

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Town Meeting Forum Minutes  
April 24, 2013**

Gregg McBride opened the meeting and introduced Ellen Allen, David DeCoste and Town Administrator Jim Boudreau. *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**7:00 Town Meeting Forum:** Gregg McBride explained having a Town Meeting Forum is a provision in the Town's by-laws and, to the best of his knowledge, this will be the first. Gregg explained the format and guidelines of how the forum will be conducted.

- Informational discussions
- Forum is not for debating
- Anyone that speaks for or against passionately will be stopped.
- Purpose is for residents to gain information and all questions are welcomed.

Special Article 5 – February Blizzard (NEMO). Funding to cover extraordinary expenses incurred by Police, Fire and School Departments.

Special Article 7 – \$300,000 Pathways requested article being funded by CPC. Funds will be for a study, permitting and construction of or improvements. Expenses may include the purchase of land if advisable.

Special Article 8 – Athletic Fields Committee requesting \$225,000 from the CPC for recreation purposes to be expended by the Norwell Athletic Fields Committee for design and engineering of the Clipper Community Complex. If the engineering & design is completed during the summer, the CPC intends to recommend an article to fund the construction (Phase II) at a Fall Town Meeting. Question addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer: How will this contract be awarded? He also expressed concerns about the fields bid that had been awarded in Hingham. Jim Boudreau explained that this type of bid does not require a formal bid process, however on this project 3 quotes will be requested. Question was asked if additional stands/seating will be built and Allison Demong said no.

Planning Board has a scheduled meeting and their Articles will be taken out of order.

Article 19 – Kevin Cafferty summarized that this article is rezoning of Town Center on a smaller scale, with mixed-use buildings containing residential and non-residential, and allowing mixed-use business retail under 5,000 sq. ft. Changes to height of buildings will not be effected.

Article 20 – Amendment to eliminate the existing common driveway by-law. Question was asked if the Planning Board would be able to approve a common driveway with a special permit if this passes and the answer was no. The current by-law is poorly worded and the Planning Board wants to write a new one.

Article 21 – Medical Marijuana article would propose an amended Zoning By-Law Article to allow Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers by special permit in Business District C (except for C-3), provided they shall not be located within 500' of any lot with a residence, school or daycare facility, and with the hours of operation to be set by the Board of Appeals. Special permits shall be valid for 3 years from date of decision.

Question was asked why the first three Articles in the Special Town Meeting warrant do not have dollar amounts, so how are residents able to approve? Jim Boudreau explained that the final numbers were not known when the warrant went to the printer.

Article 1 is \$15,000 funded by Water Department,

Article 2 is \$30,000,

Article 3 will be for snow and ice deficit, approx. \$300k,  
Article 4 Legal Services will not be moved, and  
Article 6 is estimated at \$20,000 and still receiving bills.  
Gregg explained this is not unique, these article they are typically written this way.

Article 2 - Jim Boudreau highlighted budget presentation: budget is balanced as required by state law; budget not relying on any non-recurring revenues, i.e. no stabilization or free cash; OPEB being addressed; maintains current staffing levels and recommends 2 additional employees: 1 tree & grounds, 1 highway; also recommends a Facilities Managers position that will be shared with the Schools and will be responsible for all Town owned buildings & facilities; \$11,000 for additional hours for COA receptionist; recommends additional funds for Library for additional hours for vacation coverage. For revenues uses the Governor's FY13 numbers, local receipts aligned with the economy. Also available are free cash \$1,837 million and stabilization \$1,836 million. For second year in a row health insurance rates are not increasing and the health insurance line is decreasing. The overall budget is increasing 2.9% over FY13. Budget without overlay is \$43 million. Ellen noted under the new Charter change the budget is now prepared by the Town Administrator and presented to the Advisory Board. Ellen thanked Jim for a good job on the Budget.

Article 3 Capital Budget – Jef Fitzgerald explained the approach Capital Budget had taken this year in reviewing requests. Departments had submitted requests for this FY along with a 5 year outlook on what was on the horizon. Balanced the needs of each department with the amount CB had available. Budget Requests came in at \$987,125 and Capital Budget recommended \$428,345.

Article 6 Police Station clean up proposed by the Selectmen to remove environmental remediation including lead, sand and lead dust in the Police Station basement. \$40,000 approved by Advisory Board.

Article 8 Energy Management Services Contract (ESCO) – No questions

Highway Department:

Article 10 resurfacing and related construction/maintenance,

Article 11 Chapter 90 disbursement, and

Article 12 storm water regulations.

Gregg asked if any questions on these articles and no questions asked.

Town Clerk:

Article 14 language changing Town Election date and

Article 15 vote to accept MGL Chapter 41, Section 110A such that if a statutory deadline falls on a holiday or Saturday, then it can be changed to the next business day.

No questions from audience.

Board of Assessors:

Article 16 – \$88,000 for professional and contracted services for revaluations.

Article 17 for Senior Real Estate Tax Work-Off Program. Question was asked if there is a need to increase this to accommodate more seniors and the answer was no. Approx. 50-60 people utilize program.

