and provide feedback, which will take some time. Ms. Allen asked about the priorities of this committee. Ms. Turner stated that she had polled the group, who created various lists of important pieces of the bylaws to be reviewed and perhaps changed. Ms. Turner would like to send the memo out as the first priority.

Mr. Brown asked about funding: per Ms. Turner, the funding needed is dependent on the number of bylaws to be reviewed and changed. The approved amount now is \$14,800; but the additional work would probably need a consultant to take a look at some areas, which would need more funding. Mr. McBride asked if the all of the money in the approved Article is dedicated to this current work. Answer; yes. Per Ms. Barbour, an additional amount of about \$25K might be needed over time. Mr. Morin added that the Town paid for General Code's work out of the legal budget. He would need a better idea of specific projected costs before committing to a budget allocation. All agreed that there are good reasons to use some of the legal budget to help fund this project. (The legal budget is \$100K) However, it would probably be better to include this project in the Warrant as an Article. Per Ms. Barbour, there are a lot of sections in the bylaws that stipulate 'by vote of the selectmen', that perhaps the board might want to think about changing. Discussion ensued about spending on this project.

All thanked the committee for coming in.

NOTE: these two bylaw review committees are now one committee; the Bylaw Review Committee.

**Pay as you throw Update (PAYT) – Peter Dillon, BOH, Water Dept.**

Mr. Dillon gave an update on the implementation of the PAYT program in July. Excess carts have been distributed at the discretion of the BOH department. They have ordered 500 additional carts, which will be available for distribution in future years or to distribute as necessary. There is currently a waiting list of 25 houses for additional recycling carts. In the meantime, the BOH is asking all to take excess materials to the recycling center and noted that cardboard doesn't need to be broken down when taken there. When asked about families who are using private hauling, Mr. Dillon said that they still have the option to use the Town's service. About half a dozen residences opted for private haulers. Mr. Brown asked for any specific questions from residents or meeting attendees. Per Mr. Morin, there has been some overfilling of the smaller trash barrels, which then cannot be picked up because the containers are emptied via a mechanical arm, not a person. He reminded all that residents can take materials to recycling yard on Wednesdays from 12-3 and Saturdays from 9-3.

The board stated that, when you look at surrounding towns, trash and recycling barrels are the same size while Norwell's trash containers are smaller. Per Mr. Dillon, Plymouth has the same size barrels for both, but it is all PAYT. Scituate is total PAYT, Hingham residents must drive everything to the transfer station. Mr. Morin gave a comparison of monthly trash statistics from a year ago; last year; 253 tons of trash, this year; 237. That is 16 tons less in one month. Recycling was 85 tons in July, 142 tons in August, for a 50 ton increase. Some is surplus by people not going to the recycling center. The program has had some glitches, but the first month's data is very favorable. Town recycling is now at the state average of 38%. This doesn't include the schools yet, but will probably be well over 40% recycling in one month. Waste

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Management is doing a good job. All discussed the recycling truck auto pickup, and Mr. Brown reminded all that bins must be spaced at least two feet apart. Per Mr. Dillon, it will be hard to tell how many PAYT bags are being sold and used. The money from sales will be used to bring the recycling center up to compliance, with the hope to definitely expand what the Town is recycling in the future. Perhaps usable compost could be produced at the center in the future. Mr. Brown added that the real test will be in September, now that kids are back in school and not on vacation.

Mr. Dillon needs funding for more hours and another person at the recycling center. Later evening hours would be helpful. Steve would be willing to work some extra hours. All thanked Mr. Dillon, and also gave kudos to Ben Margro in the Health Department for his outstanding job implementing the PAYT program.

### **Water Update**

Mr. Dillon asked all residents to please realize that the water situation is still dire!! This is a 1960's style drought. Letters have been sent to offenders of the ban on sprinkler systems. Most residents who were cited changed their behavior. Some overuses were leaks. Current water use is running around a million gallons per day, which is doable at the moment, but won't be if the drought continues. The water level is currently 1.5 feet below the average level at this time of year. Wells are all pumping longer hours. No extra maintenance is needed yet, and the department will retro-fit the Grove Street well with money from Town Meeting. To get water levels back to normal the Town would need six inches of rainwater. Please continue the conservation!! Per Mr. Dillon, for private wells there are arguments on both sides. It's hard to tell where the water is coming from and if it is affecting the town's water supply. The common thought from the state is that private wells should operate the same as town wells. NSRWA has been getting the word out. Mr. McBride hopes that when the Water Dept. bylaws are reviewed perhaps it will include an update stating no more automatic irrigation systems. Surrounding towns have recognized the benefit of a bylaw like this. All discussed the need for some solutions to have a sustainable water supply. Banning new irrigation systems is the first step (perhaps an Article at Town Meeting).

### **Execute Municipal Allocation Agreement with Norwell Public Schools**

Mr. Morin reviewed the agreement with the board, stating that every community is required to report to the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education the amount of money spent on education outside of the school budget. He gave examples of expenditures (time spent by the treasurer, accountant, health insurance, etc.). Costs are supposed to be identified and allocated by an agreement of method between the BOS and the School Committee. Methodology is what is being reviewed tonight. DESE formulas are used. He met with Donna Mangan and Warren MacCallum, who are both satisfied with the allocation. This agreement is ready for the BOS Chair's signature. Mr. Morin clarified that in some towns education dollars are close to the minimum required to receive local Chpt. 70 aid. He gave examples of line items that have a large % of school costs in the Admin. Budget, such as health insurance and unemployment. *Motion: made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. McBride, to approve and authorize the methodology for the Allocation Agreement with the schools. Unanimously voted*

Mr. Morin reminded all that tomorrow is voting day for the state primary election. The board reviewed items for future meeting agendas, including the approved BOS focus areas for FY2017 to be posted on the Town website. The board would like to revisit these for a progress report at the meeting on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> or Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>.

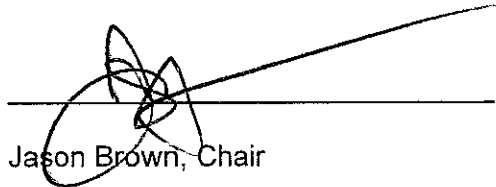
**Adjournment**

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 9pm. Unanimously  
voted

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Jason Brown, Chair