

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 in Rm 34, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with Pledge of Allegiance, moment of prayer, reflection.

Present: Chairman Paul Bishop, Selectmen Allan Howard, Thomas Maloney and David Hajjar. Clerk Christina Mulvehill, Assistant Aoife Kelly.

Appointments

7:00 P.M. – Chief William Brooks, Norwood Police Department:

The Chief introduced the three officers accompanying him. Officer Justin LaRoche is a lateral transfer from Rhode Island with over ten years of experience. Officer Sean Jennings is a recent graduate of the Police Academy and is entering Phase II of his Field Training. Officer Rick McGowan is the Field Training Officer breaking in Officer Jennings tonight. Two officers currently in the Police Academy will be graduating next month and he is currently in the process of filling three vacancies coming up in the next few months due to retirements. This month the Police Department held a joint open house with the Fire Department which was a success. Evacuation drills have been conducted at all Norwood Public Schools over the past few weeks in conjunction with the Fire Department. These are fire drills which include the “Hide, Run, Fight” active shooter training. Officer Geoffrey Baguma is heading up a Halloween costume donation program for the department by collecting costumes which will then be distributed to families who might need some assistance at this time. The drug take back program will be collecting on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Selectman Hajjar welcomed the new officers and asked how often the evacuation drills at the schools occur. Typically they conduct more than one per year. Brief discussion of vaping use ensued. Selectman Hajjar asked that the School Resource Officers Paul Murphy and Jaime Mahoney be thanked for their work. Selectman Howard asked the Chief for his thoughts on the vaping issue. The Chief started by saying this is not a police matter it is a public health matter and the Governor's ban does not carry criminal sanctions. The Chief said he is alarmed by the amount of vaping seen, and now seeing deaths, but he predicts more and more of that will be THC related rather than nicotine related. Selectman Maloney inquired about threats on social media and determining their authenticity. Chief Brooks said it depends on the nature of the threat and the origin of the threat, if that can be determined. They utilize digital forensics to trace back some postings in addition to looking for clues in the photos themselves. Overt threats are threats made either verbally or by text. Threats are presumed valid until it is determined by a threat assessment investigation that they are not. Selectman Maloney welcomed the new officers. Chairman Bishop thanked the Chief for his report and welcomed the new officers to the Town of Norwood and thanked them for choosing Norwood.

7:15 P.M – Chief George Morrice, Norwood Fire Department:

Chief Morrice started by thanking the Board, the Manager, the Finance Commission and Town Meeting for supporting the Fire Department equipment for the new engine. The Chief thank Lt. John Cody, Ff. Paul Ronco, Captain Mike Costello, and Group 4 for their efforts in making the open house a success. He congratulated Chloe Ndwega on winning the first Norwood Day Fire Truck Coloring Contest. She is a beautiful little seven year old girl and she received a fire truck ride by the Chief to the Cleveland School. The Chief thanked all the children who participated in that coloring contest, and those pictures are being displayed in the third floor lobby of the Fire Station. He spoke about Avalon Bay as some residents have expressed concern. The main building is divided into two sections, with one closer to Plimpton Avenue and one closer to Nahatan. People will be moving into the section closer to Plimpton Avenue and construction will still be going on in the side closer to Nahatan, but the public should know there is a fire wall dividing those buildings, so there is not a fire safety or life safety issue there. The Chief extended thanks to Police Officer Greg Shore who gave the Fire Department a condensed version of his mental health and well-being class. He is excellent at what he does. The Chief spoke about a pilot program the MBTA has started with trains running through Norwood to Foxboro, but are not stopping in Norwood. The public should be aware that ten inbound and ten outbound trains will be passing through Norwood without stopping. Selectman Hajjar commented on the ambulance revenues being flat in comparison to last year.

7:30 P.M. – (P.H.) Skating Club of Boston, 750 University Avenue:

Jonathan Myers, Project Manager, and John Holmes, Devaney Energy were in attendance on application for VIF License at the property at 750 University Avenue. Mr. Holmes explained the Skating Club rented three temporary heaters just for the winter which need two one thousand gallon tanks for the temporary heat until the spring. Norwood Fire Department Fire Prevention Officer John Cody has signed off on this. Seeing no public comments, on motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to close the hearing. On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to approve the application.

