

**Norwell Select Board  
8-25-21  
Open session minutes**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK  
2021 SEP 14 AM 8:52  
RECEIVED

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Graham at 7:00pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the agenda. Unanimously voted*

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the Open and Executive Session Meeting minutes for 8/11/21. Unanimously voted*

**BOS Reports and Announcements**

The Cliff Prentiss bridge at Jacobs Pond is closed to allow Con Com to assess and repair the support structure. Please don't use the bridge until further notice.

Mr. Graham apologized for the heated discussion and for interrupting Ms. Allen at the Select Board Meeting two weeks ago.

Mr. Brown announced that the Complete Streets Committee will meet next on 9/11 and the Traffic Study Committee will meet on 9/22. Meeting information will be posted on the website.

**Town Administrator**

Mr. Morin reported that the first Town hall Renovation Committee meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon.

**Citizen Comments - None**

**Finance Director Announcement**

Mr. Morin announced the appointment of Treasurer /Collector Darleen Sullivan as the new Finance Director. Ms. Sullivan holds a BS in Business Administration, has been Treasurer/Collector since 2013 and has an extensive municipal experience background. She is an essential member of the finance team, whose excellent record of achievements is a key reason for the Town's AAA bond rating. The Town's employee health insurance is only one of the areas that has benefitted from her capable administration. She has excellent customer skills. During the pandemic, she was instrumental in transitioning her team to remote operations that included all payroll and cash management functions. She has excellent customer skills, is an outstanding supervisor and a careful steward of the Town's finances.

With an eye to succession, Mr. Morin said that he intends to add the duties of an Assistant Town Administrator over time to this position. He will probably add personnel in the Treasurer's department to free up more of Ms. Sullivan's time, which will allow her to act as Interim Town Administrator and probably Town Administrator when Mr. Morin retires.

She has the universal respect of all who work with her. The Town is very fortunate to have such a talented employee!

Board members offered congratulations and comments on the outstanding work done by Ms. Sullivan and her department.

She thanked everyone for their kind words and support. Special thanks went out to her team for their hard work! She is excited to begin work in her new position and especially pleased to welcome the new Town Accountant, who is coming on board at the end of September.

### **Town Accountant Announcement**

Mr. Morin announced the appointment of Christine McCarthy as the new Town Accountant. He gave a summary of her background and qualifications, adding that she stood out in a strong field of candidates. Mr. Morin thanked HR Director Barbara Childs for her assistance with the application process, Ellen Nurmenniemi and Nancy Dooley for their hard work in the Accounting Department and retired Town Accountant Donna Mangan for her assistance with closing the books and certification of Free Cash. The finance department is the strength and foundation of this Town. Strong policies and good practices combine to help give the Town its strong ratings and good audits. Ms. McCarthy's start date is 9/27/21. Ms. Sullivan fully supports this appointment and looks forward to working with Ms. McCarthy.

### **Appointment of Animal Control Officer**

Chief Lee introduced the new Animal Control Officer Josh Kimball, giving a summary of his impressive background and work experience. Norwell will share this position with the town of Cohasset. Per Chief Lee, the challenge is to find an experienced, high caliber individual for the job and Officer Kimball fills both sets of qualifications. He also requested that the board appoint Officer Kimball as a Special Police officer this evening.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Josh Kimball as the Norwell Animal Control Officer for a term ending 6/30/22. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Josh Kimball as a Special Police officer for the Town of Norwell for a term ending 6/30/22. Unanimously voted*  
All welcomed Officer Kimball. The town is very lucky to have him!

### **Opioid Litigation proposed settlement**

Mr. Morin gave the board a short summary about this settlement. This huge class action settlement (32 cases) is being discussed in open session because the terms have been widely broadcast on public media. The company being sued manufactures oxycontin.

Mr. Morin listed the settlement order of priorities for the board. Each state's share is determined by the number of cases that resulted in deaths. Massachusetts will receive approximately \$46M. The Town would be eligible for a similar apportionment of roughly \$50-\$100K, to be used for opioid abatement through education, treatment, etc. The reason to discuss this settlement in a meeting by 9/1/21 is to have the Town vote as a class member. The consortium of attorneys handling the suit asked that the board hold off on the vote until they make a recommendation. Mr. Morin asked the board to give him authorization to vote with the recommendations of Counsel. He expanded on voting options, which include letting the company go bankrupt, but this would result in very little available capital for a settlement.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, that the board approve the Town Administrator actions in the Opioid settlement litigation to vote with recommendations of Counsel. Unanimously voted*

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### **Norwell Housing Authority – Tenant committee seat**

Mr. Morin gave a short summary of this new position on the Housing Authority, which is Select Board appointed rather than elected. NHA Director Ms. Sullivan-Locchi wrote a recommendation letter for applicant Linda Doyle, providing ample reasons for her appointment.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to appoint Linda A. Doyle to the Norwell Housing Authority for a term ending 6/30/24. Unanimously voted*

### **Letter of Recommendation to Historical Commission re: Jacobs Farmhouse**

NHS Chair Wendy Bawabe was present to answer questions about the proposed letter to the Mass Historical Commission (MHC). Per Ms. Bawabe, there would be no additional restrictions to the significant amount already in place on the property. This would be an honorary designation for the building. She has requested that the MHC walk this project/application through the remainder of the approval process.

Questions were asked and answered about the proposed letter and the house's current restrictions as they relate to the national historic register.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the letter of recommendation to the Mass Historical Commission to complete the application process, to place the Jacobs farmhouse on the national historic register. Unanimously voted*

**Road Race approval: South Shore Half Marathon and 5K - 11/7/21**

The board asked questions about clean-up fees and any other administrative costs. Mr. Morin will follow up with Mr. Ferguson for a cost estimate and will charge a fee that covers the Town's expenses. Ms. Allen suggested that the board delegate approval authority to Mr. Morin for future events like road races.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the South Shore Half Marathon and 5K road race on 11/7/21, subject to departmental requirements as noted. Unanimously voted*

**Best Buddies Challenge – 10/2/21**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve this race on 10/2/21, subject to departmental requirements as noted. Unanimously voted*

Paul Curley from Best Buddies International thanked the board for the approval, noting that this is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the race.

**FY22 Select Board Focus Areas – Discuss and finalize**

The board discussed their proposed focus areas at length. Ellen M will type up a draft to be reviewed by board members and discussed at the meeting on 9/8/21.

**Other Items not reasonable anticipated by the Chair - None**

**Upcoming Meetings – September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Vaccine and mask mandate for Town Hall employees - 9/8 meeting

Proposed policy on Select Board agendas

Discuss federal funds usage and request spreadsheet from Mr. Morin

Town Administrator annual review

Police Chief and Fire Chief annual review - probably January meeting

**Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to adjourn at 9:50pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

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**Bruce Graham, Chair**