

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Remote Open Meeting
6/10/20**

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

Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:01pm. 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 for June 10, 2020 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. Mr. Rull complimented the schools for keeping the students involved and connected with their classmates.

Town Administrator Report - none

Discussion/Action Items

Hazard Mitigation draft plan and climate planning update

Anne Herbst-MAPC, Deputy Chief Simpson and Conservation Agent Nancy Hemingway joined the meeting.

Ms. Herbst joined the meeting to present the draft plan and climate planning update. The complete version of the plan is posted on the Town website for review, along with Ms. Herbst's power point presentation to the board. Both items are on the home page of the website under Town News. The plan will be available for public comment until June 24, two weeks from this evening.

Ms. Herbst reviewed the history of the work and the plan draft with the board.

- Hazard Mitigation Plan is overseen by FEMA to address natural hazards.
- MVP program is overseen by the state and addresses impacts to environmental infrastructure and society.

Towns must have a hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for FEMA grants. Ms. Herbst reviewed the timeline for approval by MEMA and FEMA, adding that the goal is to do an annual review of the plan.

Questions were asked and answered by Ms. Herbst and the board, making the following points:

- The need for generators in the town was addressed for both public buildings as well as assistance for homeowners to obtain one, perhaps through a grant program.
- Timeline for review and approval of the plan is about 3 months. Kudos to the team for a job well done.
- Resident questions – Bill Patzer, Mt. Blue Street; question about culverts on Mt. Blue Street, street in poor repair. Culvert repair will lead to good street repair as referenced in the plan specifically. Per Ms. Herbst, culverts all over town have issues and repairs are very expensive. Road repairs should be addressed to Mr. Ferguson.

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- Mr. Morin commented on funding – the Town has poured more money into culverts and road in the last two years than in the last ten. There are environmental issues that prevent rapid repair of the culverts. Mr. Ferguson has received increases to the repair budget faster than the work can be done. The Town is addressing the repair problem.

BOS approval – outdoor seating and service at The Fours Restaurant

Under phase II reopening of the Gov. Baker's plan, restaurants can have outdoor seating. The board reviewed the emailed package plan with manager Karle Lovell. There will be a total of 17 tables and 68 patrons. Normal capacity is 285 with 45 on the patio. The Health Agent has approved the plan, and he will continue to monitor the performance. Masks are required until patrons are seated at their table. The board concurred with Mr. Rull's suggestion for quicker approval turnaround by authorizing the Town Administrator to approve seating and safety plans without BOS approval as a temporary measure. Mr. Morin will confirm this with Town Counsel, adding that currently there is special legislation removing the ABCC from the approval process, which usually requires more documentation. If this is not appropriate he will inform the board. There are at least two more approval requests on the agenda for the next BOS meeting.

- *Motion, made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to authorize the Town Administrator to expedite and authorize outdoor seating approvals for restaurants, with a followup inspection to ensure compliance. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*
- *Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the outdoor seating and service plan for The Fours Norwell restaurant. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

The appropriate departments will conduct a walkthrough tomorrow or Friday.

Outdoor seating and service at Trattoria San Pietro Restaurant

Restaurant owners Jose and Anna Duarte joined the meeting to review the seating plan with the board. They would like to open as soon as possible.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the outdoor seating and service plan for Trattoria San Pietro. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

FY2021 Budget Revision – review and discussion

Mr. Morin noted that the budget list being reviewed by the board is a work in progress from Donna Mangan, Darleen Sullivan and himself. This represents a pretty accurate description of where \$720K in budget revisions will come from on the Town Hall side, with the additional \$720K coming from the School Department.

School Superintendent Matthew Keegan and Mr. Morin are working in close contact to negotiate these cuts. There are union negotiations to be finalized before the budget revisions are completed. Funding revision questions were asked and answered by the board and Mr. Morin. Most of the departments are not being cut. Ms. Allen commented on information at the most recent MMA meeting; there are communities putting stabilization and free cash into their operating budgets while other communities are doing the same careful planning as Mr. Morin and his departments. Absorbing these cuts now helps future fiscal years. The state aid number still unknown and the Town may have to approve the FY21 budget before the state number is released.

Vote to freeze Town Administrator's salary

Ms. Allen gave kudos to Mr. Morin for including this clause in his employment contract. Per Mr. Morin, the contract states that his raise would go into effect on July 1st. The board needs to freeze his wages before new fiscal year starts. He is asking other non-union employees to take the same freeze, starting July 1st, for one year. This action can be unfrozen at any point in time. The board expressed their appreciation and thanks, adding that this is leadership by example.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, that the board approve a freeze of

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the Town Administrator's salary pursuant to the clause in his employment contract, with thanks for Mr. Morin's leadership, effective 7/1/20. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Authorization for Town Administrator to submit COVID reimbursement requests to Plymouth County

Mr. Morin noted that this vote only needs to be taken once. The first reimbursement request totals about \$270K. This authorization will provide quicker turnaround for future reimbursement requests. Thank you to Ms. Mangan for her huge amount of work.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to authorize the Town Administrator to submit COVID reimbursement expense requests to Plymouth County on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 6/3/20

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Open Meeting minutes for the 6/3/20 open meeting. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Future Meeting Agendas

The board will meet next on 6/24 at 7pm, unless an additional meeting is needed for restaurant approvals, per the discussion earlier in the meeting.

Topics:

- Highway Barn project – Ed Forte appointment
- Restaurant opening/reopening – Cheever Tavern, Strawberry Fair
- FY21 committee and other reappointments-committee vacancies updated list
- Town Administrator self-assessment and year-end review
- Sidewalk Enhancement fund – \$20K request for planning sidewalk to Town Center
- IT discussion
- Summer schedule

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:12pm, not returning to Open Session. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Ellen H. Allen

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