

**Norwell Select Board  
6-2-21  
Open Session – Remote meeting**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2021 JUN 21 AM 8:53

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Graham at 7:00pm. He announced that all votes will be roll call votes as the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting is being recorded and the audio file will be available on the Town website. Mr. Graham noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the agenda as written.  
Unanimously voted by roll call vote*

**BOS Reports and Announcements**

Ms. Allen complimented Dave Osborne on his great program to celebrate Memorial Day.

**Town Administrator**

Mr. Morin also congratulated Mr. Osborne for his well-organized Memorial Day ceremony. Mr. Osborne would like to establish a committee to plan future events to commemorate Veterans Day and Memorial Day. This will be on a future agenda for discussion.

COVID update: As of 6/15/21, Gov. Baker plans to lift the state of emergency order and reopen regular, in-person meeting status. A proposal to also allow zoom meetings till 9/1/21 has not been passed yet.

Per Harbor Media, remote participation to residents could be afforded via Zoom in addition to the regular cable broadcast. The smartboard in the Osborn Room could be used for the Zoom participant visual contact. Committees not meeting in the Osborn Room could have a laptop set up in their meeting room for remote access.

**Citizen Comments-None**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the Open Meeting minutes for 5/19/21. Unanimously voted by roll call vote*

**Medical Marijuana Host Agreement – Elevated Access**

- Town Counsel and the Town Administrator reviewed the draft agreement.
- Elevated Access accepted the proposed amendments, but board review of these changes was not feasible for this meeting.
- This is a 5 year host agreement that would provide the Town with 3% of the facility's gross sales. The format of the host agreement follows the recommendation by the Cannabis Control Board (CCC).
- This proposed revenue would be in addition to property taxes paid by Elevated Access. 3% of the gross sales is a favorable number.
- The real estate tax on \$1M would be approximately \$16K; 3% on \$1M in sales would be about \$30K.
- There is no designated purpose for the funds at this time; the plan is to wait until revenue is received.

Mr. Morin proposed that the board approve this agreement as recommended by the CCC. He will distribute the draft to the board tomorrow and ask the board to vote on it at their meeting on 6/16/21.

#### **Common Victualler Hearing for Pour II, 124 Washington Street -7:15pm**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to open the public hearing. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

Mr. Brown read the notice of public hearing as posted in the Patriot Ledger.

The board discussed this license at the prior meeting. Mr. Morin gave a brief recap of the purpose for this formal hearing, which is to officially approve the CV license for this location. No public comments were made. Pour II owner Michael Shesky thanked the board for permission to open the new location early before this public hearing.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to close the public hearing for the CV license for Pour II. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the CV license for Pour II, 124 Washington Street, Norwell, MA, expiring 12/31/21. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

#### **Jacobs Farmhouse Status Updates**

- The farm house project is ready to go out to bid. Ads have been submitted to the appropriate online bid sites. Final bids are due 6/30/21. Consultant Barbara Mello reviewed the bid requirements.
- Commercial construction starts are still down, so the hope is for this to work in the Town's favor.
- Ms. Mello thanked the board, NHC, Wendy Bawabe, HNE, MHC and Facilities Manager Ted Nichols for their assistance with this many faceted project.

The easement for the west barn to be approved and signed by the board allows Cross Street Flower Farm to install removable light fixtures for better work conditions. The NHC unanimously approved this easement at a prior meeting.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the easement for removable light fixtures in the west barn for Cross Street Flower Farm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*

The easement application has been forwarded to Historic New England (HNE).

#### **Fire Chief Position Discussion: Hiring Process/Appointment of Acting Chief**

Mr. Morin gave a brief overview of the hiring process used for the new police chief and the reasons that a search committee was needed. He recommended that the board approve the appointment of Acting Fire Chief Kean to Fire Chief, giving reasons to support this action. The department has run seamlessly with Chief Kean at the helm. He is extremely well qualified for the job and has demonstrated his readiness to serve as the permanent chief.

Board members response:

- Mr. Brown: Stated that he is fine with either a search for the position or appointment of Chief Kean. He is a supporter of Chief Kean and considers him very competent. An internal candidate is preferred. However, having gone through the police chief search process, it was enormously helpful to gain external perspective, which helped to confirm the final choice. The process and results were excellent.  
Fire Chief Simpson left abruptly through no fault of Ret. Chief Reardon. His departure was shocking. Mr. Brown speculated that without going through the vetting process, this position will become an entitled position if Chief Kean is appointed (although he would still be the top choice). There was a feeling of entitlement exhibited by Chief Simpson that should not be repeated. He would like Chief Kean to feel that he has earned this position.

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- Mr. Reardon: Will not be voting because he retired from this position 10 months ago. As the previous chief and colleague of Chief Kean, there is not a better qualified person to serve. There is a lot of support for him as seen by the number of colleagues joining the meeting. Chief Kean has initiated cost savings measures in the department that have saved the Town thousands of dollars. He is an accomplished firefighter and chief with the ability to lead people in rather unique situations. He is also an accomplished and credentialed mariner. In Mr. Reardon's role as instructor at the Fire Academy and consulting work he sees many candidates. In his opinion it would be hard to find a better suited candidate. It would be foolhardy to waste money and look elsewhere. He opined that Chief Kean has no interest in working anywhere else until retirement.
- Ms. Allen: Mr. Reardon was the top level person at the Fire Academy and has seen many candidates for this position. She is wholeheartedly in support of appointing Chief Kean as the permanent fire chief. He will do the job well. Per union president Sean Ford, there is a large amount of support for Chief Kean in the department. Teamwork is key and this will go smoothly.
- Pete Smellie: Has met and is very impressed with Chief Kean, who has continued Chief Simpson's department plan and vision. He fully supports the appointment.
- Mr. Graham: Wanted to table the appointment for two weeks as he was not able to make some calls to obtain additional feedback.
- Mr. Morin noted that it is within the board's discretion to vote to appoint the Interim Chief or conduct a search for the position. He respectfully asked that the board vote this evening on a course of action.
- Mr. Reardon, as noted above and as advised by Town Counsel, will not vote.

*Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to appoint David Kean as permanent Fire Chief, subject to the successful negotiation of a contract with the Town of Norwell. Brown voting yes, Allen voting yes, Graham voting yes, Smellie voting yes, Reardon abstaining. Motion carried.*

All offer congratulations to Chief Kean, who thanked the board and looks forward to working with Mr. Morin and the board. He stated that the Town of Norwell will be at the forefront of what is coming after the pandemic. He will work every day to make sure that Mr. Brown knows he is aware that he has earned this job.

#### **Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to adjourn at 7:47pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.*




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**Bruce Graham, Chair**

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OFFICE OF TOWN COUNSEL