

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2013**

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

Agenda Amended to change the order: move New Business #1 to after the 7:50 Water Commissioners meeting and add to Executive Session an update on the AFSCME negotiations
MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board approve the agenda as amended. Seconded and unanimously voted.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 30, 2013 open meeting. *MOTION: David DeCoste moved to approve the January 30, 2013 open meeting minutes. Seconded and voted to approve. Jason Brown and Tammie Garner abstained.*

7:35 Board of Health – Peter Dillon and John Litchfield presented the following updates:

Trash – Mr. Dillon advised and updated the BOS on a potential pay-as-you-throw garbage program that is being funded by a DEP grant. Mr. Dillon advised the BOS on the following facts. Recycling haulers charge \$15 per ton. Currently SEMASS charges \$35.50 per ton. This contract will expire in January 2015. After the contract expires, SEMASS costs will increase to \$70 per ton. The Board of Health is working on a formula regarding the pay-as-you-throw option and will advise the BOS when a formula is complete.

Salt Abatement Recommendations – John Litchfield expressed the Board of Health's concern about the lack of action taken on the December 2, 2010 Salt Abatement recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Peter Dillon stated that the amount of salt being removed from town wells is "tons per day". The Board of Health recommends: Close Well #1, Notify DEP and MA DOT of contamination from drain off from Route 53 (339 Washington Street), have DEP make Route 53 (Grove Street to Route 123) a low salt or no salt zone. Highway Department should acquire a new salt barn and install salt synchronizers on large trucks. The Board of Selectmen should establish a salt free zone around Zone II of wells 7, 8, 4 and dissolve the Salt Committee.

7:50 Water Commissioners – Peter Dillon, Steve Ivas, Fred St. Ours and Jack McInnis presented the following:

The Water Commissioners gave a brief overview of current projects and projects on the horizon. New water mains have been installed on Wildcat Lane. A water main is being connected from Centennial Way to Summit Lane which is off of the Wildcat Hill OSRD. Work has been done on the interior of the Water Treatment Plant. Variable frequency drives have been added for Wells 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10. National Grid has supplied \$80,000 for upgrading wells. The Water Dept. is working hard on HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling), 2,000 feet from South Street to the Tiffany Road area. This project is going under wetlands and Wildcat Brook. There are 800 feet of forested trees at Tiffany Road. Grove Street well fields will have well & pump upgrades. The Water Commissioners will begin a pilot study for a new water treatment plant at Grove Street for well fields #2, 3, 5 and 10 with funds appropriated at the May 2013 Annual

Town Meeting. These wells have high magnesium, high iron, and an organic color to the water. In 1996 the last treatment plant was completed at a cost of \$3,000,000.

Fiscal update: The Water Department is covering its debt service, O&M budget, staff, and capital for ongoing and future operations with stable water rates. Water rates will be stable for the foreseeable future. David DeCoste questioned the Commissioners about Article 6 of the 2013 STM to purchase land at the end of Simon Hill Road near well #9 in the Bowker Street area. If the Article should pass, the land purchase would require both CPC and Water Dept. funds to complete the purchase. A portion of the land would need to be under the care and custody of the Board of Water Commissioners. Mr. DeCoste inquired how this will be determined. Mr. Boudreau explained that after the land is purchased, it would need to be mapped out and presented to voters at the Spring Town Meeting. Mr. DeCoste inquired if Solar Energy can be used at the Grove Street wells. Mr. Dillon agreed that it should be considered.

Pension Obligation Bonds – Treasurer Darleen Sullivan discussed the Town’s Pension obligations and presented different hypothetical scenarios of how to approach funding including a possible Pension Obligation Bond that might be offered by the Plymouth County Retirement Board if pending legislation is passed at the State House. Ellen Allen suggested the Board consider sending a letter supporting this legislation since participation would be entirely in the Town’s discretion. The Town of Norwell’s Unfunded Accrued Pension Liability as of January 1, 2013: Actuarial Accrued Liability \$45,054,386, less Assets of \$22,766,750, leaves an Unfunded Accrued Liability of \$22,287,636. Mr. DeCoste asked Ms. Sullivan if the mortality tables that have been applied to the pension obligations have also been applied to OPEB liabilities. Ms. Sullivan did not have the answer, but agreed to contact Dan Sherman for the information and will get back to the BOS. Ms. Allen thanked Ms. Sullivan for all the hard work she had done on this project. Ms. Allen gave her fellow Board Members a sample letter to review in support of Pension Obligation Bond legislation. The matter will be discussed again at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Points re: STM – The Selectmen have attended 4 PTO’s, the Boosters, and Norwell Scholastics Arts groups to review the upcoming STM articles. The BOS is working on attending an event at the Library and The Council on Aging.

Committee Liaisons:

David DeCoste attended the Conservation Meeting and the Commission is supportive of Article 6 to purchase land at the end of Simon Hill Road.

Mr. Brown explained that the Advisory Board Nominating Committee will be holding interviews on September 20th and September 24th and hopes to make appointments soon. Ms. Allen pointed out that there are more applicants than openings on the Advisory Board. She suggested that candidates who are not selected be encouraged to apply for other Boards that have vacancies.

Mr. McBride reported that the new **Stetson Meadows Cemetery** design is moving along quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

Block Party Request – Captain Vinal Way – Deb Hutchins of 88 Captain Vinal Way is requesting the Board of Selectmen grant permission to hold a neighborhood block party at the

cul-de-sac in front of #88 on Saturday, September 28, 2013 between the hours of 4:00PM and 11:00PM. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board approve a request from Deb Hutchins to hold a block party at the cul-de-sac at 88 Captain Vinal Way on Saturday, 28 September 2013, with no rain date, between the hours of 4:00PM and 11:00PM. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

Legislative Update – Ms. Allen updated the Board on the MMA meeting that she had attended the prior week. Phase I for the medical marijuana applications/results will be out this week. The OPEB Study Committee will make recommendations in October. The pending ambulance legislation that would require insurers to reimburse providers instead of patients and would let providers set their own rates had been approved by both the House and Senate. However the Governor will not sign it unless rates are capped. This would be bad for Norwell, as all ambulance runs would then cost the town money and significantly reduce local receipts.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 1st meeting: will prepare final presentations for Town Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

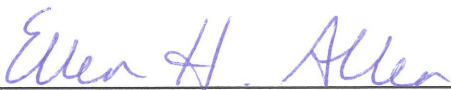
The Norwell Police Department will be hosting several open house events for residents to view and inspect the conditions at the River Street police station. The open house dates are September 25 from 4:30pm-7:30pm, October 2nd and October 5th from 9:30am to 12:30pm. If these dates do not work for certain residents, the Chief or Deputy Chief may be contacted to arrange alternate viewing times.

October 3rd from 9-4 Norwell Farms will be hosting Historic House Tours and shopping at the Cushing Center with funds raised supporting Norwell Farms. Tickets can be purchased at NorwellFarms.org.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Collective Bargaining, Pending Litigation, Contracts

MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing AFSCME Contract, Town Administrator Contract, Finance Director Contract, Local 888 Contract and Police Union Contract and not return to open session. 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 interests. 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