

Norwell Board of Selectmen
12/30/20
Open Session – Remote meeting

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2021 JAN 14 PM 1:58

Present: Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Jason Brown, Bruce Graham, Peter Morin, Chief Simpson, DC Brzuszek, Officer Esposito

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Open Session

The meeting was opened 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 is being 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 written. Unanimously voted by roll call vote

BOS Reports

Ms. Allen announced that longtime Norwell resident Richard Joseph has passed away. The graveside service will be held on January 5, 2021 at 1pm at the Washington Street cemetery.

Town Administrator Report - None

Citizen Comments - None

History Moment – Wendy Bawabe

Ms. Bawabe gave a brief presentation about the prehistory of the Town's land and indigenous people. There is a link to this presentation on the Norwell Historical Society's website.

Citation – Fire Department Awards

Fire Chief Jeff Simpson postponed the awards overview to a future meeting.

Commendation from Fire and Police Departments-Officer Joe Esposito

Chief Simpson reported that Norwell Police Officer Esposito noticed smoke or steam coming from the back of a house at 496 River Street during a routine early morning patrol. He immediately alerted the Fire Department to the serious fire potential, alerted the residents and helped them to evacuate the residence. The smoke detectors/fire alarms were installed correctly, but as the fire started above/outside the living space they did not activate in time. This was an excellent judgement call about what could have been a false alarm but was not. It was the right decision to alert the family, no matter what the outcome Well done, Joe! The Fire Department did a great job as well, but Joe was the hero. DC Brzuszek commended Officer Esposito, with the grateful thanks of everyone in the department and the Town. Kudos from the board and DC Brzuszek, who said that everyone is so grateful to Officer Esposito.

Mr. Morin noted that this is tangible evidence of how well and cooperatively the two departments do their work. They are not afraid to say good things about each other and the department leaders. This was excellent work and beyond the call of a normal day's job. Officer Esposito deserves recognition not only from the Town but should be considered for the state award. This heroic action saved the family's lives. In response to Mr. Graham's question about the cause of the fire, Chief Simpson stated that it seemed to be a problem with the actual chimney, but the insurance company has not yet made a determination. He advised residents to check their chimneys!

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License Renewal – F & I Outsource

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to renew the Class II motor vehicle license for F & I Outsource, expiring 12/31/21. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

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License approval – Cross Street Flower Farm

Ms. Allen summarized the revisions and terms of this license for the use of various parts of the Jacobs Farm property. The term continues to be 3 years which renews annually if not otherwise decided by the BOS. The one exception to this is the additional rental of the west barn for one year only. This agreement adds back a license fee of \$3500 per year, plus \$2000 for rental of the west barn. Discussion ensued about approval for the planting plan, which will be reviewed and discussed by the Conservation Commission in February, as well as use of the buildings and planting fields. All discussed the contract terms for the upcoming year. A couple of typographical errors were noted by Mr. Graham.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Jacobs farm license between the Board of Selectmen and Cross Street Flower Farm, subject to edits as detailed in this discussion and the approval of the land use plan by the Conservation Commission, for a term expiring 12/31/23, subject to the adjustments discussed in paragraph 14f. Roll call vote: Allen-yes, Brown-yes, Demong-yes, Graham-abstain. Motion carried.

Announce Police Chief Candidate Finalists

The Board of Selectmen set up a 5 member Police Chief Search Committee (PCSC), who were tasked with finding qualified candidates for the position. The committee members were: Jason Brown, Selectman; Peter Morin, Town Administrator; Jim Boudreau, Scituate Town Administrator; Andrew Reardon, Norwell Fire Chief, ret.; Jane Stout, Personnel Board Chair. 35 resumes were received. The PCSC identified 11 potential candidates to move forward in the process by answering a set of essay questions. After reviewing the answers submitted by each candidate, 7 candidates were invited to interview with the committee. 3 candidates were selected to move forward to the assessment center exercises, conducted by Wayne Sampson, Public Safety Consultants. The assessment panel consisted of 3 police chiefs and Mr. Sampson, a former police chief. Based on those assessments, interviews, and Mr. Sampson's evaluations, the PCSC recommended 3 finalists:

1. John Carbone – Barre, MA Police Chief
2. Leon Krolikowski – New Canaan, CT Police Chief
3. Edward Lee – Hopkinton, MA, former Police Chief

All 3 are well qualified, performed very well in all exercises as documented by the assessment center panel, and would serve the Town well. This is a very competitive search with high caliber candidates, which speaks well for the Town and the department. The next step is to schedule and conduct BOS interviews. The interviews will take place in a BOS remote open meeting and will be posted for viewing as soon as the date is confirmed.

Mr. Brown would like to confirm the candidates interview date ASAP. The board will continue this discussion in Executive Session. Ms. Demong thanked the PCSC for their hard work. Mr. Brown added that the search process went very well, and his concerns about the quality of eligible candidates as compared to Chief Ross were not realized. This will be a tough choice as all 3 are excellent candidates. He looks forward to the upcoming interviews and selection of a candidate.

Upcoming Meetings and Agendas

The board reviewed and discussed upcoming meeting agendas. The next BOS scheduled meeting is 1/13/21 at 7pm.

Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:48pm, not returning to Open Session to discuss executive session minutes and scheduling for police chief candidate interviews. To discuss these topics in Open Session would be detrimental to the negotiating position of the Town. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Ellen H. Allen

Ellen Allen, Chair

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