

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES – January 23, 2017**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Pantazis, Chairman  
Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman  
Jeff Amberson, Clerk  
Leslie Rutan  
Jason Perreault

\*Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 12, 2016 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2016 regular meeting as submitted; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 15, 2016 JOINT MEETING**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the December 15, 2016 special joint meeting as submitted; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:00 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING**

Renaming of the following streets:

- Whitney Avenue to Whitney Street
- A portion of Whitney Street to Berlin Road.

Town Planner Kathy Joubert informed the Board that a portion of Whitney Street and the entire length of Whitney Avenue are routinely confused with each other and historically, businesses located on Whitney Avenue have used a Whitney Street address.

The Fire Chief, Police Chief, Principal Assessor, Building Inspector, Town Planner and the Northborough Postmaster recently met to review these street names. All recommend that Whitney Avenue be renamed Whitney Street as it is a natural continuation of Whitney Street and further that the left fork of Whitney Street be renamed Berlin Road.

Ms. Joubert indicated that there are not any businesses located on the existing portion of Whitney Street that will be affected. The existing businesses on Whitney Avenue are already using a Whitney Street address.

Following her presentation, Ms. Joubert indicated that all abutters have been notified of tonight's public hearing and a legal ad was placed in the Telegram & Gazette. No abutters were present in the audience. She added that she met with the Historic District Commission, and all are in favor of the proposed street name changes.

**PUBLIC HEARING CONT. . .**

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the following street name changes:

- Whitney Avenue to be renamed Whitney Street.
- Beginning at the left fork of Whitney Street to be renamed Berlin Road.

Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**REPORTS**Jason Perreault

- Attended the recent informational meeting where the Financial Trend Monitoring System Report and Five-Year Financial Projections were presented. Thanked Mr. Coderre for his comprehensive presentation.

Leslie Rutan

- Noted a recent motor vehicle accident involving a telephone pole on Church Street near Colby Street. Requested that Chief Lyver investigate how many accidents have occurred involving this particular telephone pole.
- Requested an update on the synchronization of the downtown traffic lights. DPW Director Scott Charpentier responded that the lights have been re-synchronized. Mass Highway is scheduled to come back and check that everything continues to run smoothly.
- Thanked the DPW Department for their efforts during the recent storm.
- Pleased to see that the traffic lights are in use at Northborough Crossing.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their service involving a significant house fire. Thanked the Fire Departments from Westborough and Shrewsbury for their mutual aid.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Echoed the sentiment expressed by Selectman Amberson regarding the recent house fire. Has heard nothing but positive feedback regarding the efforts of the Fire and Police Departments.
- Noted that the Interview Committee met with applicants for the Cultural Council and the Zoning Board of Appeals. See below for appointment.

William Pantazis, Chairman

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- No report.

**CULTURAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENT**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to appoint Bich-Ngan Nguyen to the Cultural Council for a three-year term to expire on January 31, 2020; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE FIRE STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Coderre reminded the Board that the next Capital Improvement Project will begin with a feasibility study for the addition/renovation of the Fire Station. A Fire Station Feasibility Study Committee (FSFSC) was created and will consist of one member each from the Board of Selectmen, Appropriations Committee and Financial Planning Committee, as well as the Fire Chief, Town Administrator, a Firefighter and two citizens at-large. A press release seeking interested citizens to serve on the FSFSC was issued on December 21, 2016.

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that the following persons will be appointed to the FSFSC: Fire Chief David Parenti, Firefighter Jamie Desaultels, Selectman Dawn Rand, Financial Planning Committee member Richard Smith, Appropriations Committee Chair Elaine Kelly and Mitch Cohen will serve as the citizen-at-large.

Mr. Coderre indicated that the FSFSC will begin to meet in late March or early April with the goal of making a recommendation on the next steps at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the Town Administrator's appointments to the Fire Station Feasibility Study Committee as presented; Selectman Perreault seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**UPDATE ON FY2017 STATE AID**

Mr. Coderre reported on Governor Baker's address at the MMA Annual Meeting and Tradeshow. Governor Baker pledged to increase Unrestricted General Government State Aid (primarily lottery funds) by \$41,827 or 3.9%. The impact on Northborough will be minimal since the majority of Northborough's aid comes in the form of Chapter 70 School funding.

Mr. Coderre added that Chapter 70 School Aid is more complicated because a 2% statewide increase does not necessarily translate into a 2% increase for Northborough, as the funding flows through a formula that favors poorer districts. The Governor did state that funding would increase by \$20 per pupil for all districts, which could mean approximately \$35,000 more aid based on K-8 enrollment figures. In total, State Aid could go up by approximately \$77,000 under the Governor's proposed budget; however, we need to wait and see the details. We also need to see if state assessments increase, which could easily off-set any increase in aid.

**UPDATE ON FY2017 STATE AID CONT. . .**

As a point of reference, Mr. Coderre indicated that the FY2018 budget model assumes a 1% increase in State Aid, which is approximately \$51,000 on a \$5,135,689 account. The Governor’s budget as described at the MMA Conference could mean an increase of approximately \$77,000, or \$26,000 more than our model. Mr. Coderre added that a \$26,000 increase on a \$5.1 million account isn’t going to make a material difference in our budget model, but it is encouraging to see that it isn’t less, given the projected FY2017 revenue shortfalls at the State level.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Coderre for the update.

**EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS**

Selectman Perreault moved the Board vote to execute Cemetery Deeds 1012, 1013, 1014 & 1015; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**7:30 p.m. - EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3 (collective bargaining and litigation) due to the Chair’s determination that a discussion regarding these matters in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Board; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion, the roll call vote was taken as follows.

Perreault	“aye”	Rand	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”	Pantazis	“aye”
Amberson	“aye”		

Chairman Pantazis announced that the Board would return from Executive Session only to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. January 23, 2017 Meeting Agenda.
2. December 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes.
3. December 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes.
4. Information packet – Renaming of Streets.
5. Information packet – Fire Station Feasibility Study Committee.
6. Information packet – Update on State Aid.
7. Cemetery Deeds.