

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2014**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting at 7:30PM and introduced Jason Brown, Gregg McBride, David DeCoste, Tammie Garner and Town Administrator Jim Boudreau.

Ellen explained that at the 7:00 portion of the Open Meeting the Board amended agenda and approved the following:

Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the 2/26/13 Executive Session minutes. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Motion by Mr. Brown to authorize the Town Administrator to execute grant documents and contracts for the Town for the Mass Historic Commission Grant. Seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the execution and recordation of a Preservation Restriction in a form satisfactory to Mass Historical Commission, Historic New England and Norwell Town Counsel for the Jacobs Farm House. Seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the expenditure of \$6,225 from the Jacobs Farm Income Fund towards the roofing project at Jacobs Farmhouse. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Mr. Brown announced the addition of Collective Bargaining and Town Administrator's Contract to the Executive Agenda. *Motion by Mr. Brown, seconded and unanimously voted.*

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Committee – Budget – see attached submittal. Lynn Rose, Chair of the Cemetery Committee spoke as to the need for additional funds for the stipend for the Chair of the Cemetery Committee. She outlined several large projects and other time consuming matters that are before the Committee.

Mr. Boudreau explained that this would be a major change in the way that the Town operates. The Cemetery Committee is the only committee, board or commission in Town that receives any stipend for doing work for the Town. He was not comfortable with recommending that type of major policy change. His recommendation is to agree to the additional request for clerical assistance in the Highway Office, provided that position is also used to give clerical support to the Cemetery Committee. The Board will take the matter under advisement.

The Board took Old Business #3, 4 & 5 out of order.

The Silent Chef One Day License Request – April 27, 2014 – *MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board approve a request from The Silent Chef for a one day license to sell Wine & Malt Only for the Otto Family 25th Anniversary Party at the Cushing Center on April 27, 2014 between the hours of 5:30PM to 9:30PM. Seconded and unanimously voted (Mrs. Garner abstained).*

One Day License Requests from Norwell High School Boosters – March 20, 2014 –

MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board approve a request from Norwell High School Boosters Foundation for a one day license to serve Malt Only for the Men's Night Out held at the St. Helens Parish Hall on Washington Street, Norwell on March 20, 2014 between the hours of 6:00PM and 10:00PM. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Car Wash Request from the Vinal School 5th Grade – May 3, 2014 – Water Superintendent John McInnis has approved the request. *MOTION: Mr. Brown moved that the Board approve the request from the Vinal School 5th grade to hold a car wash at the Town Hall on May 3, 2014 from 1pm to 4pm. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

7:50 – Athletic Field Committee Article – Glenn Ferguson, the Chair of the Athletic Field Committee addressed the Board on the field construction at the High School. The project has been on hold for the past couple of months due to weather. The project is still on schedule.

There is a new problem that the electrical system needs to be upgraded. In 1998, a cell tower was erected in the rear of the school property and lights were installed at the Football Field. At the time the cell tower was erected there was only one co-location on the pole. There are currently 5. In addition, the poles bringing the power to the site have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Committee has a price from NGrid to replace the poles, upgrade the power system and trim the right of way. Estimated cost of \$74,000. There is an additional \$30,000 allowance for a Verizon line that will also have to be relocated.

To date, the Committee has spent \$20,000 for unforeseen conditions in the installation of light poles, some changes to the water lines (\$10,000) and the installation of netting (\$25,000). With NGrid and Verizon costs, these use \$155,000 from contingency and leave about \$25,000.

Motion by Mr. Brown to have the Board co-sponsor the Fields Committee request for an article for \$50,000 to complete the Clipper Community Complex. Seconded and unanimously voted. Ellen Allen said that the School Committee should be asked to co-sponsor the article, as well, since it will replace poles on school property that would otherwise need to be done anyway.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Liaison Updates: Energy Committee is working with the Planning Board on the solar installation by law update. CPC is voting articles tomorrow night. Mrs. Allen is not optimistic that they will support the Cushing Center parking lot/exterior of property article.

Senior Tax Work Off Program – The Assessors presented their recommended slight changes to the Senior Work Program. Technical in nature. Have voted to support the move the tax relief from \$750 to \$1000 and have released \$45,000 in Overlay Surplus only if the Board adopts a proposed means test that would seniors with financial need, as defined, if there were more applicants than positions/funding. All five board members support having a Sr. Tax Work-Off Program and the proposed increase from \$750 to \$1000. Mr. DeCoste is opposed to the means test. Mrs. Garner supports the program and means testing. Mr. Brown opposes the means test. Does not believe in means testing. Mr. McBride supports the means test. Mrs. Allen also supports the means test. *Motion by Mrs. Garner to adopt the Senior Tax work off program and administrative procedures. Seconded by Mr. McBride. Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Garner and Mr. McBride – yes. Mr. DeCoste and Mr. Brown – no.*

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Childs, Human Resources Director, and Jane Stout, Personnel Board presented articles for Town Meeting that are being proposed by the Personnel Board:

Change of Grade for Water Superintendent – Mrs. Childs presented data to the Board on the salary upgrade request for the Water Superintendent. Last upgraded in 2007. PB had to look at the position, not the person. What would happen if they had to hire a new Superintendent tomorrow? What would we pay? *Motion by Mr. Brown that the Board approve the upgrade of the Water Superintendent from Grade 16 Step 6 to Grade 17 Step 5. Seconded, voted 4-1 (Mr. DeCoste opposed).*

Council On Aging Van Driver – Personnel plan does not address long term, variable hour employee. Employee does not currently get a step increase but did get a Grade increase in 2007. Looking to pay this driver at Step 6, the same as the other drivers. *Motion by Mr. Brown to approve a step increase for the COA van driver from a Grade 6 Step 1, to Grade 6 step 3. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

Assistant to the Town Administrator – position moving from a Grade 9 to a Grade 11. Employee has been with the Town since 1992. Employee was last upgraded in 2008 when job was changed to recognize loss of Assistant Town Administrator. Position was compared to union positions in the Town, other Towns and the School Department. *Mr. Brown moved that the Board approve the change in grade for the Assistant to the Town Administrator from Grade 9 to Grade 11 Step 4.*

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Cemetery Discussion and Highway Surveyor for next week. Also American Legion if they want to come in.

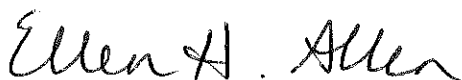
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Town Reports are overdue.
- Letter of thanks from Cohasset Selectmen for Norwell's help with a fire in Cohasset.
- Bond sale was Tuesday, we will be awarding the bids next week.
- Have hired a cable person to enhance our Cable TV

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Land Acquisition and TA Contract

Motion by Mr. Brown to enter into executive session to discuss the TA contract, collective bargaining and a land purchase. Seconded. To discuss this in open session could be detrimental to the Town's interests. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Chairman Ellen Allen explained that to discuss this in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigating position. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Jason Brown voted yes, Gregg McBride voted yes, David DeCoste voted yes, Tammie Garner voted yes and Ellen Allen voted yes.



Board of Selectmen