

**Town of Norwell  
Select Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
8/17/22**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2022 SEP -1 AM 11:46

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**Present:** Bruce Graham, Jason Brown, Ellen Allen, Andy Reardon

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously voted.*

**Approval of meeting minutes: 7/6 and 7/20**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the minutes of the 7/6/22 Open session and the 7/20/22 Open session. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

**Town Administrator Reports**

Mr. Morin reported that the Town's 6/7/22 appeal to DHCD for a waiver of the current SHI inventory status was turned down. The 1/10/22 published count does not include the High Street development project AH units (approved administratively by the Town in late December).

The notice received today stated that, while DHCD would not grant the waiver, they did determine that the High Street units and size of the current SHI inventory put the Town in safe harbor. This gives the Town a measure of temporary control over 40B developers, but this is a fluid number.

**7:16pm Public Hearing – National Grid, continued  
Circuit street pole #54**

Present: Joe Carroll, National Grid  
Bill Gillespie, National Grid

Mr. Graham reread the notice of public hearing.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to reopen the public hearing for pole 54 on Circuit Street at 7:16pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

Mr. Reardon raised the issue of multiple poles at several locations and equipment that needs to be addressed. He asked about poles with hanging equipment, identifying eight locations in the Town. Mr. Carroll noted that he visited all eight sites mentioned to view the equipment. He stated that National Grid made an agreement with Verizon to set new poles in return for Verizon removing the older poles to eliminate the double pole locations. He has spoken to both Comcast and Verizon about working together to remove these but so far nothing has been done yet. National Grid is basically waiting for cable to do the promised work.

Mr. Reardon noted that he has tried repeatedly to persuade the cable companies to maintain their own hanging wires, without much success. He warned residents again Never to touch hanging wires. Per the board, this causes extra work for both the Town and National Grid. The total disregard for this maintenance by the cable companies is a repeated source of frustration for the Town. Mr. Carroll will communicate the level of frustration to the two cable companies. Mr. Morin will also look at the license agreements to see if there is any recourse (probably not much). National Grid is the first-line company responsible for equipment, so they have started the paper trail.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the pole installation for pole 54 on Circuit Street. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*  
*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to close the public hearing at 7:29pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

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### **Approve Election Voting Hours – Town Clerk**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the early voting hours for the general state election as presented this evening for both sets of dates.*

*Unanimously voted by roll call vote*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to delegate to the Chief of Police the task of police detail selection for the election(s) in place of the Select Board, to the extent allowed by the current statute. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

### **Appoint Richard Ahearn – permanent police officer**

Chief Lee introduced Officer Richard Ahearn from the Hull police department and gave a summary of his background for this lateral transfer. He noted that Officer Ahearn comes highly recommended and is an outstanding officer.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to appoint Richard Ahearn to the Norwell Police Department as a permanent police officer. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

Chief Lee updated the board on the current number of officers in the department, citing a possible transfer out in addition to one vacancy. All welcomed Officer Ahearn to the department and the Town.

Chief Lee announced the 10/6/22 ceremony to welcome new hires.

### **CHT Resignation – Cara Hamilton**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to accept with regret the resignation of Cara Hamilton from the Community Housing Trust. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

### **Final review and vote for draft RFP for new Town Hall.**

Mr. Morin announced that, after the final reviews and edits, the RFP is ready to go out on Commbuys on 8/24/22. A Q and A will be scheduled in the Osborn Room for potential responders on 9/7/22.

Mr. Morin is hoping to make a decision on the responses received by October for a space to lease or purchase of about 11K-12K square feet.

The financing (under the levy) would need a Town Meeting vote to approve.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, that the board approve the RFP for a new Town Hall location, with a purchase or lease option. Unanimously voted.*

### **Committee reappointments; Comments by the Chair/Board**

Mr. Graham summarized his reasons for discussing this agenda item. Should there be criteria for reappointment? Should reappointments be discussed with committee chairs prior to Select Board votes?

Board Comments:

- Jason Brown – a review would be beneficial to determine both the interest of the committee member and the contribution to that group.
- Andy Reardon – a review of committee member contributions/attendance would be a good idea.

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- Ellen Allen – expressed concern about actions that might discourage people from volunteering for Town committees. Volunteers shouldn't think they owe allegiance to the committee chair. Attendance is a topic that should be dealt with offline in an informal chat. This type of 'review' could have unintended consequences. Select Board liaisons could be created if needed.
  - Bruce Graham – This idea could backfire. Committee Chairs should be encouraged to touch base with their board members on an informal basis.

The board agreed to take no action at this time.

### **Select Board Reports – none**

#### **Future meetings**

Mr. Morin gave a status update on both motels in the Town. The Park View Inn lawsuit is ongoing in Plymouth Superior Court.

The Capeway Motel is advertising lengths of stay that are non-compliant with the issued motel license. Building Inspector Tom Barry is keeping this business under observation. He will have an update for the board in time for a future meeting.

Mr. Morin will have collective bargaining updates for both the Police and AFSCME unions.

#### **Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to adjourn at 7:41pm.*

*Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*



Bruce W. Graham, Chair