

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2016**

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Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 7:40pm, and introduced Ellen Allen, Gregg McBride, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. Mr. Brown said that the board had been in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimously voted*

Note: Selectman Alison Demong arrived after the Citizen Comments.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the April 6, 2016 open meeting minutes. Unanimously voted

Citizen Comments

David DeGhetto – 303 River Street, suggested that offenders who use irrigation in this water shortage have their addresses published in the local newspaper. Mr. McBride stated that this falls under the jurisdiction of the Town's Water Commissioners. All thanked Mr. DeGhetto for the suggestion, and Mr. McBride will follow up.

Mary Cole – 211 Forest Street, suggested that the Highway Department workers should wear protective earphones. Ms. Allen replied that this requirement would require collective bargaining with the union. Mr. McBride thanked her for her concern. Ms. Cole stated that she has addressed this with the Town's HR manager.

Ms. Cole also requested that her stone wall be repaired in its original location. Per her photos, the Highway Department equipment pushed her stone wall back into her yard, causing the damage. Mr. Brown asked for the incident date; per Ms. Cole, mid to late August. Highway Surveyor Glenn Ferguson was present and assured Ms. Cole that he would fix it. Mr. Ferguson was present to provide an update later in this meeting.

Selectmen's report

Ms. Allen stated that she will have MMA comments at next week's meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

The second round of community compact grants will begin this fall, as well as another round of IT and Best Practices grants. The application period opens in November.

Recreation Committee Applicant – Christopher Madden

Town resident - 48 Main Street. Mr. Madden gave an overview of his background and reasons for applying for this committee. The board asked if there are any other committee positions that would be of interest to him; Mr. Madden stated that he would look at other openings but the Recreation Committee is his preference. As there is more than one applicant for this position, the board will do the other interviews and then make a decision. All thanked Mr. Madden for coming in.

Good Citizen Citation

Pamela Hohmann was present to receive this citation. George Grey and Mr. Morin gave an overview of this generous person's donations. Ms. Hohmann was instrumental in starting a Pilot Program to offer summer recreation programs to children living in transitional housing and

attending Norwell schools. The fundraising resulted in 33 weeks of free programs for participants in 2015.

In 2016, Ms. Hohmann asked what was needed. She started a "go fund me" page, raising over \$2000 in a day for this program. The fundraising underwrote more than the cost of this program, and resulted in a good savings account for next summer's activities!

Mr. Brown commended Ms. Hohmann for her generous donation of time, effort and funding, with the thanks and appreciation of the board.

Glenn Ferguson – Highway Surveyor, Department Update

Mr. Ferguson gave an overview of the department's progress in the Town since he was elected to this position. He is still learning all of the department complexities. He said that HR Director had been very helpful in hiring to fill open positions.

Mr. Ferguson summarized the planning for this year and next for a major repaving program. Kevin Edwards Paving won the bid to do the work, and the department redid as many roads as possible this year, taking advantage of the extremely low asphalt prices. Mr. Ferguson listed the roads in Town that have been redone and the reasons for his decisions on specific streets. Drainage is being addressed currently on Main Street, along with shifting the road bed for the eventual possibility of a sidewalk. There is still curbing to be done on Main Street from South St. to the Hanover town line. Once that work is done, the final paving on Main Street will be completed.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Ferguson to address his timetable for completing work in the transition areas, as he has gotten calls from residents about the work being done on a timely basis. A lengthy discussion ensued about traffic calming and dangerous intersections. Also discussed were other areas of work to be finished in various locations in the Town, including the pathwalk on Forest Street.

Mr. Brown asked for specific questions from the board. Mr. Ferguson's slide presentation gave a summary of the work done by the department over the summer. He hired students to do "grunt work" for his department. He would like to work with Supt. Matt Keegan in the spring to continue the practice of hiring students over the summer.

The street sweeper program was restarted as the Town's streets hadn't been swept in years. He may decide to use this company again next time. He is in contract negotiations with a company to remove the detritus from the highway yard. The department is cleaning the catch basins (1500 of them in the Town); per Mr. Brown, this is an unfunded mandate and the Town is now required to do this. The Town will spend \$5 million this year on the roads, more than yearly spending in a very long time. Mr. Ferguson gave the stats for Grove Street, and thanked the Town for their understanding about the inconveniences of the traffic. In answer to Ms. Demong's question about the junction of Main and Lincoln, it will be completed this year. More questions about specific areas in the Town were asked and answered. The Complete Streets Committee is working together with the Highway Department to come up with good ideas for improvements to the Town's roads. Mr. McBride reminded all that the improvements take time, and some projects' completions are dependent on a previous task that isn't finished. Kudos to Mr.

Ferguson for the amount of work completed. The crews are doing a tremendous job, and get kudos from Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Morin has been a big help in coordinating some of the CPC projects where the Highway Department has been able to step in and add value and save the project some funds. Mr. Ferguson would like approval to pay his workers overtime for the CPC projects and keep them busy rather than outsourcing this work.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Ferguson to talk about the 4 way stop on Grove Street. This is a critically dangerous corner with a history of problems. There are no traffic lights in the Town. The last few years have really demonstrated the need to address traffic calming in the Town.

