

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Open Meeting Minutes-with Edit  
December 14, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Jason Brown, Ellen Allen, Gregg McBride, Peter Smellie, Peter Morin

2017 MAR -2 PM 1:41

**Minutes Approval**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to approve the Executive Session minutes for, 6/3/15, 6/10/15, 7/29/15, 9/16/15, 10/7/15, 10/28/15, 11/4/15. Unanimously voted*

Discussion ensued about various matters before the board.

The board continued the meeting in the Gym; called to order at 7:33pm by Chair Jason Brown.

*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 attended a vigil on the Town Common to call attention to the issue of gun violence, in remembrance of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. He asked all to please consider and be reflective of these serious issues in our nation.

**Town Administrator's Report**

None

**Chief Ross – Sgt. and Special Police Officer Appointments**

Sgt. William Lynch was present with his family for the announcement of his retirement from the Norwell Police Department after serving with distinction for over thirty years. He has requested appointment as a Super Special Police Officer. Chief Ross congratulated him and his family on his years of service to the Town. Chief Ross recommended that the BOS promote Officer Bryan Resnick, a ten-year veteran of the Norwell police force, to the rank of Sergeant effective 1/9/17. He summarized Officer Resnick's accomplishments and record with the department, noting that he has been at the top of the Civil Service exam list for the last three exams. Chief Ross and the board congratulated Officer Resnick on his promotion.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Officer Bryan Resnick to the rank of Sergeant effective 1/9/17. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Brian J. Willard, William Lynch and Brandon V. Sanders, as Special Police Officers for the Town until 6/30/17. Unanimously voted*

Mr. Brown would like to recognize retiring Sgt. Lynch for his years of service to the Town. There will be a small ceremony on December 23<sup>rd</sup> for Sgt. Lynch.

**Health Insurance**

Mr. Morin updated the board on his research into the Town's health insurance status and options for the upcoming fiscal year. This large budget item has been of ongoing concern for the last 5 years. Currently enrolled in the Mayflower Municipal Health Group (MMHG), the Town experienced smaller than expected price increases over the last few years until this current year's increase of 15%. This is cause for concern for the Town and other MMHG member communities. Options have been reviewed for available alternatives to MMHG, with the conclusion that the Town would probably pay the same or more in the coming fiscal year for insurance with another company. There will be a 10% increase in the premium cost for fiscal 2017, which is better than anticipated several months ago.

Mr. Morin's current recommendation is to stay with MMHG for the coming fiscal year while engaging in an informal review process with the Town's unions and retirees to see if better plan design and a cost sharing formula could provide shared savings for both parties. A more formal investigation of the plan design and options to find a workable choice for the unions and other groups will be conducted after the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Morin listed member towns that left MMHG and their chosen alternatives. Per Mr. Morin, there were 3 changes offered by MMHG; abolish legacy plans, rate savers (what the Town uses) and

benchmark, which emulates the GIC plan. The legacy plan abolition failed; but there will be a rate adjustment upwards for those communities with legacy plans, which will no longer be funded with rate saver plans. This change provided a modest amount of savings. Questions were asked and answered about the changes and options for healthcare by the board. All discussed areas of concern such as governance, weighted voting systems and MEDEX change effects on the level of OPEB debt. Ms. Allen thanked Mr. Morin and consultant Pat Haradan for tackling the issues of this huge budget line item.

#### **2017 License renewals**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the license renewals for the following Common Victualler licenses to 12/31/17. Unanimously voted*

**Boston Pizza, Little Carmen's**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the license renewal for the following Motor Vehicles –Class II licenses to 12/31/17. Unanimously voted*

**Norwell Auto Sales**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the license renewals for the following Lodging House licenses to 12/31/17. Unanimously voted*

**Capeway Motel, Parkview Inn**

#### **Town Moderator /Town Clerk, Electronic Voting**

Mr. Brown recapped the electronic voting presentation at a prior BOS meeting and thanked Moderator Bill Coffey and Town Clerk Pat Anderson for returning to discuss this issue in further detail. Mr. Morin added that the Town is investigating ways to mitigate the increased cost of this technology and noted changes to the bylaws that would be needed to implement this process.

