

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Remote Open Meeting
6/3/20**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2020 JUN 30 PM 12:13

Present: Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Jason Brown, Joe Rull, Bruce Graham, Peter Morin

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Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 5:32pm. She announced that all votes will be roll call votes as the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting was recorded and the audio file will be available on the Town website. Ms. Allen noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.

Approval of Agenda

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously voted by roll call vote

BOS Reports

Ms. Allen reminded residents that all may apply for mail in ballots to vote in the Town election on June 27th. Contact the Town Clerk's office for information or visit the Town website for complete instructions.

Board members reported that a peaceful protest was held by the NHS students today. There were no issues with the activities and police were present to ensure the safety of all participants.

Town Administrator Report

In anticipation of Phase II of Gov. Baker's reopening program, Mr. Morin anticipates requests from local restaurants for approval of outdoor seating. Recent legislation allows the BOS to approve seating and alcohol service without permission from the ABCC. Ms. Allen added that the Town will require input/permission as usual from the public safety departments. Road closings may also be requested as restaurants may want to use their parking areas for outdoor seating as part of these requests.

Fiscal 2021: 1/12 Budget – review and vote

Mr. Morin reported that the proposal this evening is a request for a 1/12 budget of \$5,466,000, broken down into \$4,860,000 for municipal expenditures and \$606,000 for school expenditures, that will be submitted to the DOR/DLS. The amount above represents 1/12 of the total amount included on the recapitulation form sent to the DOR to obtain approval for the Town's tax rate. Mr. Morin cited wording from the DLS bulletin: An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities resulting from COVID-19. Section 5 authorizes DLS' Director of Accounts to "approve expenditure...of an amount necessary to continue uninterrupted government operations of not less than 1/12th of the Town's or special purpose district's FYF2020 approved budget. The technical term is "deficit spending", which applies to spending without the normal approval of Article 2 at Town Meeting. It is NOT actual deficit spending, but is similar to snow and ice spending prior to the approval of a new FY budget. Mr. Morin stated that the revised FY21 budget will be \$1.4M less than the originally proposed FY21 budget. He sent the board an expense detail sheet listing the maximum monthly spending amount by department. After his review of the DLS forms in the BOS meeting packet, he contacted DLS to confirm the application process, including normal July expenditures in excess of the budgeted amount, such as the pension assessment, insurance payments and ¼ of the SSRECC assessment.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, that the board approve the 1/12th budget for submission to the Department of Revenue Division of Local Services Director of

Accounts in order to continue operations effective July 1, 2020, due to the Town being unable to hold a Town Meeting prior to June 30, 2020, and further that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to make any modifications to the proposal if so requested by the Department of Revenue Division of Local Services Director of Accounts. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

In response to Mr. Brown's question about lead time to approve successive 1/12 budget amounts as necessary, Mr. Morin stated that the board should approve budget amounts by the 15th of the prior month for timely submission to the DLS.

As required, the above vote will be certified by the Joe Rull, Clerk of the BOS and Pat Anderson, Town Clerk for submission to the DLS.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 5/13 and 5/27

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Open Meeting minutes for the 5/13/20 open meeting and the 5/27/20 open meeting. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Future Meeting Agendas

The board will meet next on 6/10/20 at 7pm.

MVP will be at 7pm. Ann Herbst of MAPC. AD gave a brief overview of the MVP program. Grant program will open on 6/11/20 and town is eligible to apply for 300K to repair some culverts near Meadowbrook Road. 15 minutes.

PM revised full year FY21 budget

Amendment to allow regular stab. Fund. Ea rewrote to be on the agenda

No guidance yet from the state re: state aid. They haven't received any guidance from higher up. "PM is operating under the best estimate for anticipated deficit in state revenue., about 15% reduction, with an additional 15% reduction in local receipts. = the \$1.4M that PM is using.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 5:56pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Ellen H. Allen

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