Gov. Baker's new plan is to eliminate state DOT approval for 4 way stops. Mr. Ferguson summarized the steps to create a safe new 4 way stop. He will gradually remove some of the signage. Next spring, a forum will be held to discuss further safety issues in the Town. Mr.

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McBride added that traffic calming has been in the master plan for 15 years. The board will address this issue at future BOS meetings. Ms. Allen stated that the MMA has addressed speed limits in the towns, and town officials can now set speed limits on their roads to a greater extent than before. This is currently done via bylaw. Surveys have been sent out by the MMA about the use of Chapter 90 funds. Mr. Ferguson will have Linda Murphy complete it. There is a small bridges program which the Town may be able to apply for. The DOT has a project going out to bid that will shut down High Street to work on the bridge over Route 3. Upcoming projects were briefly discussed. The board thanked Mr. Ferguson for all of his hard work.

Highway Surveyor Job description

Barbara Childs joined the discussion. Mr. Brown gave an overview of the purpose of this discussion. Ms. Childs updated the board since the April discussion, handing out a 9/14/16 version of the job description and asking the board to review it and provide comments. She highlighted the changes and areas for review. She asked Mr. Ferguson to review it and make comments. The board would like to discuss this at a meeting in October.

Discussion ensued about the elected vs. appointed position with a job description. All agreed that the position still needs a job description, and also will consider merging the two positions into one. What would be required to do this? This might impact the job descriptions, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

DeLeading Jacobs farmhouse

Update from Mr. Morin; he is working on an application to CPC to de-lead the property, which will cost \$210K. Ms. Demong updated the board on her research for sources of funding to bring the number down before the CPC ask. She will work on this before the 10/10 deadline for the application.

The Jacobs Farm management plan will be on a future agenda. This topic will be on the BOS agenda for 10/5, before the CPC application deadline.

Selectmen's Reports, cont'd.

Ms. Demong met with the NHC regarding the Jacobs Farm management plan. She also met with Facilities Manager Dave Sutton to discuss options for his role in this plan. The proposal would be to create a biweekly presence on the property, with a monthly report to the NHC and Mr. Morin. The hope is to hire a contractor with historical building experience to be on call, ready to go, on retainer. Hopefully this will streamline the process, and would be effective immediately.

Health insurance update

Mr. Morin reported that for FY16 there was a 14.6% increase in the cost of group health insurance from the prior year. The Town Administrator's job is to investigate options to contain health insurance costs as one of his key goals for FY16. As there is little buffer in the Mayflower Municipal Health Group's reserves, the cost will probably go up significantly next year. The industry standard is to have a 10-15% buffer, and right now it is about 6%. He is considering a plan design change. As this would require numerous negotiation sessions and would be on the heels of collective bargaining, it doesn't make sense right now, but would be considered in a subsequent year. One of the options that Mr. Morin wants to assess is to move to the health plan at MIIA. He requested a vote of the BOS to obtain a quote from MIIA.

The choices he is studying are staying in the Mayflower group, joining a different group (such as MIIA) or seeking to establish a new joint purchasing group. He will report back to the board by Nov. 9th. The choice must be made by Dec. 31st. Mr. McBride asked if Mr. Morin has had discussions with Mayflower (answer-yes), and is concerned about the manner in which the reserves were depleted. Mr. Morin said all members of the Mayflower group have an equal (rather than weighted) vote, which is not the best decision-making structure. The group hasn't

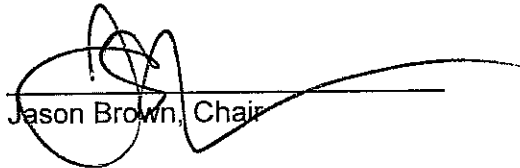
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shown an interest in the resolution of the problem and there have been some poor decisions on the part of Mayflower. Mr. Morin will have to look at plan design change in the near future, and must be mindful of the Cadillac tax that may still be an issue. This will be a multiyear project for him, and he would want to exhaust all other *administrative* plan remedies first before resorting to any design changes. Ms. Allen reminded all that this is the second highest amount in the budget, with Mr. Brown adding that this is one of the biggest and most important decisions that the board will make. The board asked if Mr. Morin is talking to the schools about this issue, since they are 75% of this cost. Per Mr. Morin, he will be meeting with Mr. MacCallum next week to discuss this topic.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to direct the Town Administrator to get a quote for group health insurance from MIIA. Unanimously voted

Adjournment

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:30, to discuss a potential land acquisition, not returning to Open Session. To discuss this in an Open Session could be detrimental to the Town's interests. Mr. Brown polled the board; Mr. McBride-yes, Ms. Allen-yes, Ms. Demong-yes, Mr. Smellie-yes, Mr. Brown-yes.


Jason Brown, Chair