Peter Dillon explained the Board of Health article.

Article 18 for brush pile maintenance; due to all the storms, the pile is very large this year.

Peter Dillon explained the Water Department articles:

Article 22 Water Main Installation connecting South Street to Wildcat Lane drill approx. 1,000 and end at Tiffany Road.

Article 23 Water Treatment Pilot Studies exploring the rehab of the Grove Street wells.

Rick Merritt, Chair of the Economic Develop Committee, which has been working on zoning changes for economic development since November 2011.

Article 24 will be zoning revisions in the existing business districts hoping to increase the business tax base.

Article 25 addresses changes to the Buffer Zones by 25 feet in Business District C and Business Districts B1, B4, and B5.

Article 29 appropriate \$25,000 for engineering, installation and/or maintenance of Town drainage under the direction of the Highway Surveyor.

Article 30 upgrades the position for Program Coordinator at the Council on Aging from Grade 8 to Grade 9 with additional responsibilities.

Article 32 Norwell Cemetery at the Stetson Meadows. Gregg invited residents to view the drawings for the build out plan of the property which will include 6,000 graves. The project will begin with Phase I and that will include 700 burial sites including cremation. Funding will not require an override; it will be paid for through levy bond issuance. Question was asked if this project would interfere with any future efforts to sell the Stetson Ford House and the answer was no. Stetson Ford House is rented and self-sustaining with rental income going toward maintenance.

Allison Demong of the CPC Committee was present to answer any questions for Articles 33 through Article 39.

Article 33 – \$50,000 to retroactively put Conservation Restrictions on 7 parcels of land purchased with CPA funds over the past 10 years.

Article 34 – \$120,494 for recreation improvements at Jacob's Pond Conservation Area to rehabilitate dock, restore access to island, and install picnic tables and other amenities.

Article 35 – \$28,000 for Conservation Land Improvements for recreation purposes by creating new parking spaces, installing kiosks, street signs, trail signs and trail maps.

Article 36 – \$6,590 for Jacob's Farmhouse Tin Ceiling Repairs which result from a leak.

Article 37 – \$2,569 for Historic preservation for Norwell Historical Society for the museum quality restoration of 2 paintings at the Farmhouse that had also been damaged and the continuation of a project to reframe and mat additional artifacts to be used as a traveling exhibit of Norwell's history.

Article 38 – \$9,066 for a Library ScanPro for historic preservation purposes which will provide access to historic documents stored on microfilm at library and on interlibrary microfilms borrowed from around the country.

Article 39 – Housekeeping article for allocation of the required \$100,000 from Community Preservation Fund FY2014 revenues for each of the 3 categories: open space, affordable housing, and historic resources.

Article 40 – On behalf of the American Legion, David DeCoste explained that the Town has no Flag by-law and this by-law would put the Town in accordance with the United States Code that governs the flag.

Article 41 – Bob Kustka explained that this citizen petition article would repeal the CPA act. Gregg explained the mechanics of the article: if Town Meeting passes to repeal the CPA in Norwell, it would then be put on the ballot to vote at the 2014 Spring Town Election and if it also passes there, it would be reflected in the following year's tax bill.

Article 42 – Citizens petition seeking to reduce the CPA surcharge from 3% to 1%. Gregg said it would follow the same mechanics as explained above. The Board consulted with Bob Galvin and this article can be amended on Town Meeting floor to change from 1% to 2%; it can't be reduced further, only increased.

Article 43 – Exempt from the CPA surcharge the first \$100,000 of assessed value for commercial properties. The first \$100,000 of residential property is exempt and this article is seeking the same for commercial property which is not exempt. Jim has heard this may be withdrawn.

Article 44 – Utility Pole Bylaw. This would restrict the length of time a utility company may leave uncompleted work, wires or complete or partial poles after replacement. This may be withdrawn.

Article 45 – \$4,000 for the South Shore Women's Resource Center for domestic violence intervention.

Articles 46, 47, 48 and 49 are place holders.

Gregg invited the audience to address any articles that they may have questions on.

Question was asked on the OPEB underfunding and wanted to know when the Town will start meeting OPEB obligations. Jim spoke to this article: the Town has reduced health insurance costs and adopted the local option meals tax that placed approx. \$160,000 into OPEB. This year a line has been put into the budget for OPEB, as well.

Question was asked if Jim could put his Budget presentation on the website and commented that he found this forum very helpful.

Gregg welcomed any feedback on the first Town Meeting Forum, re: helpful, not helpful, pros and or cons.

**Announcement:**

- Board offered condolences to the family of Dick Sulc. Dick had served on many Town Boards and Committees.
- Chief Ross explained that Norwell is part of the MetroLEC, which includes 42 communities and 2 sheriffs' departments. During the Boston Marathon bombing, Norwell sent 5 Police Officers into Boston to cover the responsibilities and duties of the Police Officers that were looking for the perpetrators.



Board of Selectmen

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