

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2016 JUN -6 AM 11:01

Mr. McBride opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Ellen Allen, Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin were present.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as written.  
Unanimously voted*

All members reviewed the Warrant, assigning the presentation of specific Articles at the Special and Annual Town Meetings scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (if necessary), May 2, 3, 4, 2016. See meeting notes on 4/5 for a complete list. Mr. Morin highlighted the list of Articles that will be voted as a block. Note: remove the Pathways Article from block voting and move as a separate vote.

NOTE: I arrived late at the meeting, so I missed the STM discussion about who would present specific Articles.

**Annual Town Meeting Articles Presentation**

**Article 4** – Mr. Smellie

**Article 5** – Personnel Board

**Article 6** – Personnel Board

**Article 7** – Planning Board, Fieldstone Way

**Article 9** – Planning Board

**Article 10** – Mr. Brown, unless Planning Board is motioned to present this Article

**Articles 11, 12, 13, 14** – Related to the Highway Surveyor position

**Article 14** – The funding to clean up the large pile of debris at the Highway yard will come from Free Cash. Mr. Morin will present the Article, with backup as needed from Mr. Brown. This pile has been around for at least 20 years and was “inherited” by Mr. Foulsham. The cleanup is part of the regulatory compliance requirements and needs to be addressed.

**Article 15** – Road Survey; Mr. Morin will present, backup as needed from Mr. Brown. The main issue to be addressed in the survey is that the worst roads should not be addressed first; rather, roads that need less maintenance should be fixed so that their condition does not deteriorate further. Whoever gets the Highway Surveyor job should have a professionally prepared road status survey.

**Article 16** – Ms. Demong will give a presentation about this much needed change, using Article 14 as an example of a recurring obligation and a good reason for the change to an appointed position. She gave a summary of her remarks, highlighting the two part election process and the change of position requirements from manual to technical since the description was written in 1986. The job description states that this is a full time senior manager position with 11 full time union employees. There are only 14 towns left in the Commonwealth with an elected Highway Surveyor position. The three biggest departments, Police, Fire and Highway, function as a team for town emergencies, which clearly indicates the need for a professional level of expertise for this position. Betsy Gordon would like to speak on the charter that originally included this change.

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Discussion ensued about likely questions and responses. This is about the department structure and not about the individual holding the position. The timing is optimal for this change, as the town would use their job in the process. Human Resources vets all candidates for an appointed position; with an elected position there is no background check or required experience. For questions about the necessity for the change, she will direct everyone's attention to the current status of the roads, highway yard, and gas tank for better understanding. In addition, Ms. Demong will speak about the Tree and Grounds piece of this job, and the level of the departmental coordination that is required with this position. The board advised Ms. Demong to stick to the positive points of the change – this is planning for the future, not addressing the needs of the past.

**Article 17 - Main Street Reconstruction Debt-** Mr. McBride will start the presentation, and other board members will contribute. Mr. Morin met with Colliers today, and gave highlights of the grading system for the urgency of needed maintenance and repair projects for the Town. Ms. Allen will review the slide presentation for this Article with Mr. Morin before Town Meeting. The School budget overview may have misled the sidewalk proponents; this year's school requirements were over \$1 million. The School Board memo contradictions were discussed by the board. Mr. Brown stated that this sidewalk project has jumped ahead of the 10 years of planning for a new library. More discussion ensued about a slide presentation by the sidewalk proponents. Ms. Allen reminded all that once the original funding source was disallowed the BOS were not in favor of the project as there is no available money. Mr. Morin stated that bond counsel would like a 10 year debt amortization for the sidewalk; Mr. Morin will provide tax amount information for the proposed project.

**Article 18 , 19, 20 – Billboard Articles –** Ms. Allen will do the presentation, providing background and reasons for needing new revenue, as well as laying the groundwork for the next 3 Articles. The presentation will also add the statement “ if no new revenue is generated, it will be necessary to cut positions and reduce services”. Mr. Morin will help with the presentation. Mr. Smellie will talk to his neighbors on High Street about the billboards, reiterating that they will have NO impact on any residents in that area.

**Article 21 –** Mr. Smellie will present this bookkeeping Article

**Article 22 –** presented by the Board of Health

**Article 23 –** Water Department

**Article 25, 26 –** presented by Mr. Brown

**Article 27 –** Conservation Commission

**Articles 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34 –** Community Preservation Committee

**Article 35 –** Mooring Committee bylaw change – presented by Mr. McBride

**Article 36 –** presented by Chair of the School Board

**Article 37 –** School Board will move to put \$100K in this fund out of the overlay surplus.

**NOTE: A motion will be made at the beginning of the meeting to allow Mr. Morin to speak on Articles as needed/indicated**

**Article 38 –** Board of Assessors

**Article 40 –** Kate Boudreau will speak on behalf of her petition for this Vinal School entrance study

**Articles 41, 42, 43, 44 –** BOS (Ms. Allen will present)

**Article 43 –** Ms. Allen will move; \$100K out of overlay surplus to replenish the fund after paying for the ambulance.

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**Article 45** - Political signs petition, presented by Mary Beth Shea and Mary Ellen Coffey.

**Articles 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52** - by Petition

**Article 53** - BOS will state that they supported this Article with a 5-0 vote. Town Counsel opposed this Article in 2008, stating that it creates a separate class of property rights and is redundant. However, it may assist the Town in obtaining additional grant funding.

**Article 48 - Note:** Mr. McBride will contact John Mariano, CPC Chair about speaking to this Article to reduce the CPA surcharge to 1%.

Mr. Morin requested that all presentation drafts be sent to him by the Friday before Town Meeting.

### Adjournment

*Motion; made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to adjourn at 8:40pm. Unanimously voted*

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Board of Selectmen