

**TOWN OF NORWELL
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018**

TOWN OF NORWELL
2018 FEB 28 AM 9:42

RECEIVED

The Advisory Board was called to order by Tim Greene at 7:05pm. Present were Jane Stout, Susan Powell, Harry Solis, Mark Cleveland, Mark Maiellano, Amy Koch and Karen Reynolds. Town Administrator, Peter Morin was also present.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Acceptance of Minutes- Tim asked for questions and comments about the Minutes for February 6, 2018. With no discussion, motion made to accept the Minutes for February 6, 2018. Amy stated she was absent at that meeting and will abstain. *Seconded and passed 7-0-1.*

ACTION ITEMS / DEPARTMENT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Library - Library Director Judy McConarty and Assistant Director Rachel Breen presented a budget with a modest increase due to contractual salary obligations and vacation coverage which pay for substitutes up to 150 hours annually. This budget meets the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR). This continues accreditation from the State & assures State aid, maintains eligibility to apply for Federal & State grants including construction grants and allows participation in reciprocal borrowing services.

The current Library has water damage in the Children's section that needs attention. The Library has no other major repairs but will attend to issues as they arise. They are focusing on construction of the new Library. The conversation touched on the future of Technology at the new Library including the inherent cost of installation, maintenance & service. A rough Timeline of important dates for construction include interview & hire architects March 2018, move to temporary site in March 2019 and open new Library by summer of 2020.

Total budget for Library is \$630,609

Veterans Services- Veterans Agent, David Osborne was available to discuss the program and the success he had last year. The Veteran's Agent does a remarkable job with outreach and service referrals. He organized a Retired Veterans Luncheon that served 87 Vets and wives. This is an event he hopes to hold annually. He also keeps in touch with Vets including Vietnam Veterans to make them aware of new benefits and services for those exposed to Agent Orange. A Veterans Gift Fund was established. These funds are used primarily for transportation to the VA Medical Center in Brockton, Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. One last item is most notable; a Norwell Veteran was nominated for the Legion of Honor from France. This most prestigious honor is awarded to WWII Veterans in gratitude for those who risked or lost their lives defending liberty.

The line item for Veterans Benefits was reduced this year to more reasonably reflect what was expended for these benefits in the past. TA is confident the budgeted amount is sufficient to meet the needs of Veterans Benefits based on history. Regardless of the budgeted amount, if a

benefit larger than budgeted is granted, the Town is required to pay. Town is allowed to deficit spend similar to Snow & Ice and transfer funds through an Article at Special Town Meeting. All benefits granted are reimbursed by the State at 75%. Federal benefits are applied for directly to the Federal Government and awarded by the Federal Government.

Total budget for Veterans Services is \$29,500

Board of Selectmen - Town Administrator, Peter Morin presented a budget with a minimal increase due to contractual salary obligations. The Director of Human Resources negotiated a contract that is retroactive to 2017 and expires in 2019. This salary is compatible with neighboring communities.

Total budget for Board of Selectmen \$385,194

Draft Warrant - Peter handed out a list of probable Articles for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting. These include Articles that are common to every Town Meeting and the one time Articles that encourage planning, efficiency and safety. A brief list of recurring Articles include Personnel Reclassification, Contracts, Unpaid Bills, Snow & Ice and Town Reports among others. One time Articles include Land Acquisition for Water Department, Engineering at the Sparrell Building and repair fuel system along with other requests from the Highway Department, School Department and CPC.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There will be no meeting February 15, 2018.

Next Meeting February 27, 2018

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



Tim Greene, Chairman