

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
11/15/17**

2018 JAN 10 AM 10:02

Open Session, cont'd.

Mr. Morin met with MIIA as a potential healthcare provider alternative to Mayflower. MIIA is interested in having the Town as a client. Their proposed 6.5% rate is very competitive. MIIA is part of the largest joint purchasing group in the NE area (cities and towns). They are governed by a board of trustees, but the rate is based on individual town performance within a range. There is the possibility of a town representative in a board position if the Town decides to hire MIIA.

The MIIA plan would have the same copays and deductibles and all would be able to keep their current doctors. There is still the need to reduce overall healthcare costs. Mr. Morin met with Mayflower's actuary, who is looking at phasing out legacy and rate saver plans within 18 months.

Open Session – Osborn Room

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Brown at 7:34pm.

This meeting is both broadcast and recorded.

Citizen Comments – None

Selectmen's Reports and Announcements

Ellen Allen reported from the MMA meeting that state tax revenues are higher than anticipated, and gave an update on other bills before the legislature which are pending.

The town was notified about the CPA state match distribution of \$219K, which is about 20% of the annual CPA surtax revenue collections in the Town.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Morin thanked the Veterans Officer Dave Osborne, the Boy Scouts and the veterans for all their hard work organizing the Veterans Day ceremony. Kudos to all for a job well done!

School Department Update

Present: Superintendent Matt Keegan, Finance Director Warren MacCallum, School Committee Chair Kiersten Warendorf, High School Principal William Fish, Assistant Principal Jennifer Greenberg

Mr. Keegan and Ms. Warendorf thanked the board for inviting them to present an update on school programs and activities. They reported on three areas of interest; the AP program, student leadership/civic action, and the school budget.

Principal Fish reviewed the results of the AP program, which are included in the presentation materials handed out at the meeting and on file in the BOS office. The AP program is very successful, and compares favorably with other school districts in the Commonwealth.

Assistant Principal Greenberg reported on student leadership programs that promote civic action. About 90% of students are engaged in clubs or activities, which is a very high level of participation.

Supt. Keegan and Ms. Warendorf stated that there is no need to build a high school in the next 10-20 years. The school department has a proactive maintenance plan that will spend about \$2M over the next 7 years. An overview of last year's financial performance was presented. The budgeting process has begun for next year's initial budget. The anticipated budget increase in FY18 of \$2.4M sets up a potential deficit in FY19. Supt. Keegan and Ms. Warendorf presented different options to solve this issue. FY20 graduating students will initiate a decreasing trend in enrollment. This past year has seen a very high increase in the Town's number of families with school age children moving in which has kept the enrollment stable. Questions were asked by the

board about projected enrollment reduction. The numbers are based on students aging out and leaving the program but it is still a guess.

The possibility of constructing permanent restrooms at the Clipper Community Complex (CCC) was discussed at length. The schools have reviewed this request from residents and come up with a reasonable approach that will cost about \$100K to construct. The project needs a study and engineering plan (an additional \$25K) before moving forward. Supt. Keegan will address next steps with Mr. Morin.

All discussed the proposed CCC fee increases, noting that the current fees are quite low. The BOS reviewed the overall use policy, chart of fees and rationale for raising the fees. The School Committee has drafted a motion for this evening to approve the proposed increases, which would go into effect 7/1/18. Ms. Allen confirmed that these fees go into the athletic stabilization fund for the turf replacement.

The School Committee (in session for this meeting) voted unanimously to approve this fee increase.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to endorse and ratify the motion passed by the School Board. Unanimously voted

Mr. Brown addressed the board's concerns about the plan for the bonfire scheduled for 11/22 at the School field. He noted that while it is a fun event and tradition, the Town and School departments need to work together coordinating events such as this one. After last year's potential hazards, there is now a safety plan in place from Fire Chief Reardon. The Norwell Boosters should not assume they have authority to plan for the bonfire or any event that involves public safety. Communication planning and procedure are the keys to successful future events. Mr. Brown and Mr. Morin asked that a procedure be created for establishing this sort of event. The Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Town Administrator have ensured that adequate safety measures will be in place. All thanked the schools for coming in.

8:25pm Molly McKittrick – No Place for Hate Committee

Ms. McKittrick gave the board a summary of her background and reasons for applying to sit on this committee. All thanked her for stepping forward.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Gregg McBride, to appoint Molly McKittrick to the No Place For Hate Committee for the duration. Unanimously voted

Relocation of Town Hall to the Sparrell Building and Capital Plan

Mr. Brown updated all on the background and current status of the Town-owned buildings in light of the funding ask for the new library. The Town will be reviewing its assets to determine both productive and non-productive components. The board will revisit the idea of consolidating Town Hall and the School Department into one building. There is willingness on the side of the schools to help make this happen. All discussed options for the current Town Hall building.

Mr. Morin summarized the relevant activity to date for this project. A Commonwealth Compact grant was used to hire the Abrahams Group to do a ten-year plan for the Town's buildings. The plan identified \$21.3M in project costs and repairs over 10 years, including \$2.8M for Town Hall building work between 2019-22. Excluding septic work and parking lots, \$1.8M in repairs for Town Hall could be avoided with the consolidation. Although the Sparrell building will need \$1.3M in repairs between FY19-22, its condition is superior to that of Town Hall. Approximately \$1M in additional upgrades to the Sparrell workplace and infrastructure would be needed to consolidate the two buildings. The anticipated savings is a good reason to keep looking at this idea.

Next Steps; a \$20K grant was received last year to study the components of the proposed move. All discussed the findings, which indicated that the current septic system of the Sparrell building could handle the additional employees, with the caveat that the system is over 10 years old and may need some future repairs. An update meeting with Kang Associates has been scheduled for the week of December 4th to discuss the design work they did over 15 years ago that looked at combining Town Hall and the School Administration at the Sparrell Building. To avoid potential capacity issues; alternate accommodations will be found for the Highway, Tree and Grounds and the Water departments. The goal will be to have a Warrant Article ready for the Spring Town meeting to fund a consulting plan for the design and relocation of these facilities. Mr. Morin added that he has taken a very close look at this project and the plan is to do the work without any overrides. If only a portion of

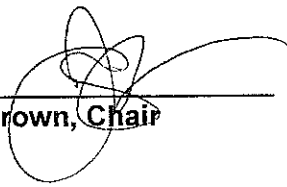
the budgeted repairs to the Town Hall building are needed, the opportunity to fund this project under the levy would expand. Discussion ensued about unanticipated repairs and short term solutions to the current Town Hall building, as well as other department moves and planning. Mr. Morin will keep everyone updated on the progress of this project.

2010 JAN 10 AM 10:02

Ms. Allen announced that the BOS will have a televised Q and A session for the Library project on Thursday, November 30th at 7pm in the Osborn Room. She updated all on the vote in Kingston for their library funding, which narrowly passed at their Special Town Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Gregg McBride, to adjourn at 8:49pm. Unanimously voted



Jason Brown, Chair