

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2014**

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

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None

**7:35 Ted Ross – Police Station Going Dark** – Chief Ted Ross highlighted the negative public safety impact of having the Police Station going dark. Unpredictability of police work and police and medical emergencies require staffing the Police Station 24/7 and a closed station sends a message to the public that the station is not adequately staffed, erodes basic confidence in our ability to protect and serve, and will affect the morale of police officers. Going dark decreases patrol with fewer officers on the street and will increase response times. Safety of the Public: when anyone comes to the police station for an emergency, they are expecting someone will be there to recognize the need and call for assistance immediately. A camera will not help someone in that type of situation. A Camera will not help someone that comes to the station with a medical need and cannot get out of the car; this has happened and will probably happen again. Having a Police Officer handle administrative tasks vs. the Clerks means fewer officers on the Streets resulting in longer response times and less traffic enforcement for Public Safety. Court Ordered Custody Issues: Families have court ordered child visitation swaps taking place at the Police Station due to volatile relationships. Vacant building does not provide level of safety or security to these families. Distress Alarms: New Station has distress alarms located in the cell area, sally port and all conference rooms. Clerks will monitor alarms and will be able to summon additional help if an Officer is in distress while dealing with a combative subject. Prisoner Watch: MGL dictates prisoners cannot be left alone in vacant buildings and must be monitored by a person specially trained in suicide prevention, first aid and CPR. Closing the Police Station would be vulnerable to vandalism, break-ins and theft when unmanned. Professional thieves utilize team-surveillance police scanners, two-way radios to peruse calls and other tactics to perpetrate their crimes. Continuity of Evidence: Police Station houses numerous pieces of evidence from minor crimes to sexual assaults, bank robberies and bomb cases that are open and awaiting criminal prosecution. Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS): Computer is the PD link to all other Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. By law, the CJIS terminal has to be manned by a person 24/7 allowing: entering stolen items into NCIC, print warrants, receive police info, review restraining orders, send messages to Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, process prisoners, enter warrants, view RMV files, send BOLO's, query criminal records, enter missing persons, check Sex Offender Registry. If Department were not staffed, we would not be in compliance with the FBI/CJIS User Agreement and Security Policy and would lose an "Entering Agency" status, resulting in officers having to bring all paperwork to the SSRECC in Hingham. Safe Haven Law: MGL 119, Section 39 ½. We are a designated "safe haven" under this law. Questions/thoughts received from residents: suggested using the State Police barracks for prisoners, should look at cost savings that were promised when the regional dispatch was justified to the Advisory Board. Station began all night staffing approx. 35 years ago. Ellen Allen said that the current Board of Selectmen had not been involved in the regional dispatch decision and therefore made no promises. Jason would like numbers on what it would be like going dark to begin discussions.

Officer Scott Keane, President of the Norwell Police Association – Stands in support of the Chief and does not support going dark any time of day or night.

Officer John Carnes – No rhyme or reason when we are busy or what we are facing, it changes so you can't pinpoint a particular day. The Clerks do more than just man the station, they support the Officers for checking information while the Officer is on patrol, and dispatch does not support with this kind of back-up information. Police Stations call other Stations for a quick check on a person of question, a common practice.

**8:00 Public Hearing - Change of Manger, Not Your Average Joes, 111 Pond Street**

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board open the Public Hearing for the Change of Manager for Not Your Average Joes 111 Pond Street. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

David DeCoste read the legal notice into the record.

Leandro Mattos explained that he has been selected as the new Manager of the restaurant and seeks approval for this from the Board.

No Public Comments.

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the petition for the Change of Manager for Not Your Average Joes from Michael O'Brien to Leandro Mattos. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board close the Public Hearing. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

**EDC Membership and Mission** - The Board decided to ask the EDC to focus its efforts for developing commercial tax revenues to the Accord Park and Queen Anne's Corner business districts since these do not abut residences and would not add traffic to residential streets. Tammie Garner also requested that they focus on Town Center.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Car Wash Request Norwell High School Student Government – October 11, 2014** – Water Superintendent John McInnis has approved the request. *MOTION was made to approve the request to use the Town Hall parking lot for a Car Wash on Saturday, October 11, 2014 between 10AM to 1PM. Seconded and unanimously approved.*

**CPC Application for Main Street Pathwalks** – Jim Boudreau had provided a draft application that the Board decided to submit.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Pilgrim's Cattails Harvest will be Monday at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and Wed/Thurs at 11:00 a.m. at Stetson Meadows.

**ADJOURNMENT** – *Motion was made to adjourn. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

  
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Board of Selectmen