

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2016 NOV -3 PM 12:50

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Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 7:40pm, and introduced Ellen Allen, Gregg McBride, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin.

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

**Citizen Comments**

None

**Selectmen's report**

Mr. Brown reminded all that Town residents are invited to return old trash containers to the Recycling Center on October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 4pm. Containers must be empty.

The Norwell Police Department has been awarded a grant for \$4995 by the Office of Public Safety and Security for a program on drunk driving. Congratulations on a job well done!

Ms. Allen outlined the MMA's 5 priorities recently identified at its Strategic Planning Meeting:

1. Develop a framework for unrestricted general government aid
2. Education funding
3. Chapter 90 funding increase of 50%, with a 3-year commitment
4. Address rising OPEB costs
5. Zoning: maintaining local control

Mr. McBride reminded all about the option of early voting for this year's elections. Check with the Town Clerk's office for details and hours. Early voting dates begin on 10/24.

**Town Administrator's Report**

None

**Cable Committee Update**

Stephen Muzrall, Chair of the committee, introduced other members who were present at the meeting. Member Alex Milne was not in attendance.

Mr. Muzrall gave an overview of their areas of focus over the last year; highlighting staffing for Cable TV and use of the PEG funds.

He summarized options for staffing, noting the committee's conclusion that the best option would be to set up a 501(c)3 independent entity to run the programming and schedule content, or partner with another entity already established in a nearby town. The committee contacted the independent PEG operators from neighboring towns and the 501(c)3 operators from Hingham and Marshfield indicated their interest in a partnership. The committee met with both entities, and have decided that Marshfield Community Television is the best fit. Committee members expanded on the definition of partnering, which would include staffing of the PEG channels, with an overview of tasks for the staff.

Mr. Muzrall is also asking all to spread the word in Town about airing events on the PEG channels. The committee would ultimately want a studio in Norwell, but currently a location has not been identified. MCTV would hire Norwell staff (maybe 1.5 staff). Marshfield's organization is an independent 501(c)3. There would still be a Norwell Cable Committee appointed by the BOS to oversee the PEG funds and MCTV activities. The Cable Committee would still negotiate

contracts with the cable companies for the Town. Questions were asked and answered about the structure of MCTV, interaction with the Town and the programming on the 3 PEG channels. Annual operating costs would be paid out of the PEG funds from annual subscriptions, and the large balance in the remaining PEG accounts would be used for capital projects like the studio and fiber infrastructure. Negotiations haven't actually begun yet, so all cost sharing, etc. will be worked out. Ms. Allen asked if Norwell would have a seat on the board of this 501(c)3. This seems like a good idea but will need to be negotiated and will require a change in MCTV's charter. Per Mr. Muzrall, the Norwell Cable Committee would still be managing the contract. This is really just an update for the BOS. All agreed that there is room for improvement in the content on the local cable channels.

Mr. Morin put a notice on the Secretary of State /Central Register that specs will be available on 10/24/16. He gave kudos to Mr. Muzrall for the job the committee has done. He needs a drawing of the Osborne room to finish the RFP. All would love to stream content online as part of this upgrade work. Staffing is the biggest need. Equipment is in place, but now needs some upgrades.

Dark fiber network – The Cable Committee could help with this to get the whole Town Administration connected. Hopefully Marshfield could help with the technology expertise to link all of the buildings. All are waiting for the cost components quotes before committing to a timeline. They are hoping to begin the process at the Cable Committee meeting next Tuesday evening. Ms. Demong would like to have the Town apply for a grant again, in the neighborhood of \$50-60K. All strategized about reapplying for the grant and equipment to be purchased. The committee is meeting with Town Counsel about existing cable contracts, and will look for another update from him soon. Mr. Morin stated that he would probably hire specialized counsel to negotiate the contract with Marshfield TV.

### **Municipal Modernization Act**

Mr. Morin has prepared a summary of the over 100 pages of the Act. The Baker Administration had solicited input at several forums with municipal officials about small updates that could make local government more efficient and had then presented an omnibus bill to the Legislature based on this input.

Changes are accounting and assessing changes, procurement changes, etc., of mostly administrative tasks that aggregate into significant efficiencies which will help streamline services and economic activity.

### **Outline Overview**

1. Dept. of Revenue – changes in the law to reduce the number of routine local work that must be approved at the State, partly due to a reduction in the state staff
2. Procurement – rules are more similar on bidding. Dollar amounts for contracts have been increased to simplify bidding – Mr. Morin gave a summary of the changes. Questions were asked and answered about specific bid processes. Mr. Morin gave examples of the changes in this area. Wage compliance still applies.
3. Rules on administration of funds to simplify the processes
4. OPEB Trust Fund – The Act changed some language to conform to GASB standards
5. Creation of a rental revolving fund for surplus nonschool properties, such as the Cushing Center or non-school owned athletic fields
6. Joint powers agreements – return to encouragement of regionalization
7. Stabilization funds – portion of funds can be dedicated to a trust
8. Spec. Ed. reserve funds – provides more flexibility in dealing with unforeseen increases
9. Assessments are now every five years, instead of every three years; all properties must be market value, but only certified by DOR every 5 years
10. Collections updates, gives local licensing authorities more power
11. Allows a designee to approve a Warrant if a full board is not able to meet


12. Create a special injury indemnity fund for police and fire injured on duty  
13. Debt structuring and terms of borrowing  
14. Snow and ice deficit spending now can be approved by the Town Administrator instead of approval vote at Town Meeting  
15. Simplification of year end transfers
- Per Mr. Morin, this will make town government more effective and efficient.
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Ms. Demong asked for an Executive Session next week at 7pm.

**Adjourn**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, to go into Executive Session at 8:47pm to discuss contracts, not returning to open session, seconded by Mr. Smellie. To discuss contracts in an open session would be detrimental to the negotiations of the contracts.*

*Mr. Brown polled the board; Ms. Allen voting yes, Mr. McBride voting yes, Ms. Demong voting yes, Mr. Smellie voting yes, Mr. Brown voting yes*



Jason Brown, Chair

