

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2015**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting and introduced Jason Brown, Gregg McBride, David DeCoste, Tammie Garner and Interim Town Administrator Peter Hechenbleikner.

3. Approval of Agenda: *MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.*

4. REPORTS

a. CITIZEN COMMENTS- None

b. Selectmen's Reports and Announcements –

Town Administrator Search: the Collins Center received 18+ resumes, and forwarded those reviewed and selected to the Screening Committee. All Screening Committee work is done in Executive Session due to the sensitive nature of job applications with regard to current employers. The committee is allowing two weeks for candidate selections, with finalist interviews by April 18th.

Ms. Allen is proud to announce her selection to the Governor's Advisory Commission, in part due to her work on the MMA.

Quick Pik is currently serving their liquor license suspension for a series of weekends. As a result of this action, the MA State Lottery Commission may suspend their lottery license. There have been no violations of this particular license.

Mr. DeCoste stated that there is a proposal from the DOT to put toll lanes on Route 3. An information session will be held on March 26th. Meeting details may be obtained from Lynda Allen. (see attached). The Town Planner will try to attend.

c. Town Administrator's Report

The proposed library/Town Hall project will be postponed for a year, due to the cycle of the State Grants program. The committee will give a brief report at the Annual Town Meeting.

Materials 4c(9-15) went to the Advisory Board – Terms for Personal Contracts (attached)

d. Upcoming Meetings

Next week's BOS meeting will include the following agenda items from 7-8pm; Pathways Committee and Planning Board, Main St. Pathway, some Planning Board Articles for Town Meeting, and the Complete Streets Program. It is the last meeting before the Warrant goes to the printer.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. Ride for Habitat Bike Race Request, June 13, 2015 *Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, to approve the Habitat Bike Race request. Unanimously voted, with provisions to comply with requests from Police Chief Ted Ross and Fire Chief Andy Reardon.*

b. Easter Egg Hunt, New Hope Chapel, April 5, 10am-12pm *Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, to approve the Easter Egg Hunt requested by New Hope Chapel. Unanimously voted.*

c. Budget and Warrant – will be discussed out of agenda order

d. Articles 32 and 33 – will be discussed out of agenda order

e. CPC Pathwalks –

The BOS discussed this project at length, with updates from Town Counsel Bob Galvin, who contacted DOT attorney Kathleen Colleary. Mr. Galvin sent a copy of the Pathwalk CPA funding application to her for review. Ms. Allen read Mr. Galvin's email detailing his conversation with her regarding this project, and stated that he believes this is an eligible application. The CPC will vote whether to support this project or not at their March 26th meeting. Per Mr. Galvin, there is no definitive opinion from the DOT. (at this point, the audio portion of the meeting is not loud enough to transcribe the remarks by Mr. DeCoste during a discussion of the legality of this project). Mr. Hechenbleikner stated that any town resident would have the power to challenge a project. No one has challenged the CPC South Street sidewalk project to date.

Mr. DeCoste will obtain information on a similar project issue in the town of Newton. Unless an injunction is issued, the Town has the ability to move forward with the project. Town Counsel will be issuing a formal opinion on this project.

c. Budget and Warrant

Ms. Hechenbleikner walked the board through the budget, and gave an overview of the evolution of the budget since Jim Boudreau left. (Budget spreadsheet is attached) Mr. Hechenbleikner highlighted specific line items such as snow removal. A breakdown of the Capital Special Articles was reviewed, as well as other areas of interest. The necessity of a generator for Town Hall was discussed, with both Mr. Hechenbleikner and Ms. Allen listing a number of important town functions that can't be performed without power.

A work vehicle for Paul Foulsham's daily use in lieu of a mileage stipend was discussed, as well as replacement of the salt shed.

