

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in Rm 34, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with Pledge of Allegiance, moment of prayer, reflection.

Present: Chairman Paul Bishop, Selectmen William Plasko, Allan Howard, Thomas Maloney and David Hajjar. General Manager Tony Mazzucco, Clerk Christina Mulvehill, Assistant Aoife Kelly.

Appointments

7:00 P.M. – Jean & John Hall - 2019 Annual Boston Bruins Pajama Drive

John Hall gave some background on the pajama drive, and mentioned some library staff who were instrumental in this year's effort. Mrs. Hall pointed out that the General Manager added the friendly competition to the drive, which attracted people. Mr. Hall explained that he and his wife start buying pajamas at the end of the drive and store them in the attic until the next drive. Mrs. Hall expressed thanks for those people who sacrificed in order to donate. Selectman Plasko pointed out that Norwood and Bourne contributions represented 50% of the total collected by the state. He offered thanks to all who participated, especially Mr. and Mrs. Hall. Selectman Howard commended them on donating 863 pair of pajamas. Selectman Maloney thanked the Halls, telling them they underscore what a good generous town we are. Chairman Bishop presented the Halls with a plaque from the Selectmen.

7:15 P.M. – Bernard Cooper, Assistant Town Manager, 4th of July Committee:

Maria Henry introduced members of the 4th of July Committee, Martha Colamaria, Helen Cantarow, Lou Harris, Bernie Cooper and said they are all volunteers and have been doing this for a long time. They have had a great time and still enjoy being involved. The planning for the parade starts well in advance and she encourage members of the community to consider volunteering on the committee and bolster their numbers. Mr. Cooper is looking for help recruiting bands from people active in the music programs, etc. The committee is also looking for floats, ideas, contacts in the community, and a person involved in the little league program. In addition they need a coordinator for the military reenacting division, and antique and classic cars. Ms. Henry said they need to find newspaper who will run an article. Mr. Cooper pointed out there are more events on the 4th than the parade. The committee is beginning the fundraising efforts at this point and have already signed four or five bands. He spoke briefly about the donation process, with letters going out starting tomorrow. In all, the parade costs between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Lou Harris with the Norwood Amateur Radio Club is responsible for marshalling the acts at the Middle School, and could use more amateur radio operators. The Chairman expressed his hope that the media would reach out to the committee.

New Business

DPW Summer Jobs Lottery:

There are seven open positions. The first seven numbers pulled will fill those positions and three alternates will be pulled. There are slips of paper with just numbers on them which the Selectmen will pull from a box. The numbers pulled are 3, 7, 6, 2, 1, 10 and 8 and the alternates are 4, 5, and 9.

Sigalle Reiss, Supt. /Director, Board of Health:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to approve flyer with regard to Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the composting facility at 370 Winter Street. The landfill will be closed for regular business that day.

Sonia Ramos, General Manager, Jake n Joes, 475 Boston Providence Tnpk:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to approve request for extended hours, until 2 a.m. from Saturday, May 11th into Sunday, May 12th to show a UFC event. The back gate will remain closed, they will have a police detail on site and if the match is cancelled or the event is over before normal business hours, then the license for the later closing will be rescinded.

Comcast Cable Communications, LLC:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file CTV Form 200 - Financial Balance Sheet, CTV Form 300 – Statement of Revenue and Expenses Parts A & B, and CTV Form 400 – Statement of Ownership.

Override Ballot Question:

Position of the Board

Chairman Bishop stated the commitment of the Board is to put this question on the ballot. Selectman Maloney said this board began the political/administrative process when we voted back in February to put the override question on the ballot, and it will be up to the voters on June 3rd. In the meantime the school committee has agreed to endorse it unanimously. The finance commission voted to support the override by vote of 4-0. As the executive leaders of the town, this board has a responsibility to speak on the matter one way or another. On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted unanimously for this Board to formally endorse the operational override that will be on the ballot June 3rd. Selectman Hajjar spoke briefly on the motion. This has been a long process and he commends members of the Budget Balancing Committee as well as many of the General Government and School Department employees who worked hard to come up with numbers. In the past, Norwood has been able to come up with the money that was needed, but there were no rabbits and very low free cash. The Town has and will continue to be run well, and there are a lot of good people working for the best interest of the town. His goal is to raise the commercial tax base to keep the residential taxes low, and the town is moving in that direction. Selectman Plasko said he has been on the Budget Balancing Committee since 2001 and they have talked about the need to stabilize the town's financial position, pointing out that a balanced budget does not always mean a satisfactory budget and often you have to leave good projects and intentions on the table because of lack of funding. Years ago when the state reduced aid to all cities and towns, Norwood had to use the savings account to get by every year so that cuts made to the budget would not be too severe. For the last six or seven years, there has been discussion of a need for an override to continue to offer services at levels expected and to strengthen the town financial position. This is a joint effort and something that both parties need. Selectman Maloney stated the proposal is alevy limit increase, meaning allowing ourselves to raise taxes to a level higher than we would have otherwise. Item 8 in MOU states the town will utilize all available revenue sources before maximizing the levy limit each year, consistent with the town financial policy. Selectman Maloney said he embraces the new financial policy document. This effort is to get the town as stable as possible in the short term to ensure greater stability in the long term. This levy limit increase is mostly a proposal to make improvements to the school system by making a major investment. The school committee and administration say they need this and have been specific on what they propose to do with the money. He endorses making this investment in the school system.

