

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2015**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2015 SEP -8 AM 9:45

RECEIVED

Gregg McBride opened the meeting and introduced Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Peter Smellie and unanimously voted.*

4. REPORTS

a) Citizen Comments – none

b) Selectmen's Report and Announcements

Ms. Allen and Mr. Morin met with ClearGov software to discuss the possibility of being a beta test site for their software product, which is a visual presentation of a Town's budget. It is similar to VisGov, but would also provide comparable data from other communities. The Town has the option to be one of 10 beta towns, which would allow it to have input on the final product. The added attraction is the comparison tool, but it must be an "informed comparison" in order to provide useful analyses. Town officials could make comments on the information shown on the website. VisGov would cost less. ClearGov beta test towns would pay half price (full price would be about \$3000) on the software. The board would be interested in inviting both companies to a meeting for presentations. Mr. Morin will book the meeting(s).

Follow-up to the Mooring Bylaw Committee Discussion: Mr. Morin and Mr. McBride met with a member of the committee and the Harbormaster to get an overview of the whole situation.

Scott Snider – Committee Applicant-Capital Budget Committee

Mr. Snider gave a summary of his background and reasons for choosing to apply for a seat on the CBC. Mr. McBride stated that all seats on the committee are currently filled, but there is the possibility of an opening in the near future. Mr. Snider is happy to consider a seat on another board, such as Senior Tax Relief and the General Bylaws Review Committee. He will attend some CBC meetings if possible. Mr. McBride asked him to take a look at the bylaws online and maybe attend a committee meeting, and will also have the BOS office send some additional information.

Jerry Kehoe – Committee Applicant – Recreation Commission

Mr. Kehoe has already served on the Recreation Commission and was its liaison to the Athletic Fields Committee. He would like to be re-appointed to the Recreation Commission. As there are several applicants for this seat, the decision will be made at a later date. The Rec. Commission appointee will also likely be its representative to the CPC.

Aleta Scully – Committee Applicant – Recreation Commission

Ms. Scully gave an overview of her background and reasons for applying for a seat on this committee. She would also be willing to serve on the AFC.

Tricia Lederer – Committee Applicant – Community Housing Trust, Alternate Member

Ms. Lederer was not able to attend this meeting, but her work is well known in the Town. She would like to be appointed to the CHT as an alternate member, as the committee is full. *Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Tricia Lederer as an Alternate Member to the Community Housing Trust for an indefinite term. Unanimously voted*

Paul Foulsham – Highway Department/Tree and Grounds Update

Main Street Project – the drainage system is almost installed in 7 separate areas. Mr. Foulsham and the board discussed the status and remaining steps to finish this part of the project. Ms. Allen asked about Main Street paving and the sidewalk. Per Mr. Foulsham, the large amount of ground water delayed work for several weeks, but he still hopes to begin the sidewalk this fall when the plans/design are finished. There will be another public meeting to discuss this project.

Trees and Grounds Dept. has been mowing daily, doing field maintenance, and spraying for ticks on the athletic fields. Tick spray is done twice a year, and all chemicals used are posted on the school bulletin board. Mr. McBride asked if the grass fields are being rested as a result of the availability of the turf fields. Mr. Foulsham stated that the turf has been a great help with this remedial resting plan for the grass fields.

The Highway Department is still patching holes and cracks from the winter. The repaving of Grove Street from Route 53 to Norwell Ave. and the existing sidewalk will cost \$1.6 million, including improvements to the Prospect Street intersection. Mr. Foulsham would like to get it done this fall. The board and Mr. Foulsham discussed next steps and an action plan for this project.

Forest Street – Mr. Foulsham met with Chris Dilorio to discuss the pathways project contracts and the intersection redo for Forest and Circuit Streets. The board discussed the project and appearance of the pathway and intersection.

The condition of Paradise Drive, a private road in the Town was also discussed, with the suggestion that perhaps the street residents could participate in a joint project with the Town to repair the street. The board and Mr. Foulsham discussed the difficulty of repairs on private roads. He will follow up with Town Counsel to see what could be done.

