

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2015**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting and introduced Jason Brown, Gregg McBride, David DeCoste, Tammie Garner and Interim Town Administrator Peter Hechenbleikner. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.*

**REPORTS**

**a) Citizen Comments** – None

**b) Selectmen's Reports and Announcements-**

Chair Ellen Allen gave an overview of the MMA meeting, noting the filing of a balanced budget by the governor, which includes a \$52,000 increase for Norwell on the Cherry Sheet. The Retired Teachers Pension Funding was reduced by \$20,000, which is good news. The MMA is advocating for FEMA money to help underwrite 15% of the winter storms' costs. There is concern regarding the tax exempt status for municipal bonds, and therefore it may be better to consider borrowing now rather than later.

**c) Town Administrator Report** –

Neil Connolly, Sr., former police officer in Norwell for 30 years, passed away on February 22. The Police Department is taking part in the funeral arrangements.

Two roofs collapsed in town; one barn and one garage. Everyone involved is OK, and both incidents were weather-related.

Next week's BOS meeting agenda is light, but the public hearing for Clapp Brook Road is scheduled. A decision whether or not to have a meeting will be made next week.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (may be discussed out of order)**

**a/b) Review Overlay Surplus with Board of Assessors**

\$500,000 will be released as surplus to be used for Capital Expenditures. Per Ms. Allen, this will not adversely affect the town, though the amount released is usually less than this. The proposed amount and methodology re: the Senior Work program were discussed, and the handout reviewed. (attached) There are more applications than available slots. Ms. Gingras was asked if more funding could be released. Answer; yes.

The BOA voted to bring the amount up by \$50,000 for 2016 (note: last year \$1100 went back to Free Cash because one participant did not complete the required hours)

The pros and cons of the number of work slots vs. applicants were discussed. Per Pete Hechenbleikner, one option would be to revisit this issue in the fall and reallocate enough funding to accommodate all applicants. This discussion should take place between the BOS and BOA. A small Medicare amount is incurred by the Town, and the checks are cut by the Treasurer's office and given to Ms. Gingras when the hours are completed (it offsets Real Estate taxes). More discussion ensued regarding ability to include all who wish to participate in this program, and various options were discussed. For now, this will be handled by the BOA, and will be revisited and tweaked in September as needed. The BOA heartily endorsed this program. Ms. Gingras explained the lottery. BOS members commented that the program should be reviewed if there are not enough good jobs for all applicants.

**c) Summerfest**

Kera Kirchner and Kristen Jervey gave an overview of the plans for this event. They have met with all departments, including Police and Fire. The map of the event was reviewed as well as the proposed Police and Fire work details. Parking details and the timetable were

also reviewed. Various other details of the amenities for the event were discussed, and the event will take place rain or shine. All businesses in the town center have been contacted. To date, \$21,000 has been raised, with \$15,000 to go. Road closure letters are done, and Tim Fitzgerald will be contacted re: street banners.

**d) Approval of Personal Service Contracts**

1. Police Chief and Deputy Police Chief contracts are completed.
2. Finance Director and Town Accountant - per Mr. Hechenbleikner, this position should be appointed for 3-5 yrs. There is a salary increase of 2-2 ½ %, a stipend for maintenance of her CMA credential, a one-time vacation buy-back of the total amount, 2 weeks of vacation mandatory each year, with a maximum carryover of 2 weeks.  
*Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, to approve the personal contract of the Finance Director/Town Accountant. Unanimous approval.*
3. Fire Chief – there is a reset of the compensation package of more than 8% in order to bring it in line with surrounding communities, provision to buy back 2 weeks of vacation allowed one time, vacation carryover maximum of 5 days, insurance participation opt out if desired. Mr. DeCoste will vote against this contract approval due to the large salary increase.  
*Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, to approve the personal contract between the Town and the Fire Chief. Vote; 4 for, 1 against (Mr. DeCoste)*  
*Motion carried.*
4. Deputy Police Chief –there is a reset of the compensation package, and 2-3% raise the following two years, vacation increase to 25 days, decrease of personal days from 3 to 1, vacation buyback, health insurance opt out if desired.  
*Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, to approve the personal contract for the Deputy Police Chief, Vote; 4 for, 1 against (Mr. DeCoste)*
5. Police Chief - There is a salary reset for the Police Chief this year, then an increase of 2% next year, with a vacation buyback at 2015 vacation rates.  
*Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste: to approve the personal contract for the Police Chief, Vote; 4 for ,1 against (Mr. DeCoste)*

**e) Mass Bay Road Club Bike Race Request –July 12, 2015**

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved to approve the request from Mass Bay Road Club for a Bike Race to be held in Norwell using Circuit Street and Forest Street on Sunday July 12, 2015, providing the event organizers contact the Norwell Police Department Deputy Chief Carol Brzuszek to coordinate traffic police details which are required and to review the parking plan. In addition the Fire Chief is requesting the organizer hire a Fire/EMS detail for the duration of the event and would like to receive a copy of their communications plan. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**f) The Silent Chef One Day License Request 7/18/15**

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board approve a request from The Silent Chef for a one day license to sell All Alcohol for Ferguson Wedding Reception at the Cushing Center on 7/18/15 between the hours of 5:30pm to 10:30pm. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**g) Bartending Service of New England One Day License Request – 3/11/15**

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board approve a request from Bartending Service of New England, LLC for a one day license to sell Wines and Malt only for Networking Event held at the Friendship Home on 3/11/15 between the hours of 6 and 8pm. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

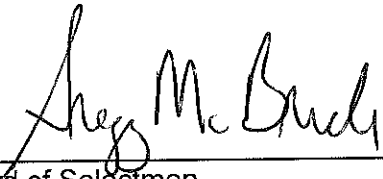
**h) One Day License Request from Norwell High School Boosters – 3/19/15**

*MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board approve a request from Norwell High School Boosters Foundation for a one day license to serve Wines and Malt only for the Men's Night Out held at the St. Helens Parish Hall on Washington Street, Norwell on March 19, 2015 between the hours of 6:00PM and 10:00PM. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**Reminder – Town Annual Reports are due.** The printing of the Annual Reports will be significantly fewer annual reports will be printed this year to reduce costs by \$3000. The report will be available online.

The Firefighters Union fundraising campaign will take place between March 2 and April 10, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 8:55pm Motion, made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, was made to adjourn. Unanimously voted.



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Board of Selectmen

Attachments:

1. BOA Overlay Surplus handout

Followup Items:

1. Revisit the Senior Work Program topic in September

