

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
5-5-21
Open Session – Remote meeting**

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:00pm. 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 Joe Rull, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimously voted by roll call vote*

BOS Reports and Announcements

This will be the last regular meeting for Ms. Demong and Mr. Rull. Ms. Allen thanked both for their hard work and complimented them on their dedication and service to the Town, adding that their contributions have made a significant difference. She gave particular notice to Mr. Rull for his hard work to better the traffic issues on the busy roads in Norwell. Ms. Demong's role in helping the Town to purchase the Carleton property was a milestone event. This property, which includes the Whiting Fields, was the primary reason for the Town to adopt the Community Preservation Act in 2002.

Ms. Demong thanked BOS member for their support in changing the name of this board to Select Board. She also thanked all of those who have volunteered their time to serve on Town Committees, in particular those who served with her on the CPC and the BOS. She added that it's too bad when public debate turns personal, and hopes that people will treat each other with respect in the future. "People are elected to be leaders and work together, sometimes making unpopular decisions". She thanked board and the staff for their support.

Mr. Rull thanked both Ms. Demong and the rest of the board for all he's learned about Town government. He thanked and cited volunteers who do all this hard work and encouraged others to join in. He will stay involved. He also thanked the Town Hall staff for their support.

The All Are Welcome Committee is hosting an event tomorrow via zoom. Visit their webpage for details.

Town Administrator

Mr. Morin stated that he wished to apologize for raising his voice during comments made at the previous meeting.

Citizen Comments

Ted Nichols thanked Mr. Rull and Ms. Demong for their hard work.

Public hearing 7:15 – Motor Vehicle Class I & II Licenses, Tesla Motors MA, Inc.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Joe Rull, to open the public hearing at 7:20pm.
Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

Mr. Rull read the notice of public hearing published in the Patriot Ledger.

Mr. Morin gave a quick overview of the dealership proposal for this business. All paperwork is in order. Rhett Sing from Tesla spoke in favor of this new location, which will open in the next month or so.

There were no public comments in response to Ms. Allen's invitation to speak.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to close the public hearing at 7:24pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Mr. Brown is in favor of opening this business in Accord Park, which will also complement the other dealerships in the Town and Hanover.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the application for a motor vehicle class I license for Tesla Motors, Inc., 98 Accord Park Drive, Norwell, MA. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the application for a motor vehicle class II license for Tesla Motors, Inc., 98 Accord Park Drive, Norwell, MA. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Police Department Interview – Officer Gregory Serwo

Chief Lee wished both Mr. Rull and Ms. Demong best of luck and thanked them for their service to the Town.

He introduced Officer Gregory Serwo, who will be a lateral transfer from the Sharon Police Department. He has recently relocated to Scituate, and is a great officer with a wealth of experience. Chief Lee gave a summary of Officer Serwo's extensive background and training. Officer Serwo thanked Chief Lee and the board for the warm welcome, and with board approval, will start work on Monday.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to appoint Gregory Serwo as an Officer in the Norwell Police Department. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Board of Assessors (BOA) Vacant Seat

Present: BOA members Rob Allen and Mary Horowitz

Mr. Morin stated that the BOA and BOS can make a joint appointment to the BOA to complete Ms. Osborne's unexpired term of office.

There is one applicant, Mary Granville, who was present to give a summary of her experience and reasons for interest in serving on this board. She is a State certified appraiser who owns her own business and is a Town resident. Questions were asked and answered, with all agreeing that she will be a great addition to the board.

Joint Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, that the BOS, on behalf of the BOA, appoint Mary Granville to the BOA, to serve until the Town election of 2022.

Unanimously voted by the BOA and BOS.

Selection of an OPM for the Town Hall Project

Mr. Morin reviewed the Town Meeting appropriation of \$365K for planning the renovations of Town Hall. The bid process was administered by Mr. Morin and consultant Barbara Mello, who conducted site visits and acted as the liaison for the applicants. Mr. Nichols was present for the site visits.

The project will focus on upgrading the functionality, accessibility and efficiency of the building. Per Mr. Morin, we are not seeking glamor, but rather a building that works for both employees and residents within the budget that has been identified. This project and the highway barn consolidation project are both being funded under the levy limit with debt exclusion or an override.

Of the 6 interested parties, the following companies submitted bids; NV5, P3, AECOM and Hill International. All are well qualified. Ms. Allen, Mr. Morin and Mr. Nichols interviewed all four applicants. The committee reviewed spending records and experience with this type of facility for all candidates. The challenge will be to continue operations while the renovations are taking place. There will be an onsite manager devoted to the project. The committee considered the strength of the organization, assessed the level of investment and list of priorities in this project. The NV5 company is a strong, national organization and has worked in similar facilities throughout the state. They have a good local presence (with an office based in Newton) and put a lot of effort into their proposal. They are ready to go now, and were unanimously

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recommended by the search committee. The second place choice is P3, who was also unanimously recommended by the committee.

Ms. Mello did an excellent job, per Ms. Allen. She did all of the reference checks and got glowing reviews for NV5 (who also has good synergy with architect Ed Forte). As the OPM works for the Town, they should prioritize our concerns.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into negotiations with NV5, and P3 as a backup, for the Town Hall renovation project. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Town Administrator - Vacation buyback request

Mr. Morin listed the reasons he has asked to buy back 5 of his 9.5 vacation days, as he can't take this much vacation before fiscal year end. The cost will be one week of salary, approximately \$3100. The board commented with no objections.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the vacation buyback of 5 days for the Town Administrator. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Preparation for Town Meeting

Ms. Allen gave a short recap of the motions and the format, which is similar to last summer's Town Meeting. She reviewed the details of the consent agenda and the BOS Articles, with the board assignments for each. With regard to the citizens petition for the nonbinding vote on the CPA surcharge, Mr. Graham was asked to speak on the board approved policy that it is not bound by this petition, with a short explanation about the law behind the policy.

Procedures were clarified for the motions to be read at the meeting. The Town has rented a very large tent which will accommodate social distancing. Masks are required. The board is posted for 9:30am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Open Meeting minutes for 3/24/21, 4/7/21, 4/15/21 and 4/21/21. 4 voting yes, 1 voting no. Motion carried.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Executive Meeting minutes for 3/24/21, 4/15/21 and 4/21/21. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Mr. Brown thanked Ms. Demong for her service and hard work on the board. He complimented Mr. Rull on coming up the learning curve as a new BOS member, which is not easy, and thanked him for his participation and contributions. Best of luck to you both. Mr. Graham echoed Mr. Brown's comments and wished best of luck.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adjourn at 8:10pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.



Ellen Allen, Chair

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