



**Town of Norwell  
Board of Assessors  
345 Main St., Norwell, MA 02061**

**Open Session Minutes**

**Date:** December 21, 2020  
**Time:** 6:00 PM (open)  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting (remote), pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order (dated March 12, 2020, temporarily modifying certain provisions of Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A § 20(d) and 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b).)  
**Meeting ID:** 736 2964 7075, passcode: CQk4DY

**Board Members Present:** Rob Allen, Joan Osborne, Mary Horowitz

**Others Present:** Peter Morin

Of note: Because this meeting was held remotely, the votes were taken by roll call.

Mr. Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Osborne moved to open the meeting, Ms. Horowitz seconded the motion and Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz all voted in favor.

The Board reviewed and considered the following warrants:

1. 2021 Actual Community Preservation Tax (\$632,183.21)
  - a. Ms. Horowitz moved to approve this warrant. Ms. Osborne seconded, and Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz voted in favor.
2. 2021 Sewer Betterment (\$8,258.98)
  - a. Ms. Horowitz moved to approve this warrant, noting that a correction is needed in the written dollar amount (written as eight thousand two hundred fifty dollars; should be eight thousand two hundred fifty eight dollars). Ms. Osborne seconded the motion as corrected. Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz voted in favor.
3. 2021 Actual Real Estate Tax (\$24,287,997.58)
  - a. Ms. Horowitz moved to approve this warrant. Ms. Osborne seconded, and Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz voted in favor.
4. 2021 Actual Water Liens Tax (\$77,530.44)
  - a. Ms. Horowitz moved to approve this warrant. Ms. Osborne seconded, and Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz voted in favor.
5. 2021 Actual Personal Property Tax (\$447,169.42)
  - a. Ms. Horowitz moved to approve this warrant. Ms. Osborne seconded, and Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz voted in favor.

The Board discussed the final candidates for the open Principal Assessor position. Each Board member was initially asked to rank each candidate for first choice. Two members indicated Ms. Rafiki as first choice and one member indicated Mr. Gibbons as first choice. Mr. Allen noted that although Mr. Gibbons has a great deal of experience and could hit the ground running, Ms. Rafiki has more recent direct interaction with residents in her current position. Ms. Horowitz noted that she was impressed with Ms. Rafiki's interview responses and professionalism in videotaped board meetings that she had viewed. Ms. Osborne noted that Mr. Gibbons has more experience and excellent references and referenced a positive article she had read about another community, from his prior employment, that had selected him out of a field of twelve candidates. All members of the Board agreed that both candidates are quite good, and both would be an asset to the town and its taxpayers. After a discussion, the Board reached a consensus on which candidate to move forward. Ms. Horowitz moved to recommend Meredith Rafiki to Mr. Morin for an employment offer. Ms. Osborne seconded the motion. Mr. Allen, Ms. Osborne, and Ms. Horowitz voted in favor.

The Board inquired of Peter Morin as to whether Ms. Rafiki would have a probationary period. Mr. Morin informed the board that there would be a probationary period of six months. The Board agreed that, over future meetings, priorities should be set with the new assessor.

With no other business outstanding, Mr. Allen entertained a motion to adjourn the Open Session. Ms. Horowitz moved to adjourn the open meeting at 6:26pm. Ms. Osborne seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

The following documents and exhibits were referenced during this meeting, and will be retained in the Assessor's Office, in accordance with the Commonwealth's public records retention schedules.

- 2021 Actual Community Preservation Tax Warrant (\$632,183.21)
- 2021 Sewer Betterment Warrant (\$8,258.98)
- 2021 Actual Real Estate Tax Warrant (\$24,287,997.58)
- 2021 Actual Water Liens Tax Warrant (\$77,530.44)
- 2021 Actual Personal Property Tax Warrant (\$447,169.42)

Submitted by: Mary Horowitz, Clerk