

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 in Room 34, the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a silent moment of prayer and reflection. Meeting is Recorded.

Present: Chairman Thomas F. Maloney Selectmen William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Paul A. Bishop, and Allan D. Howard. Also present General Manager Tony Mazzucco, and Clerk Christina K. Mulvehill.

#### Appointments

##### 7:00 P.M. – Mark Ryan, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Mr. Ryan spoke about reducing how much we put in our trash and recycling carts. Ultimately the town pays a tonnage fee to dispose of this. Recycling Tip 1 includes eight easy ways to participate in reducing how much we throw away. These can be found on the DPW website. One of the methods of reducing is composting food waste instead of throwing it away. The town receives a DEP grant which allows discounted composting containers available to the public. Mr. Ryan gave brief presentation of these composting units and how to use them. There was discussion about what can be thrown away and what can be composted.

##### 7:15 P.M – James Collins, Municipal Light Department Superintendent

Mr. Collins gave an update of ongoing projects, including Eversource, Moderna, Endicott Woods, Avalon Bay, and Skating Club of Boston. In addition, the department is working to implement the new billing with the financial system conversion to Munis. Footings are being poured at the 136 Access Road location.

Mr. Hanson gave the Broadband update, stating the plant is almost at capacity and demand is going up for internet. Mr. Hanson outlined the Annual Food Pantry Promotion.

##### 7:30 P.M. - (P.H.) EMC Restaurant Inc., dba Same Old Place, 111 Lenox Street

The applicant for Common Victualler License was not present at the time the hearing was opened at 7:30 p.m. There was no member of the public wishing to comment. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted unanimously to continue the hearing to Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

##### 8:00 P.M. – Budget Balancing Committee, Alan Slater

Alan Slater, Chairman of the Finance Committee, introduced the attendees. Present were Thomas McQuaid, Director of Finance, David Thomson, School Superintendent Myev Bodenhofer, School Committee Chair, Maura Smith, School Committee Member, and Anne Haley, Finance Commissioner.

Mr. Slater gave an overview of the budget balancing process, which began in June of 2018. The Budget Balancing Committee met every three weeks on average. The goal was to formulate a plan that would stabilize the budget for five years, and included an override stabilization fund. Mr. McQuaid demonstrated where the costs were going to be on both Town side and School side, as well as the various shared costs. Over the years the School Department has had to redo some programs to meet budget constraints, so in addition to stabilizing the school budget, the plan is to enable the schools to bring back some of those programs. Other issues studied were snow and ice, roads, and town wide facilities department. Mr. Slater said initially when they looked at the five year plan they wanted to use free cash, but in the end the decision was to use free cash only for what it is supposed to be used for.

There is a memorandum of understanding which General Government and the School Department will endorse as a pledge to the taxpayers that if they give us this money for a five year period, we are not coming back for another operational override. The Governor's Cherry Sheet numbers were very favorable for Norwood which enabled us to reduce the override number by over one million dollars.

Dr. Thomson gave an overview of the numbers for the School Department and spoke about some of the curriculum changes. The schools need to move in a direction that is more modernized with their instruction, called Personalized

Budget Balancing Committee-(cont'd)

and Project Based Learning, which would require an investment in materials and training. The ELL services need to be increased to meet the rising need in the town. Special education is a very high expense too.

Mr. Slater stated the hope is that this override money will last for a period longer than five years. Mr. Mazzucco explained that they built a five year model, which was reviewed by an outside consultant, who agreed with the numbers and projections.

Chairman Maloney said what would happen in fiscal 2020, given an override, would be 2.5% plus new growth increase in the levy limit, and then on top of that would be the override levy limit. The increase to the tax burden would be larger in year one than in subsequent years.

Selectman Plasko said we started a year ago with the new manager to try to address our structural deficit and find ways to shore up the Town's financial situation and increase the bond rating. Talk is mostly about the schools, who have the most visible need, but in general this will beef up the Town's financial reserves. This will allow the town to spend more money on roads, pay for Snow and Ice, etc. He expressed confidence that this override proposal is sound for the Town and this is the right time to at least have this discussion and the Towns people decide.