Accepting of the override pledge.

The Manager spoke about the pledge and a minor change made to it at the request of school committee. It is a pledge on behalf of the elected leadership in town and the administration stating that if the override passes on June 3 there is a number of items that we will commit to in order to make the best use of the funds. Selectman Plasko added the change was just a couple of words that don't change meaning or intent. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted unanimously to recommit to the override pledge to the citizens of Norwood as amended.

Manager's Update

Override

Thursday May 9, and Saturday, May 11 he will hold override information sessions at the high school.

Municipal Finance

Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m. he is holding the Municipal Finance 101 Workshop.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Maloney

STM Article 5

There was a little confusion last Thursday night at Town Meeting related to Article 5. I want to commend a number of people for the way they handled that and took care of getting the corrected version of Article 5 in front of Town Meeting. Last night Article 5 proposal for central business district passed by a vote of 100 to 1. Last Thursday the article was tabled and Mr. Mazzucco convened a meeting at 9 a.m. Friday morning. I was impressed with the way he handled the meeting and impressed by everybody in the room. Mrs. Mulvehill, Mrs. Folan, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Halkiotis, Mr. Deschenes, Mr. Mazzucco, and Mr. Paciorkowski were there and I thank all of them for the work they did. They tried to discover what had happened and got right into the process of fixing it. A number of those people worked through the weekend to get revised Article 5 ready and out to Town Meeting members on Monday night. I thank them for their professionalism and diligence. Thank you to the volunteers, Mr. Plasko was in proofreading, as was Mr. Paciorkowski.

Selectman Maloney –(cont'd)

Carillon Tower Tours

Lee Leach will offer carillon tower tours May 8th and 9th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Selectman Howard

South Norwood Fishing Derby

The derby was held this past Saturday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and was very successful.

Norwood Sportsmen Association Fishing Derby

This derby will be held on Saturday, May 11th at Guild Pond on Nichols Street from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Brenda Babel

Brenda was a dear lady who worked for the town of Norwood for 49 years. She was a friend to everyone and she passed away at 73 years old this past Saturday. She will be missed and condolences to her family.

William Plasko

Murphy Field

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to approve request to use Murphy Field on Wednesday, May 8th from Nicole McGowarn for a Norwood High School Girls Lacrosse golf ball drop fundraiser.

Openings on Committees

Looking for volunteers for ZBA associate members, the Personnel Board, and July 4th Committee.

STM Article 5

There was confusion on Thursday night, and this article was important to many of us and the future of the downtown with a transformation piece of local legislation. It was important that we got it right and people were able to vote. The effort that a small group of volunteers and staff to work together on Friday, Friday night, Saturday and even Sunday to make sure the article was ready by Monday was nothing but an extraordinary effort. Thank you to all who were involved.

Selectman Hajjar

STM Article 5

Thank you to all the town meeting members for going through two days and many articles for two nights. There were no problems getting a quorum and that is great for our representative town meeting. We had three very important zoning articles and it was nice to see that they passed overwhelmingly. I commend members for reading, listening, and openly discussing these

Board Openings

Both Personnel Board and Zoning Board of Appeals need volunteers.

Go B's and Go C's

Chairman Bishop

Assessor Revaluation

The Chairman briefly explained the process, pointing out that the people doing the revaluations of homes should have identification and residents do not have to let them in, but they cannot appeal the assessment if they don't.

Norwood Westwood Letter Carrier Food Drive

On Saturday May 11 leave out non-perishable items to be picked up by carriers.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:05 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____

Clerk