

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2016**

Mr. McBride opened the meeting at 7:30pm, and introduced Ellen Allen, Jason Brown (called in), 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*

**REPORTS**

**Citizen Comments**

None

**Selectmen's Report**

None

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Morin stated that there is a \$228K snow and ice deficit to date. This is less than last year by several hundred thousand dollars. He also stated that the price of salt went up 50% over last winter's price.

Mr. McBride again announced the dates for Town elections, reminding all who wish to vote to get registered!

April 12<sup>th</sup>, last day to register for Town Election or Annual Town Meeting and the State Senator primary

April 20<sup>th</sup>, last day to register for the Special Town Meeting

May 10<sup>th</sup>, dual election for State Senator and Town

**7:35pm Swearing in Ceremony – Officer Kayla Puricelli**

Chief Ross introduced Officer Puricelli and gave a recap of her police academy education and graduation. She is currently participating in 3 months of field training. She will complete additional training in June and receive her regular patrol assignment July 1<sup>st</sup>. Officer Puricelli's family and friends were present for the ceremony. She was congratulated by the BOS.

**7:40 Tick Pilot Program**

Ms. Demong gave an overview of the program information to be voted on at Town Meeting. There were 213 cases of Lyme disease reported last year, but the number is really much higher in the Town. There are several kinds of ticks as well as a deer problem. Get tick smart! Lyme is preventable with diligence. If the Town votes to join a pilot program, residents would have a direct link to a tick expert. The link to the site could be posted on high traffic Town websites such as the schools.

There is a Tickspotters email program, and for \$20 a tick can be tested at UMASS. Ms. Demong advised all to put the tick in a ziplock bag to send in for testing. With Tick Smart, all learn the correct way to remove a tick and test it if needed. To prevent ticks from attaching to shoes, clothing and skin, spray shoes with Permethrin (available at Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart). Norwell will be looking for 4 towns to join the program, which will reduce the cost per town. Mr. McBride thanked Ms. Demong for her hard work and stated that this program will

definitely benefit the Town. The BOH is very supportive and nearby towns are interested. The Warrant has a BOH Article for this program. URI would still work with the Town even if Norwell is the only participant.

#### **8:00 Public Hearing – Vote to Layout Forest Ridge**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to open the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to continue the hearing to vote to layout Forest Ridge to April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to close the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

#### **8:10 Public Hearing – Vote to Layout Fieldstone Way**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to open the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to continue the hearing to vote to layout Fieldstone Way to April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:40 pm. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to close the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

#### **Highway Director/Tree Surveyor Discussion**

Ms. Demong would like to continue the discussion of this complicated issue. All are aware that there is a Warrant Article to change this Town office from elected to appointed. The Town is at a crossroads while trying to make the switch. There are currently less than 10 towns in the Commonwealth with an elected position similar to this one. In the modern day government of the Town, serious technical and personnel skills are required to perform the duties of this position. If the Article passes at Town Meeting, it must also pass at the ballot box. There are currently four candidates for the elected office, so how should the Town proceed with this scenario? Ms. Demong would like to appoint someone immediately after the ballot vote if the question passes, then go through the process of hiring a permanent employee.

Per Mr. McBride and Town Counsel, it would be legal to appoint someone after a successful ballot vote. The Town Clerk has distributed a copy of the proposed bylaw to each candidate for this office so there will be no surprises. All discussed the existing job description, which was last revised in 1986. Mr. McBride stated that this is a work in progress, and Human Resources will start the process of updating this job description. Per Ms. Demong's discussion with Mr. Morin, the DPW department head from Braintree has just retired, and would make a good interim manager until a permanent person is hired. She also talked to Linda Murphy, who is not interested in being the interim department head after the election. Ms. Allen would like to add that the BOS decided to move forward with this change before Ms. Murphy was appointed, and it will create a better administrative position for the Town. This transition was also a unanimous decision of the Charter Committee as part of the original charter change, but was pulled at the last minute at Mr. Foulsham's request. No one would lose their job, and per Mr. Foulsham, going in this direction would be beneficial for the Town. Mark Maiellano, AB member, stated that his only concern is that he would have preferred see this happen while Mr. Foulsham still held the position, but the situation is unavoidable. He expressed concern about the four candidates, but was reminded that they can retain their current jobs during this process (per BOS). Ms. Allen stated that the Town would only go one day without an elected person. This way all are informed, and this is the only point in time to make this move without someone losing their job. Mr. Morin further stated that all who took out papers were notified of this decision by the BOS. Mr. McBride reminded all that there will be interim steps while the process is worked out. The BOS stated that the interim Highway Department Head and the foremen have been doing an exemplary job.

## **Review and Voting Articles**

There are 9 articles in the Special Town Meeting Warrant, and 54 in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Board decided to review them and take a formal vote on their own articles and possibly others.

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles:**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to support Article 3 for \$8k to support the Tick Education Program. Unanimously voted. Ms. Demong will present.*

Mr. McBride would like to reach out to Town employees who spend a great deal of time in the woods, such as the Highway Dept., Conservation Dept., etc.

Other STM Articles were discussed, and all agreed that no official BOS position was required.

### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles:**

BOS members and other board members will present Articles for a vote as follows:

Article 1 – Mr. McBride

Article 4 – Mr. Smellie

Articles 7 and 8 – Planning Board

Article 15, Road Survey – Mr. Brown

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Demong, to support Article 15 for a road survey. Unanimously voted*

Article 16, Highway Surveyor Position Change – Ms. Demong

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. McBride, to support Article 16 for the Highway Surveyor Position Change. Unanimously voted*

Article 17, Debt Exclusion, Sidewalk Override – Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen will make the motion and give the background of the Article; Mr. McBride will explain the BOS's objections to this article. Additional BOS members may speak against it if they so choose. All would like to see the actual debt amount stated on the ballot.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, that the board support Article 17 for debt exclusion override. 0 votes for, 5 votes against (unanimously voted) Motion fails to carry.*

Articles 18 and 19, Billboard Overlay District – Ms. Allen

Mr. Morin will provide visuals for the discussion of these 2 Articles at Town Meeting.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to support Articles 18 and 19.*

*Unanimously voted*

Article 20, Lodging Tax – Ms. Allen

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to support this Article for a Lodging Tax.*

*Unanimously voted* Ms. Allen gave all some background on this Article, which will provide additional revenue, partly from the State.

Article 21 – Mr. Smellie

Articles 24, 25, 26 – Mr. Brown

Article 35, Mooring Bylaw Change – Mr. McBride

Articles 36, 37, 41, 42, 43 and 44 – presenter will be decided the evening of Town Meeting.

The last ten articles in the Warrant are by petition, so sponsors of these will do the presenting. BOS members may speak as individuals.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to support Article 53, the Right to Farm Bylaw. Unanimously voted*

Article 46 is wrong and will be deleted.

Articles 48-53; Ms. Allen would be happy to take a stand against these, but Ms. Demong would like more time to review their content.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to support Article 35, the General Bylaws Change regarding Moorings. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to support Article 36, the Creation of a Special Education Stabilization Fund. Unanimously voted*

**Hours for Special Election and Town Election on May 10, 2016**

7am to 8pm – TUESDAY, May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Sign Indemnity Agreement for Fieldstone Way and Forest Ridge**

This will be tabled until the next BOS meeting.

**Schedule**

The BOS will meet next week to discuss a few things, but may not meet on April 20.

**Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 9:48pm. Unanimously voted*



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Board of Selectmen