Chairman Maloney spoke about the timing and timeline and asked for recommendations. Mr. Slater said the Budget Balancing Committee voted that an Override should go on the ballot prior to June 10<sup>th</sup>, but nothing more specific than that. Chairman Maloney pointed out that would be after Annual Town Meeting, which convenes on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Bishop pointed out that waiting until after the local election gives time to vet this with the general public. And hear from the elderly community and people who live paycheck to paycheck. When they go to the polls, people should have a complete understanding of what this is.

Ms. Bodenhofer spoke about the Governor's recognition of the increased need for mental health services in the schools and the expense of educating English language learners. Dr. Thompson spoke briefly about the ELL education system.

Selectman Plasko stated at this time this Board should not take a position on whether there should be an override or not. Selectman Plasko made a motion, seconded by Selectman Howard, to accept the recommendation of Town Wide Budget Balancing Committee to put override question on a future ballot before the Town's people. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

William P. O'Donnell, Norfolk County Register of Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file information on the funds generated by the Community Preservation Act in Norwood.

Robert F. Sullivan, Sr. Manager, Xfinity:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file programming and price changes.

Craft'd Company, Christine Healey, CEO:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request for (1)Day Wine & Malt Beverages license and dance permit for Saturday, March 23, 2019 to hold a County Beer Festival at Norwood Space Center Event Space (Building 2) from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Michael Gilio, Race Director:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve request to hold road race fundraiser on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. starting at St. Timothy's.

Georgia Wilson, 94 Prospect Street:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, and based on her Talent Bank Application, voted to appoint Ms. Wilson as an associate member of the ZBA.

Rita A. Russo, 40 Pine Street:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request to use the Gazebo Wednesday, July 3, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for Patriotic Rosary.

Car Washes:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve :  
NHS Varsity Boys Soccer, Saturday, June 15, 2019 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
NHS Junior Varsity Boys Soccer, Saturday, August 17, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to sign:  
Katherine T. Cotter, 79 Ridgewood Drive, to Lot C3-81  
Aureta F. Kelly, 43 Ellis Avenue, to Lot C3-73  
Karen Gillis, 11 Wheelock Avenue, to Lot C3-84  
Guido Gaita, 71 Union Street, to Lot G6-97

ABCC:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file notification of approval of Bertucci's Restaurants AAB License transfer.

Norwood School Committee:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to table correspondence regarding override.

Robert M. Thornton, CPA:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to table follow up information regarding override.

Paul Halkiotis, Director, Planning & Economic Development:

Selectman Plasko explained that this document is intended to be a final and there is also a schedule attached where we would be placing this ad in the legal advertising that they have to do in the Central Register tomorrow and that would be published next week. This is basically what we would be most interested in and Cathy Carney is preparing the front end of the package. Mr. Plasko stated that Mr. Howard had suggested changing the wording on Page 8 regarding housing density. The proposed change would be to limit residential units with the least consideration being given to developments that include more than 150 units. The wording change would be the residential proposals that are between 150 and 175. On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to accept the document as amended by Mr. Howard.

Memoranda

Stacey Lane, RN, MPH:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file copy of correspondence to Michelle Kuitauskas, 175 Railroad Avenue Realty Trust regarding Lodging House complaint for 175-179 Railroad Avenue, Room D.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Bishop

High School students driving down Berwick Place are using excessive speed. Contact Police Department.

Selectman Howard

Allowing landscapers to dump leaves and grass at land fill to make some money. Mr. Mazzucco said he and Mark Ryan have spoken about it and it may not be worth the effort and time that would have to be put in.

Selectman Plasko

Skating Club of Boston is moving along with plans to come to Norwood and a PILOT Agreement has been signed. Part of the agreement is to advocate to help them get a liquor license. I will speak with Representative Rogers to make sure it is done correctly.

MIM has reported they got the modification they needed from the Zoning Board and are getting bids to do work and should be up and running by May or June.

Town Election will be held April 1, 2019. Signatures for those seeking office must be turned in by February 11. There are two vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees.

Chairman Maloney

Reminder to colleagues, please look at General Manager's self-evaluation and complete your individual evaluation of his performance by next week.

Thank you to all who came in tonight for the Budget Balancing Committee.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:00 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk