

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2015**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2015 JUN 25 AM 9:12

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3. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Gregg McBride opened the meeting and introduced Ellen Allen, Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. Mr. McBride moved to go out of Executive Session and into Open Session. He polled the board as follows: *McBride – yes, Allen – yes, Brown – yes, Demong – yes, Smellie – yes.* *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Peter Smellie and unanimously voted.*

4. REPORTS

a) Citizen Comments – None

b) Selectmen's Report and Announcements – None

c) Town Administrator's Report

The Board of Health has agreed to a one year contract with Waste Management at a cost of \$635,000 for one year. This is a \$102,774 increase over the previous contract with Delprete, and more than anticipated. An additional \$72,774 will be needed to fund the full fiscal year, and will likely be funded through free cash.

The board discussed the increase of the contract amount over the annualized interim contract with Waste Management, which would have cost about \$575,000. Though more than anticipated, per Ellen Allen, it is not completely unexpected. Adopting the "pay as you throw" plan right now would mitigate this to some degree, but this won't happen until next fiscal year. Per Mr. Morin, growth in the cost of trash removal has been substantial over the last few years. The board should consider options for a long-term, more stable contract by going through a bid process when changing to "pay as you throw" next year. Mr. McBride suggested that the board should begin this contract discussion with the Board of Health in the very near future. Mr. Morin will invite them to attend the BOS meeting next week.

Mr. Morin met with Chief Ross and Chief Reardon and toured the SSREC facility in Hingham. He also discussed the acquisition of the new fire truck with Chief Reardon.

He met with the Brantwood Road resident whose house was damaged by a fire, and noted that the quick response by the fire department limited the amount of damage to the home. He offered any assistance needed in order for the resident to obtain permits for repairs and insurance claims. Snow damage: 2 damage claims from residents that were denied by the Town's insurance (MIIA) will be discussed with Paul Foulsham. Mr. Morin will also contact MIIA to attempt to achieve a more satisfactory resolution for residential claimants.

The IT conversion and transfer to the school's administration has begun, a timetable formulated and the former vendor notified of nonrenewal. Some hardware costs are higher than anticipated, but the provision of services costs by School Department personnel will be slightly lower. There will be overlap between the old and new IT teams to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Morin will forecast these costs.

Mr. Morin notified the board that his wife is employed by the legal firm that is involved in a case against the Town. Although he feels that her employment as a legal secretary will not impact his position with the Town in any way, he will recuse himself from any discussions of this legal

matter until the board gives a written decision that this does not constitute a substantial interest. This matter will be discussed in Exec. Session in the future.

Acceptance of a deed in lieu of foreclosure (Article 7 at Town Meeting) - the deed is ready if board moves to accept it for the property located at Fieldstone Way.

Motion: moved by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, that the Town accept this deed in lieu of foreclosure for Fieldstone Way, Assessor's parcel 36-36. Unanimously voted.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a) 2015 Committee Re-appointments

(See attached list) The Board discussed the list, and decided that it might be a good idea to hold off for a week or two in order to allow time for new volunteers to apply for committees. All should solicit volunteers in the meantime. Mr. Morin will send notices to other boards that reps need to be appointed to 'member' boards. People who are reappointed should be notified at least by the third week in June, and applicants will be invited to a BOS meeting to interview for board positions. The BOS will try to get most of the appointments done by 6/17/15.

b) FY16 Board of Selectmen Focus Areas

Mr. McBride updated the board on the prior year's list (attached) and Ms. Allen grouped items on the list for review and changes. The board discussed the main topics and decided if they are valid and in order. List items were discussed as follows:

1. This topic should be broadened to "increasing nonresidential property tax revenue". Ms. Demong will research the Medical Marijuana Law changes, and she stated that the Baker administration has made the application and licensing process more transparent. Timing is very important in order to get the competitive edge for these sales. Mr. Morin will research prior information made available to the Town. Billboard opportunities on Route 3 should be investigated. Per Mr. Morin – create a billboard overlay zone that will be acceptable to the ZBA, and then create a 1000 foot buffer between residents and billboard visibility. There is very good revenue for billboard space, but the payments are made over a twenty year period.
2. Should be continued on an ongoing basis – core function rather than focus area. Having the committees come to BOS meetings on a regular basis would promote better communications.
3. Building and Capital Improvements is a work-in-progress, and a big focus area for the Town Administrator. A Green Community application has been made by one of the committees. The Energy Committee is actively going through this application process. Mr. McBride stated that the Energy Committee should be one of the first groups to come in (maybe in July). The 40 River St. project was discussed on a preliminary basis, and will have a number of areas of interest for BOS. Per Ms. Allen, the Library Committee will be ready to come in with an update fairly soon.
4. There is a need to do community thinking about 40B's. Jason Brown asked if the CHT has enough on its plate at the moment. Mr. McBride stated that the CHT needs a Housing Coordinator consultant to help run the Trust's AH monitoring agent position. The Trust will concentrate on the 40 River St. RFP process and is already busy enough. The BOS needs to develop its own strategy to deal proactively with 40 B's. There might be a task force in the future. Change the language in this focus area, and board should re-review it next week. The board might need to start a dialogue with the new Under Secretary of DHCD re: 40B's. Mr. McBride noted that the State is starting to take note of 40B demands on communities.
5. The board is coordinating efforts on individual employee contracts including healthcare. They will begin contract discussions with most of the union contracts in January.

6. Catchall for communications, etc.

The BOS and Town have accomplished some of this (code red, etc.)

Ms. Allen would like to investigate VizGov further and the board will put this on a near future agenda. It will be important to educate residents ahead of time with "pay as you throw" as there is still confusion about this program.

Other topics discussed included:

Long term liabilities – strategies for dealing with them – OPEB, future water regulations, Senior Tax Relief education (Ms. Demong volunteered to work on this topic). Senior work program – revisit in September.

Mr. Brown stated the need to get all of these groups to work together (i.e. Pathwalks, Town Center, etc.). Ms. Allen commented that the Complete Streets Committee will accomplish this. Ms. Demong thinks that this still needs to be better coordinated in order to be both efficient and effective. The board discussed the mechanics of getting the committees to work together on this project. The Town Administrator has this on his list as a leadership role.

Mr. McBride will re-sort and edit the list and bring it back to the board for review and comments.

c) FY16 Town Administrator Focus Areas – Mr. Morin will edit the list and bring it to the BOS meeting next week.

6. Licenses and Permits – None

7. Approval of Minutes – None

8. Correspondence – None

9. Adjournment – 9:17pm

Motion: made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously voted.



Board of Selectmen

Attachments:

1. FY14 BOS Focus Areas List