A new fire truck has been requested. Chief Reardon stated that the \$500,000 request in the Article is a maximum amount, and he is hoping to receive trade-in value from two older trucks. Competitive bids have already been published, so the town may see a more competitive price. Chief Reardon was unable to determine the salvage value of the two trucks to be traded in due to the fact that any of their usable equipment will not be sold with the trucks, which will affect their trade in value. (some audio issues at this point)

Budget discussion and overview continued for upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Hechenbleikner discussed updates to the budget line items presentation (some line items have moved to different categories for ease of budget review and understanding, but amounts remain constant or comparable) The Cushing Center budget review noted that earlier rental vacancies caused revenue to be lower than projected expenses, but the building is now at full occupancy. The AB has reviewed and enthusiastically approved the new budget format. Mr. Hechenbleikner reviewed and discussed specific budget line items for the Police and Fire/Emergency Departments. Ms. Allen would like to ask the AB to reconsider and support the "Reverse 911" service, which has multiple benefits to town residents. Better recognition of Building Department expenses is needed, with a budget increase to more accurately reflect actual department costs rather than a Reserve Fund transfer. Weights and Measures fee structure should be reviewed and upgraded by the BOS. The snow and ice budget was reviewed and discussed.

Streetlighting – The solar program has contributed to significant energy cost savings due to the solar credit, with 17 years left in the program.

Tree and Grounds – Out of pocket expenses, specifically the Cemetery Maintenance amount, should be discussed going forward, especially with the new cemetery under construction. Solid waste disposal has been increased due to the change in Rubbish removal contractor. A new short term contract (one year) will be negotiated. The large budget increase clearly supports better recycling and/or Pay As You Throw.

Library budget – increases to cover extended (Sunday) hours and other expense items to keep eligibility for state aid.

Debt for upcoming projects (Road repair on Main St.) and debt retirement/service were discussed.

Insurance policy costs and management were discussed, as well as cost saving measures.

Warrant Review

Articles 31 and 32 – Secret ballot Article – AB asked Marie Molla to approach BOS on this topic. 31 BOS Version – secret ballot proposal; to allow vote by written ballot if an Article needs a 2/3 vote or deals with sensitive issues.

Citizen Petition – Moderator may call for a secret ballot at his discretion

Ms. Molla gave her overview on this petition. It would be a temporary “fix” until electronic balloting is in place

BOS discussed these two Articles.

Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by David DeCoste, to amend BOS Article 31 to read: “...on any Article where persons entitled to vote at Town Meeting may be influenced in their vote by reason of public nature with a voice or standing vote, the moderator may, upon motion approved by Town Meeting, require a vote of written ballot.” Unanimous approval

Special Town Meeting Warrant Review

Articles were discussed and Ms. Allen asked for questions.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review

Specific Articles (budgeting, etc.) were discussed with various options for upcoming years.

Mr. Hechenbleikner reviewed and gave an overview of each Article in the Warrant. Listed below are highlights of the discussion and review of the Warrant Articles:

Note:

Fieldstone Road has back taxes due on one property (\$9000), and Article 7 allows the Treasurer to accept the deed in lieu of foreclosure. To be considered; whether or not to remove Fieldstone from the plow list of public ways in the upcoming fiscal year to encourage the taxpayer to pay his balance due.

The mechanics of the two Articles to transfer the police station land to the CHT or the American Legion were reviewed, and if the vote is “no” on both of these, then the BOS discussed another Article to dispose of the property. Discussion ensued about how to present these Articles at Town Meeting. Per Mr. Hechenbleikner, both groups would present their proposals before voting on either. If CHT proposal fails, then Meeting would vote on the Legion proposal. A third Article is needed in the event of both Articles failing to pass. More discussion ensued about options to sell the property, with questions about the legality of the Town selling it for \$1 to the

Legion. Per Ms. Allen, this would create issues for the cost of the Legion's construction as they would have to abide by municipal construction regulations. Mr. DeCoste expressed concern about the possibility of an empty building with no plans. This issue will be put on the agenda for next week's meeting. Mr. Hechenbleikner will have Town Counsel draft an Article to address this issue.

Article to address BOA proposal to provide a stipend to Assistant Assessors to take Continuing Education courses for certification, 10% of salary but not more than \$1000. Discussion of pros and cons about having an opinion on or supporting this Article. The AB will vote on this on Saturday, but the BOS will vote after more research into the issue.

Personnel board will attend a BOS meeting before Town Meeting to walk the BOS through their Articles.

CPC Articles were reviewed and discussed. Maintenance funding for ALL of the pathways in town should be discussed in the fall.

Remainder of Articles in the Warrant were reviewed.

NOTE: the video of this meeting ends at this point.



Board of Selectmen

Attachments:

1. Information for meeting to discuss proposed toll lanes on Route 3
2. Terms for Personal Contracts
3. Mr. Hechenbleikner's budget spreadsheet