

**TOWN OF NORWELL
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

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The Advisory Board was called to order by Roger Hughes at 7:00pm. Present were Susan Powell, Jacky McClean, Mark Maiellano, Ralph Gordon, Tim Greene, Jane Stout and Karen Reynolds. Town Administrator, Peter Morin, was also present.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Acceptance of Minutes - Roger asked for questions or comments about the March 1, 2016 and March 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes. With no comments, motion to accept the Minutes from March 1, 2016 and March 3, 2016. *Seconded and passed 8-0: 7-22-16*

ACTION ITEMS / DISCUSSIONS
BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

School Committee - Superintendent Matt Keegan and School Committee Chairman Amy Koch introduced a school budget that represents a 3.48% increase over the budget from last year for a total of \$25,444,800. These increases include the newly negotiated contract for custodians, the soon to be ratified contract for teachers and the contract to be negotiated for assistants and aides. The School Department is proud of the relationships they have with each group and the manner in which the negotiations were organized, conducted and contracts were constructed. Ms Koch gave a brief summary comparing the Norwell Schools budget with other school budgets in benchmark towns. Norwell is in the middle of the pack. In 2014, 51% of the general funds were earmarked for the Norwell Schools. Cohasset received 44% and Sharon received 59%. Norwell is also in the middle when comparing Special Education services both in and out of district. Ms Koch continued to outline the five categories of the budget as determined by the State Department of Education. Student Instruction, District Administration, Facilities Support and Other Student Services have modest raises. Out of District costs which covers Tuitions for Special Education have skyrocketed by 15.84%

Executive Director for Instruction Dr. James LaBillois reviewed School Programming. Norwell is taking a proactive integrative system approach to academic and social/emotional success. Communication between school and home is vital to our students success. Director of Special Education Suzan Theodorou stated that Norwell Schools are committed to a philosophy of inclusion. Students with disabilities should be educated, to the maximum extent possible, with typically developing peers. While it is not always possible to service all students in District, Norwell strives to educate each student in the least restrictive environment. Director of Finance, Operations and Technology, Warren MacCallum, provided a summary of the preventative measures the District is implementing to keep our facilities working in tiptop shape. He credits the support of the Facilities Manager, Technology Department and energy credits with keeping capital costs from soaring.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$25,444,800 for the School Department. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

Council on Aging - Peter updated the AB on the progress of this budget. A request for an upgrade for the Director of Outreach and Program Coordinator was not granted but the Professional Services line increased to \$5,000. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$235,948 for the Council on Aging. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

Board of Assessors - Peter and Barbara Gingras agreed a part time employee would cover the workload currently not addressed by the Assessor. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$152,773 for the Board of Assessors. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

Cemetery Department - Roger met with the Cemetery Committee to discuss the request of a stipend increase four times the stipend of last year. A final stipend of \$8,000 was agreed by the Cemetery Department and TA. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$15,000 for the Cemetery Department. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

Historical Commission - Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$4,000 for the Historical Commission. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

WARRANT DISCUSSIONS

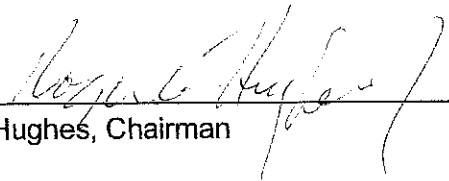
Article 55 - This Article seeks \$100,000 to be expended under the Board of Assessors for professional and contracted services in order to perform an interim and triennial revaluation of real and personal property in the Town as of January 1, 2016. Motion to accept Article 55 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting as drafted. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

Article 40 - This Article seeks \$8,000 for participation in a pilot program in partnership with the University of Rhode Island's Tick Encounter Resource Center for the detection and prevention of tick borne diseases. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health, Alison Demong discussed the benefits of the Tick Smart Towns Program. Norwell is in the top 10 towns in Massachusetts for incidence of Lyme Disease. Knowing the risks and ways to prevent tick bites prevents tick borne illness. Motion to accept Article 40 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting as drafted. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 17, 2016 - Personnel, CPC and Citizen Petitions for Town Warrant

Adjourn - Motion to Adjourn. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*



Roger Hughes, Chairman

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