

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 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.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved to approve the following minutes: April 3, 2013, open meeting and public hearings for Shields General Store and Herb Chambers Lexus. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

7:35 Police Officers Recognition – Chief Ross came up to publicly recognize and thank Sergeant Tim O'Brien, Officer Bryan Resnick, Officer Kenneth Camerota and Officer Dan Dooley for their dedication and commitment by helping in Boston after the Boston Marathon bombing. Each of the officers discussed how they handled their duties at the bombing and other duties they perform.

7:45 Public Hearing – National Grid, Pole #5-84 – 150 Norwell Ave. – *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board Open the Public Hearing for May 1, 2013 at 7:45 pm in the Osborn Room. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.*

David DeCoste read the Legal Notice posted in the Ledger on April 13, 2013 into the Minutes.

Present for National Grid: John Doherty. He asked the Board for approval to install a new pole #5-84 to replace a tree that is dead and could cause the line to fall. He said that this pole would have an anchor and a sidewalk guide. This needs to be done for safety reasons.

Gregg McBride opened up the hearing for any comments:

Ms. MacCauley of 150 Norwell Ave. said there are no poles on that side of the street and that she would now have the only one. She said the tree is on her property. Jim said if the tree is dead, they will cut it down. She said she would look again and doesn't want any trees taken down on her property. National Grid said it is a safety issue. John Doherty of National Grid said he would check and get back to her.

Ellen Allen moved that the Board approve the request of National Grid to install a new pole #5-84 and to replace a tree being used and that this pole have an anchor and a sidewalk guide, subject to there being a police detail. Seconded and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.

8:00 Planning Board – 3 Zoning Articles – The main impacts of the PB’s Article 19 would be to allow apartments on the second floor of the buildings in Town Center and small retail uses, some by-right and others by special permit.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board of Selectmen endorse the Planning Board’s Article 19. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The second article proposes a zoning article that would disallow common driveways. The current by-law is unworkable at this point. It has over 9 pages of regulations. The concerns with the current by-law have been discussed with the Zoning Board and Conservation Commission and the CC has no objections. Since there is not an easy fix, the Planning Board would like to rescind the existing bylaw. The new Planning Board would have to talk this summer about creating a new bylaw. The Selectmen expressed concerns about not having a replacement by-law available now, thereby making all common driveways illegal, even upon appeal to the Zoning Board.

The third article would allow a not-for-profit Medical Marijuana Treatment Center or similar facility in Business District C-3 as now required under MGL Chapter 94G a. 6.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board support the medical marijuana bylaw, Article 21. Seconded and unanimously voted.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Budget Discussions** – On the debt numbers, after deducting all charges related to the refinancing, there will be a \$7-8,000 reduction on the under levy debt and a \$70,000+ plus reduction on the excluded/over levy debt. Most of it is over levy and we now won’t add that to the tax rate.
- 2. Warrant Articles** – The Board already voted on the Planning Board articles. Jim Boudreau detailed the current status of articles that would be funded with Free Cash. Snow and ice that was originally estimated at \$350,000 is coming in around \$300,000. We had planned \$20,000 for unemployment and that is coming in around \$10,000. Veteran’s benefits are going to be in the \$20,000 range because the number of veterans in the past two pay periods has come way down. So we had about \$220,000 free cash that was left over and going to wash to new free cash. Also, because we haven’t settled our union contracts, we have about \$125,000 which will not be appropriated, bringing available free cash to \$345,000 right now. We also received a \$50K bond premium for our recent financing and are determining how to apply that. Given the \$345,000 of remaining FC, Boudreau recommended that the Board take \$100,000 of that and put it in the OPEB account or the Capital Stabilization account and let the balance wash to next year’s FC. Ellen suggested putting \$145,000 in Capital Stabilization.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board recommend for Article 47 to transfer funds to the Capital Stabilization fund in the amount of \$145,000 from free cash. Seconded and unanimously voted.

NEW BUSINESS

One Day License Request from Ellen MacKenzie Caterers, Inc. – October 19, 2013

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board approved a request from Ellen MacKenzie Caterers, Inc., for a one day license to serve Wine & Malt for a Bar Mitzvah at the Cushing Center on October 19, 2013 from 1:00 to 4:00pm for the serving of wines and malts. Will get updated insurance from Ellen MacKenzie. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Police Chief Contract – Wage increases for the current and coming fiscal years, raising his salary to \$115,000.

New Human Resources Director starting next week and Jim will ask her to work on the extension of those contracts and performance based compensation for fiscal 2014.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved to execute a contract amendment for the Police Chief for Fiscal Year 2013 as presented. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Fire Chief Contract – Similarly, a raise is proposed for Chief Reardon. Although it doesn't get him to Chief Ross's level, it does raise his salary to \$105,000. Fire chiefs are often not paid as much as police chiefs. Despite this increase, his salary is in the bottom quartile compared to surrounding towns. The Board wants to create performance based compensation that would allow us to catch up. For comparisons, Norwell uses towns that are roughly the same size and compete with Norwell for these types of positions.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved that the Board execute a contract amendment for Chief Reardon for fiscal 2013 as presented. Seconded and unanimously voted.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Town Meeting Preparation – The moderator usually has his meeting on the Thursday afternoon before TM.

The Board doesn't meet the week of Town Meeting. They will meet the week after the Town Election when there will be a five member board, as provided in the new Town Charter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, not returning to open session. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Chairman Gregg McBride explained that to discuss this in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigating position. Gregg McBride polled the Board. DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and McBride voted yes.



Board of Selectmen
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