Next request: a non-standard street light at the corner of Teaberry and Gerard Road has fallen over. Could it be repaired? The board discussed right of way responsibility by the Town on formerly private roads that are now public ways. Mr. Morin will follow up with Mr. Foulsham and Town Counsel to work on this.

Status of plow equipment – the new truck and snowplow have been ordered, and will be here hopefully by November. This truck will be equipped with a governor to control salt dispersal.

Debt Financing Discussions

Town Treasurer Darlene Sullivan and financial advisor Peter Frazier discussed debt financing options for the Main St. paving project (\$3.3M) and the new fire truck (\$500k). Some existing under levy Town debt drops off in FY 2017 when this new under levy debt will start to be serviced. The paving bond will be financed over 15 years and the fire truck over 5 or 10.

Mr. Frazier gave an overview of six different borrowing options, including bonding and interest payments scenarios. One key question is whether to bond this fall or wait until January. Ms. Sullivan gave some cost projections showing the impact on the budgets for FY16 and FY17 of these alternatives. There is insufficient funding appropriated in the FY16 budget to pay the first month's interest payments on these bonds in this FY. Consequently, if the Town issues bonds this fall, it will have to postpone the first interest payment into FY17, making debt service expense spike that year. There was discussion of how this could be covered in the FY17 budget. Mr. Frazier is leaning toward recommending borrowing now rather than in January due to the uncertainty of whether interest rates will still be low then. If the financing is locked in now it could provide insurance against a rise in interest rates. Per Mr. Morin, the near future has better predictability, so even though budgeting would be difficult in FY17, it might be better to go ahead in the fall. Mr. Morin suggested that Ms. Sullivan start the work on the bonding issue and that the Board decide about the timing of the issuances and whether to bond the fire truck for 5

or 10 years at the next meeting. The Board, Mr. Frazier and Ms. Sullivan also discussed and reviewed the cost/benefit of potential premium uses. The mechanics of using the bond premium to lower the total amount of the bond issuance were discussed. Mr. Frazier will put together some other scenarios that also might help alleviate the impact on FY17.

Mass Medi Spa Dispensary Letter

Mr. Morin highlighted the changes to the previous draft of the letter sent in November 2013.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the sending of the letter to Mass Medi Spa as presented at this meeting. The vote was 3 yes, 1 no with Peter Smellie dissenting. Motion carried.

Tick Education

Ms. Demong gave a summary of her memo, and set the date of Sept. 29th at 7pm at the Middle School cafeteria for the Tick Education Program, which is free and open to all.

Ms. Demong also highlighted the board's goals and tasks for this BOS Area of Focus:

Gain a better understanding of numbers reported

Pressure state legislature to enact measures, as there is no state funded aid for this issue

Proposal to hire a coordinator in every county

Education in Norwell

Increase awareness of tick borne illness long term

Gauge response to the program, and perhaps put together a task force.

The Mariner has been providing good coverage about this upcoming event and topic

This event is already on the school's calendar

Ms. Demong will invite Rep. DeCoste and Rep. Hedlund to the presentation

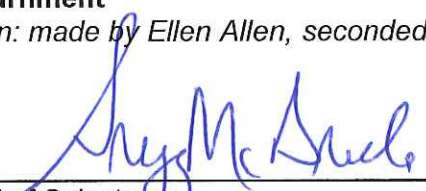
Town Administrator Areas of Focus FY2016

Mr. Morin gave an overview of his updated list of focus areas, with relation to the board's focus areas. The Board opined that this list is a lot to take on in one year, which should be considered when doing Peter Morin's annual performance review. No new focus areas were added.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adopt the Town Administrator List of Focus Areas for FY 2016 as presented to the Board of Selectmen. Unanimously voted

Adjournment

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn. Unanimously voted



Board of Selectmen

