

**Norwell Select Board
12-1-21
Open Session Minutes**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2021 DEC 16 AM 9:08

Present: Ellen Allen, Andy Reardon, Pete Smellie, Bruce Graham, Peter Morin

Absent: Jason Brown

Present: Town Counsel Bob Galvin

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Approval of Agenda

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the amended agenda – inviting the Police Department to speak first. Unanimously voted

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The approval of the 11-17-21 Executive and Open Session minutes was postponed to the 12-15-21 meeting.

BOS Reports and Announcements

Norwell Police Department members Sgt. Daniel Dooley and Det. Kayla Puricelli were present at the meeting to receive the congratulations of the board for their excellent work on the Derek Sheehan case. Chief Lee read a prepared statement about the felon, who received a federal prison sentence of 45 years for sexual abuse of three boys. Sgt. Dooley and Det. Puricelli were instrumental in bringing about this conviction. The successful conclusion of the case could not have happened without their persistence and hard work, which was difficult and emotionally taxing. Many members of the police department were present to support and congratulate their colleagues.

Mr. Graham offered sincere congratulations and thanks to the two officers for their outstanding work. Mr. Morin cited their hard work; first “on the ground”, then developing a relationship with the survivors which was instrumental in the progression of the case to trial. He went on to say that Sgt. Dooley and Det. Puricelli deserve a lot of credit, especially when collaborating with the district attorney’s office. He added that this type of case makes an emotional demand on those involved.

Sgt. Dooley commended the collaborative effort of all who worked on this case. He added that most important were the survivors, noting also that the toll on the community was very hard.

The board and members of the audience gave the two officers a standing ovation.

Citizen Comments

- Mr. Graham read a prepared statement about the Wildcat property Town Meeting Article, Mr. Carroll’s reactions made to the board decisions and votes since Town Meeting, and Mr. Carroll’s comments about Ms. Allen. *A transcript of Mr. Graham’s remarks is attached to the meeting minutes.*
- Vin Bucca, 238 Main Street, read his letter to the board opining on the need for a forest management program in the Town.
- Alison Demong, 46 Cedar Point, read a statement in support of Ellen Allen. *A copy of this statement is attached to the minutes.*

Ellen Allen thanked Mr. Graham and all who attended the meeting in support of her. She expressed sadness over the current situation, adding her hope that things will improve in the future.

Town Administrator

Mr. Morin reported that the Town received a Community Compact grant in the amount of \$65K. He thanked Darleen Sullivan for her hard work to apply and submit the additional paperwork for the grant. This grant will allow paperless record storage and a destruction schedule for the huge amount of surplus paper copies now stored on Town property. The Town has applied for similar grants in the past with no success, so this is a win/win!

Board of Assessors: Annual tax rate hearing

Present: Board of Assessors (BOA): Mary Horowitz-Chair, Mary Granville-Vice Chair, Ted Dawe-Clerk

Meredith Rafiki – Principal Assessor, Dawnelle Margro – Assistant to the Principal Assessor

The BOA joined the Select Board to present the calculation of the 2022 tax rate. Ms. Horowitz introduced Principal Assessor Meredith Rafiki, who gave the presentation (attached to these minutes).

Discussion ensued about choices for the adoption of the 2022 rate(s), after which the following votes were taken by the board.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Pete Smellie, not to adopt an open space discount. Unanimously voted

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Pete Smellie, not to adopt a residential exemption. Unanimously voted

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Pete Smellie, to adopt a small commercial exemption. Unanimously voted no. Motion failed to pass.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Pete Smellie, to adopt a residential factor of 1 that results in a single tax rate of \$16.62 for 2022. Unanimously voted

Further discussion ensued about shifting the tax rate, resulting in no change of the above votes. Mr. Morin thanked the BOA for their hard work and excellent customer service.

2022 License Renewals

The attached list of Norwell businesses renewed their licenses for 2022.

Motion; made by Pete Smellie, seconded by Andy Reardon, to renew each license category as follow for the period 1-1-22 to 12-31-22:

Retail Package Store-All Alcohol, Retail Package Store-Wines & Malt, Common Victualler – All Alcohol, Common Victualler-Wines & Malt, Amusement (Weekdays), Amusement (Sundays), Common Victualler, Motor Vehicles-Class I, Motor Vehicles-Class II.

Unanimously voted

The 3 motel licenses will be renewed at the meeting on December 15th.

Athletic Fields Committee Appointment

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Pete Smellie, to appoint Caroline Corbin as an At Large member of the Athletic Fields Committee for a term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Approval – Deputy Police Chief Contract

Mr. Graham reported that the board discussed the details of this contract in Executive Session. It is a 3 year contract, retroactive to 10/6/21, expiring on 6/30/24.

Mr. Morin met with DC McDevitt a few times to discuss the terms of the contract, and Police Chief Lee is comfortable with it.

Motion; made by Pete Smellie, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the Deputy Police Chief contract for John McDevitt with one typo correction. Unanimously voted

Agenda item e) will be postponed until all board members are present for the discussion.

Future Meeting Agendas

All discussed the upcoming meeting on December 15th and other agenda items.

Ms. Allen will draft a 3 sentence policy stating that any board member and the Town Administrator can suggest an agenda item.

Adjourn

Motion; made by Pete Smellie, seconded by Andy Reardon, to adjourn at 8:40pm. Unanimously voted.



Bruce W. Graham, Chair