

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
6/13/18**

Open Session – 7:35pm

The meeting in the Osborn Room was called to order by Vice Chair Gregg McBride at 7:35pm. He reminded all that the meeting is recorded and televised.

Citizen Comments – None

BOS Announcements - None

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Morin updated all on the interim Conservation Agent who was hired to provide administrative support in the absence of Nancy Hemingway.

Mr. McBride updated all on the Norwell Farms request for a reduction in barn fees for this fiscal year. The board is willing to work with them for this year, but requested that they come back with a plan for next year.

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Jason Brown, to reduce the Jacobs Farm barn rental fees for 2018 to \$1500. Unanimously voted

7:35 Jacobs Farmhouse Projects Discussion

Present: Wendy Bawabe – NHS Chair, Noel Ripley – NHC Chair, David DeGhetto, Facilities Manager Ted Nichols

Mr. McBride gave a brief overview of the contract issue with the architect, and invited Mr. Ripley to give a short summary of the problem, which involves tasks covered under Phases I and II of the contract.

The NHC was asked to approve Phase 2 of the Taylor & Burns Architects (TBA) contract, which is the design documents. The NHC didn't want to approve these additional expenses without advice from the BOS. Mr. Ripley has since spoken with the architect about cost reduction ideas, which the NHC will share with the BOS in the near future for additional feedback.

The board and guests discussed the differences between the scope of work in the original RFP and the proposed additional work for a higher cost in the contract. All would like to discuss the numbers at a future point in time. Any additional costs spent on architectural services will cut into the funds in the Jacobs Farm Article accounts. Mr. Brown asked about bids received from other firms. All agreed that TBA was the first choice.

Mr. Ripley explained the pricing negotiations, and added that additional tasks were in the contract attachments. Questions were asked and answered about items included in the contract and whether each step is necessary. All discussed the issues in addressing the work that needs to be done on this historic municipal building and the scope and cost of the projects. The contract could be cancelled at a cost of 17K. Per Ms. Bawabe, there is a gap between the contract and the actual work being done. The board asked questions about the firm and invited thoughts about the scope and cost.

Mr. Nichols gave a status of the work that has been done by TBA; about 60% of the contract work has been completed. This discussion will be continued at a future BOS meeting after Mr. Ripley and Mr. Nichols attempt to resolve the scope and cost with TBA. Mr. McBride thanked everyone for coming in.

CERT Team/March Storms Debriefing

Ms. Demong updated the Board on the fire station storm debriefing which occurred in a previous week. Chief Reardon, Capt. Simpson, Mr. Ferguson, and Ms. Curtin were present and each gave feedback on the storms, utility companies and the approach to addressing problems which occurred. Reaching people was a primary issue. Mr. Brown acted as the voice of the Town to contact residents through social media. Mr. Morin was the point person updating residents on radio broadcasts. Future storm issues that will be addressed include:

1. Installing the new "code red", which will be a better communicator
2. Addressing the wifi issue at the police/fire station. Ms. Demong will contact Technology Committee Chair Gabriel Ben Yosef to address this issue. Verizon did not address this issue in a timely manner.
3. Capt. Simpson brought up the issue of understaffing for the frequency of the storms that occurred in March.
4. Food to feed the crews was an issue. The departments will need to set up eating and food preparation in shifts. Mr. Morin suggested asking Stop and Shop to open and the Town will buy from the deli (for example). This could be set up ahead of time.

Mr. Morin explained the proposed Deputy Fire Chief position issue for the board, noting that adding this position would be too expensive. The Fire Department has a captain structure, which leaves some holes in the staffing. The prohibitive cost of a Deputy Chief would have been equal to the entire cost of living raises for the current fiscal year. Mr. Brown and Mr. McBride suggested that departments utilize the 5 BOS members at the storm center in shifts. Ms. Demong suggested that the communicator should be an official CERT person. Discussion ensued about how residents respond to the communicator. Some of the decisions, such as the cancellation of school, are very tough calls. Social media is a good way to reach residents when there is no power and people are looking for answers.

Ms. Demong updated all on a new state initiative that provides support for vulnerability in a climate change program. Capt. Simpson is already participating in this municipal vulnerability preparedness grant program (MVPGP).

Adjournment

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Jason Brown, to adjourn at 8:07pm.
Unanimously voted*

Gregg McBride, Vice Chair