7:45 P.M. – Marypaz, 25 Heaton Avenue:

Marypaz met with the Board regarding her request to be appointed to the Norwood Cultural Council. Marypaz has already met with the Cultural Council. Selectman Hajjar asked what got her interested in the council. Marypaz stated she is an artist and also has experience organizing cultural exhibits. She has a studio in Winsmith Mill and noticed the artists are not as involved in the community as they could be, and the case is the same with artists at the Space Center. Selectman Hajjar thanked her for volunteering. Selectman Maloney thanked her for meeting with the Board. The Cultural Council could be a great conduit to the artistic community, and there are many talented artists who work here in this town every day. Marypaz pointed out that this council really wants to do a lot and they had done a survey to gather information about what people in town would like to see happening here. Selectman Howard welcomed Marypaz. On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to appoint Marypaz to the Cultural Council.

New Business

Joseph A. Collins, General Manager's Office:

On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to table for one week Sewer Service Agreement – 10 Countryside Lane, Walpole. Selectman Hajjar has questions for Mr. Ryan and Walpole is not voting on this until next week.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectmen Hajjar, voted to sign:
Leona Berglund, 134 Bay Road, North Easton to Lot U-51
Nicole M. Griffin, 217 Rock Street #H6 to Lot U-47

Robert F. Sullivan, Sr. Manager, Xfinity:

On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file as information notice regarding changes to Starz/Encore and Epix Programming.

Tony Mazzucco, General Manager:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to approve request to the Board to declare as surplus DPW 1999 International 4700 Truck and allow the truck to be auctioned with proceeds returning to the General Fund.

Denis M. Drummey, Sr. 210 Hampden Road:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to approve application to erect a Christmas Crèche on the Town Common on Washington St. across from Baptist Church, near the bus kiosk as in previous years, from 12/7/19 to 1/4/20.

Chief William G. Brooks, III, NPD:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to schedule a public hearing on the notice of liquor incident report for Shamrock Pub. Detective Greene investigated and found evidence to support that a violation had occurred.

Judith Howard, Norwood Historical Commission:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to table request to schedule an appointment with the Board regarding the restoration of Oak View.

Mike Thornton, Neponset Valley Sunrise Rotary Club:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve request to place a banner across Washington Street from November 1, 2019 until November 14, 2019 to advertise Taste Dedham to Norwood being held on November 14, 2019 at Moseley's, 50 Bridge Street, Dedham.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Hajjar

Town Meeting

Thank you Town Meeting Members for all the hard work that was accomplished.

Morse House Rules and Regulations

Will be included in next week's meeting packet. Waiting until Selectman Plasko gets back.

Consolidated Facilities MOU

Between this Board and the School Committee. Currently doing some financial analysis on this. The goal is to have signed MOU by the end of calendar year.

Selectman Maloney

Town Meeting

Expressed gratitude to Town Meeting Members for completing the task. Several important things got done; Town Hall Elevator funding, fire engine equipment funding, and East Walpole Cemetery.

Norwood's History

In December of 1972, this Board received a letter from Dr. Philip Coakley, Supt. of Schools. There was at the time problem at the High School with parking. There weren't enough parking spaces and there were no parking signs, etc.

Dr. Coakley asked about converting Shattuck Park into a parking lot for the High School. The Board of Selectmen at the time said they favored ecology and wanted to preserve this woodsy jewel in the center of town. Chairman Bishop added that the property was donated to the town by the Edmund J. Shattuck family with a caveat that if for any reason the town were to decide to develop that property, it would revert back to the Shattuck family.

Chairman Bishop

Gazebo Wedding Request

There was a wedding request for Monday, October 28th 4 p.m., with approximately 6 guests that was too late for the regular and late agendas, so per Executive Privilege, I have verbally approved that and would like the Board to vote to approve. On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Hajjar voted to approve the request.

Church of God, Vanderbilt Avenue

Happy 64th birthday to Bishop Luma tomorrow.

Adjournment

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

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk