

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
10/18/17**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2017 NOV 16 PM 3:17

RECEIVED

**Present:** Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Ellen Allen, Peter Smellie, Peter Morin

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the BOS Open Meeting minutes for August 23, 2017 and September 6, 2017. Unanimously voted*

For BOS meeting agenda, 10/25/17; Sgt. Samuel Stetson house – discussion of next steps and plan for the house.

**Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Brown.

**Citizen Comments – None**

**Selectmen's Reports and Announcements**

The State Attorney General's office is presenting Open Meeting Law training on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The board would like to encourage all committee members and employees to attend.

Ms. Demong announced that the BOS has executed a Purchase and Sale agreement for the property known as the Whiting Fields. She gave details of the purchase of 124 acres for \$3.8M, which is all of the land owned by the Dolan family. The BOS has submitted an application to the CPC for approval at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting. The Selectmen will be meeting with several committees to write a master plan for the land between now and the spring. Ms. Allen congratulated both Ms. Demong and Mr. McBride for their hard work on the project. The purchase of this land has been a priority on the Town's wish list for many years, and will be a topic of conversation at many future meetings. Thank you!

The Advisory Board is meeting tomorrow night with the Library Project Committee to discuss the proposed new library project. All are invited to attend the meeting at 7pm in the Osborn Room. The meeting will be televised on the local cable channels.

**Town Administrator's Report - None**

**7:35 Technology Committee Update**

Present: Committee members Warren MacCallum, Gabriel Ben Yosef and Mathew Power

1. The committee has reviewed the IT contract between the schools and Town Hall. All think it is working well. Mr. Morin added that he sought Mr. MacCallum's opinion on the contract as well as suggestions for improvement. Both thought none were needed, and any small issues can be worked out.

2. All discussed the BOS goal to purchase a product to monitor board-assigned tasks. Products from Oracle, Google and others have been reviewed. The BOS would like this committee to take a closer look and see what product best addresses the needs of the board. Googledocs will probably be adequate for this task.

3. The Technology Committee would like to do a town technology assessment from the "top down" and then make recommendations for the future.

Ms. Allen requested that they look at the social media presence, the Town website, and the upcoming use of People GIS to see what they think.



All discussed the complexities of Town government vs. private companies when trying to move forward on projects.

The committee will come back to update the BOS in the near future. They will contact Mr. Morin to discuss their assessment and potential funding, which may require a Town Meeting Article.

### **Water Department Update**

Present; Peter Dillon, Steve Ivas, Fred St. Ours

Mr. Ivas referenced the video about the broken pipe on River Street, which was the result of gas main work being done by Columbia Gas. The integrity of the water pipes was tested by the accident, and the quality is quite good.

Well number 2 on Grove Street has excellent water quality, and is ready go back online. Mr. Ivas explained the new technology that will be used to increase the water production. Kings Landing update; the water main from Harbor Lane rework will allow residents in this area of Town to have Town water next year.

Other updates discussed included standpipe repainting, potential land acquisition for a prospective well source, stormwater regulations and water restriction compliance. Per the Water Commissioners, currently ground water levels are below normal but growing season is over, and they expect water levels to be adequate going into next year. Demand is down, which is good. The board gave kudos to the Water Department for a job well done.

### **8:15pm Public Hearing – Big Y CV license, 10 Washington Street, David Murphy,**

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to open the public hearing at 8:15pm. Unanimously voted.*

Mr. Smellie read the notice of public hearing.

Arthur Dechellis, Big Y store manager, gave a summary of changes being made and new additions to the store, which include prepared foods. They are expanding the coffee bar, bakery department and the fried food section and would like to provide in store seating for 24 (12 tables with 2 chairs each). The store serves a lunch crowd of personnel from the nearby industrial park. This is a common feature of other Big Y stores but a little smaller. The Health Agent will review this license request ASAP.

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the CV license for Big Y Foods, Inc., 10 Washington Street, on condition of approval by the Health Agent.*

*Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to close the public hearing at 8:25pm. Unanimously voted*

### **Electronic Voting Committee Expansion – Mary Beth Shea, Pat Anderson**

Ms. Shea stated that the committee has met a few times, but more seats on the committee itself would be helpful. There are several issues to solve which were reviewed by Ms. Shea. She suggested a few public hearings on this decision to help residents understand the issues. A bylaw change would also be needed as the current bylaws now call for voice votes. Several vendors are willing to do trial runs to allow the committee to see how it would go.

Discussion ensued about testing this technology; 1. Conduct a rehearsal type Town Meeting using the equipment. 2. Test the equipment in a mock meeting parallel to an actual Town Meeting and compare actual votes to the test votes. Town Clerk Pat Anderson mentioned Duxbury as a sample town to ask about their experiences with electronic voting.

The committee currently has 5 voting members and one non-voting member (Town Moderator). They would like this increased to 7 voting members. Mr. Brown suggested that a representative of the Town Technology Committee be an additional member. He also noted that the Bylaw

Review Committee should be part of this process. Ellen Allen said she would contact someone with a technology background who might be interested.

All discussed testing options and timelines and meeting pros and cons, noting that this change will be a multi-year process. The cost to the Town would be \$6-10K per night to rent the equipment for an average attendance of 400 people.

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to allow the Town Clerk to investigate a bylaw to enable a new voting method. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to expand the Electronic Voting Committee to 7 members, 1 At Large and 1 representative from the Technology Committee. Unanimously voted*

The timeline for public education and bylaw change was discussed. Town Counsel will assist with the necessary legal documentation. The BOS thanked them for coming in.

### **Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 8:50pm. Unanimously voted*



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**Jason Brown, Chair**