Ms. Anderson sent out a survey with basic questions to other towns who use electronic voting. She heard back from Wayland, Arlington, Duxbury, Plymouth, Easton, Billerica and Chelmsford, all of whom like using electronic voting for town meetings. Most prefer to rent the equipment. Mr. Coffey stated that he is neutral on the use of electronic voting and would like to leave the decision to the BOS, but noted that a secret ballot for every vote would be the result of using e-voting. He compared the Town's Open Town Meeting to a Representative Town Meeting, where reps must disclose their votes. The board also noted that this topic arose due to the number of recount requests at last year's Town Meeting.

The cost to rent equipment would be about \$12K for Town Meeting. Discussion ensued about current cost of the technology from OTI, who did the earlier presentation to the board. Mr. Coffey suggested reviewing the votes composition from the last Town Meeting(s) to see how much time would actually be saved. Perhaps the Town should preserve the flexibility to have voice vote and e-vote options.

Both Ms. Anderson and Mr. Coffey would like to have the BOS form a committee to explore this option, with Ms. Anderson on the committee and Mr. Coffey as a non-voting advisor/member.

Committee composition and member options were discussed; equipment rental vs. purchase was discussed. This change wouldn't happen as a bylaw until May of 2018.

Town Meeting acoustics and sound systems issues were discussed at length. The board would like Mr. Morin to research this further before the next Town Meeting.

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to form a 5-member committee to research electronic voting at Town Meeting, with a recommendation by 2/18/17. The committee will consist of the Town Clerk, a BOS representative and 3 at large members, with the Town Moderator as a non-voting member/advisor. Unanimously voted*

Note: schedule an agenda item for a January BOS meeting to select a BOS rep to this committee as well as At-Large Member suggestions.

#### **Public Hearing, National Grid Pole Hearing- Longwater Drive**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to open the public hearing at 8:27pm. Unanimously voted*

Mr. Smellie read the notice of public hearing.

**Present;** representative from National Grid; Simon Yeung, Kearsarge Energy; Everett Titlebaum.

This pole would be installed to support the Kearsarge Energy project and is the last step in the completion process before turning this over to National Grid.

The ZBA sent out abutter's letters and noted that all abutters are commercial properties.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the request to install pole 15-1 approximately 150 feet +/- southeast of the intersection of Longwater and Philip Drives.*

*Unanimously voted*

Mr. Brown thanked all for coming in.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to close the public hearing at 8:37pm. Unanimously voted*

#### **2017 Senior Work Program Update**

Human Resource Director Barbara Childs and Council on Aging Director Susan Curtin were present to discuss the upcoming year's Senior Work Program. Ms. Childs distributed an information sheet and gave a short summary of the program. The program is accepting applications until Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Assessors has approved \$50K from the overlay. There are already 55 applicants for the program.

Ms. Curtin gave a summary of the 2016 Senior Work Program. \$50K was allocated last year, of which \$36K was spent. She added that all are looking forward to the coming year. Both Ms. Childs and Ms. Curtin are looking for feedback from Town departments about possible senior work projects as they are hoping to engage everyone who wishes to participate. Kudos from the BOS for the successful mechanics of this program were given to Ms. Curtin and Ms. Childs.

#### **Not Your Average Joe's – Change of Hours Request**

This change of service hours on Sunday mornings would allow them to serve brunch and alcoholic beverages. The board has no issues with this request.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the request from Not Your Average Joe's Norwell to open at 10am on Sundays for the serving of brunch and alcoholic beverages. Unanimously voted*

#### **Future Meeting Agendas**

There will be a short meeting next Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. the next scheduled meetings will be January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The board has invited both Representative DeCoste and Senator O'Connor to attend a January meeting, the date to be determined.

Ms. Allen would like to approve the Library Grant application sections at the January 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Adjournment**

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 8:42pm. Unanimously voted*

  
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Jason Brown, Chair