

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Open Session at Sparrell Building  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2012 @ 5:00 PM**

Present: John Mariano, Gregg McBride, Ellen Allen and Town Administrator James Boudreau.

Also present: Superintendent Matt Keegan, School Committee Members Kiersten Warendorf, Amy Koch, Mary Lou O'Leary & Glenn Ferguson. Advisory Board Members Tim Greene, George Jamieson and Gary Thomas.

**Budget Discussions**

Jim Boudreau reviewed three budget scenarios:

- 1) Level Funding all departments: Revenue shortfall of \$157K
- 2) Level Staffing: Requires an override of \$1,050K
- 3) Full Budget Requests: Requires an override of \$3,255K

Jim reported that the Assessors office had recalculated the tax impact of a \$3 million override for the average household to be ~\$600.

Mary Lou O'Leary asked about having separate overrides for the school and town requests. Jim explained that the only new items for the Town in the full budget requests total ~\$100K vs. \$1,960K for the Schools, so separating them doesn't make sense.

Jim Boudreau also described a budget scenario he had done using \$800K of Free Cash for the operating budget (in the event that no override passed) to cover most of the Level Staffing budget shortfall of \$1,050. The \$250K difference could be handled by a likely \$100K reduction in health insurance from pending negotiations plus a \$75K reduction in each of the School Department's and Town's level staffing budgets. This would leave an estimated \$600-800K of Free Cash and Overlay Surplus to fund all the capital and outside article requests.

Discussion ensued about possibly reducing budgets to bring the requested override amount under \$3 million.

Tim Greene shared research he had done about operating overrides in Massachusetts since 1990. Over 4000 had been attempted with 39% passing. Only 47 exceeded \$3.2 million and 36% of these had passed. He had been unable to find any overrides with a per household tax impact as high as \$600. In fact, most were substantially below that. In addition, he noted that the downside risk of a failed override usually involved substantial layoffs and/or closing schools/public safety stations and noted that Norwell would not have something comparable to this. He suggested having a two tiered override since a single tier ~\$3 million override costing \$600/avg. household would be unprecedented in the state. The School Committee remained firm that they do not want a second tier.

The meeting ended at 6:15 pm with the Selectmen recessing until 6:45 pm at Town Hall.

Return to Open Session at Town Hall:

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None

**7:35 2011 Annual Beautification Awards**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**James Boudreau – Resignation from the Personnel Board** – The Board accepted James Boudreau's resignation from the Personnel Board effective February 8, 2012.

**Tammie Garner – Personnel Board Appointment**

*MOTION: Gregg McBride moved to appoint Tammie Garner to the Personnel Board to a Term Expiring June 30, 2014. Seconded by Ellen Allen and unanimously voted.*

**Mass Bay Bike Race Request for July 29, 2012**

*MOTION: Gregg McBride moved to approve the request from Mass Bay Road Club for a Bike Race to be held in Norwell using Circuit Street and Forest Street on Sunday July 29, 2012 providing that they request a details as approved by Ted Ross Chief of Norwell Police and further that they understand that if they intend on supplying personnel to provide first aide or emergency medical care in any form they must contact the Norwell Fire Department and request a detail per the letter addressed to the BOS from Fire Chief Andrew Reardon dated January 11, 2011. Seconded by Ellen Allen and unanimously voted.*

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

February 15, 2012

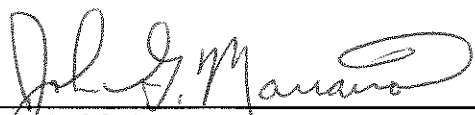
February 22, 2012

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Union Negotiations

*MOTION: Gregg McBride moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Union Negotiations and not returning to open session. Seconded by Ellen Allen and unanimously voted.*

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

  
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Board of Selectmen