

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 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 William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Paul A. Bishop, Allan D. Howard and Thomas F. Maloney. Also present General Manager John J. Carroll, Clerk Frances L. Jessoe and Assistant Christina Mulvehill.

Appointments

7:00 P.M. – Chairman Richard Shay-Norwood Cable Commission

Joan Jacobs and Ed Kelleher, members of the Cable Commission were present.

Mr. Shay explained the current negotiation occurring with Verizon and the ten year contract is up in Norwood and they are trying to renew this and it has become complicated. They are working on it with their counsel Peter Epstein as well. He said over 20 cities and towns are negotiating with them and they want many changes.

Selectman Maloney disclosed his wife works for Comcast and he will abstain from any conversation or votes but would like to stay at the table.

Mr. Shay discussed why Verizon is asking for changes. He showed the slide with the 3 different cable companies in Norwood. He explained that many young people use alternate methods of watching TV. The library does a presentation on "how to cut the cable cord". The next slide was the landline's great decline. Verizon believes that will happen to their cable. He added that streaming services can be difficult for older people to use. He prefers to use cable television. Verizon believes the regulatory atmosphere has changed a lot. As for the contract, Verizon lawyers demanded the town treat the reports sent by Verizon as proprietary. Our Town Counsel advised the Board that we should do this as we didn't want to get involved with litigation. He said that Norwood is the only town that does that and he made it clear that will not be in the new contract. Mr. Epstein agrees and he didn't know about it. Verizon has agreed to withdraw that language from the contract and open meeting law does not allow for hiding information from the public. Verizon is asking for a five year contract based on their belief that the regulatory system and the market will change significantly and they are pretty adamant about this. Peter Epstein explained to them that they could have renewed the contract for another 5 years with just a letter exchange but that is not what they want to do-they want a new contract. He said that the Cable Commission would like the Board's opinion on this and Peter Epstein believes that Verizon is going to be adamant about this point. They do not want that but if Verizon is willing to make concessions then they will consider. If we do five or seven year contracts we will end up negotiating two contracts together at the same time. Right now the contracts are two years apart. Chairman Plasko asked about Verizon offering anything in exchange for a five year contract. Mr. Shay said the next major point on Verizon is capital funding and Verizon has requested that the capital funding, which under the current contract were originally \$150,000 block and we changed that to \$15,000 a year-same amount of money just spread out over ten years. Verizon wants that changed to a per subscriber monthly amount basically because they may have less subscribers. The Cable Commission asked for a fixed amount per year. Discussion continued. One of the problems if we did it for Verizon, Comcast would ask for the same and that would be less funding for NPA. They haven't made a counter offer as yet.

Selectman Bishop referred to per subscriber and we also get 5%. Selectman Bishop said the subscribers will be going down and we would lose money on per subscriber. Selectman Donohue referred to the length of the contract and inquired what the other towns are doing. Mr. Shay stated that it is still up in the air-a number will sign less than 10 year contracts. Selectman Donohue said in the business world it is very rare that when you renew a contract, you renew it for less than what you had in the contract, usually there is an increase. Why would we renew the contract for less money than we are getting now? Mr. Shay said Verizon not having a contract is an option and that might be acceptable to the Selectmen.

Cable Commission (cont'd)

Selectman Donohue said that is up to them if they don't want to renew the contract, it would give more business to the other companies. Mr. Shay said he doesn't know what is driving their thinking. Selectman Donohue said that we should not do anything that would be less than what we are getting now. Mr. Shay said in terms of money, he has no intention of doing anything less than the current financing. Selectman Donohue said if the other towns stand together at the same amount of money. No less money.

Mr. Shay said they do not want to have a retail store for people to pay bills and exchange equipment and they feel that is a terrible idea. Right now they have one in Canton at Cobbs Corner-to pay bills and exchange equipment. They have asked them as they have several buildings in town why could they use them. They don't have an answer for that. Selectman Donohue inquired what they suggested in lieu of having a store. Mr. Shay said they have internet arranging an exchange-they will ship you the new equipment. You cannot do it in senior housing and you could be out of business for a week, according to Selectman Bishop. Mr. Shay agreed. Discussion continued. Mr. Shay said that the other methods are not comparable to having a business open during regular hours. They want a store for the life of the next contract.

Mrs. Jacobs said the money would not be the same if we gave them a 7 or 8 year contract. She said the \$150,000 was spread out over 10 years and if they are still going to give us the \$150,000, but increase the \$15,000 to cover the \$150,000 in 8 years is acceptable, but to give them an 8 year contract and still have them hold us to \$15,000 a year, she does not believe that is right. She also said that they are talking about dropping of the equipment free and in the current contract they charge \$75 to do this presently but her thinking is they will drop off the equipment but it could be a week from Tuesday-she would have to say if they are going to do that the Town would have to put a time limit on how long it will take to get the equipment. Selectman Bishop said some people are not tech savvy and they don't know how to put these things together. They should have to pay to install. Selectman Bishop said that NPA TV could stand to lose about \$122,000 that is their capital; they need this to keep going. This will affect NPA TV. They cannot continue without that money-this is his concern. Mr. Shay said he didn't think anyone wants the money to be less. Mr. Shay said they have requested one high definition channel and Verizon was resistant, but if they are happy with the contract will provide this. He said that Norwood Light is working to do this now. Chairman Plasko inquired about Comcast. Mr. Shay said Comcast does not do that and does not have that obligation under the current contract. Norwood Light is working very hard to do this with NPA and soon the customers of Norwood Light will be able to watch NPA on high definition. Mr. Shay said in 5 years for Norwood Light and 7 years for Comcast the contracts will expire. Selectman Bishop said if we negotiation a contract less than what we want, he felt that the other two providers will want to renegotiate. Mr. Shay said yes and this is a consideration. Selectman Bishop said he is not comfortable with it as streaming is the way it will go in the future. Discussion continued. Selectman Bishop said we want the same amount of money over the life of the contract. We do not want to go backwards.

Selectman Donohue asked to negotiate the longest contract. Joan Jacobs said personally she felt that Verizon is holding the HD Channels in front of them and felt that is not a big negotiating feature and they will not let Comcast do HD and not them-she didn't see that happening. Selectman Donohue informed the Commissioners they appreciate everything they do.

Chairman Plasko said that he doesn't like the shorter term, he doesn't like the possible capital funding changes and he doesn't like them getting rid of a retail store front. These companies are always talking about a "level playing field" and now they want to change the field. The strong survive, if they don't want to compete like everyone else, they can leave. Mr. Shay said he appreciates all of this from the Board.

Selectman Howard supported the Board and thanked them for representing Norwood. Selectman Bishop said we should get everything we deserve and nothing less.

7:15 P.M. – Chief William Brooks III, Norwood Police Department:

Reference was made to monthly report of department's activities. Chief Brooks referred to the Cybercrime conference at Sheraton Four points with the Attorney General in attendance. They had ut 600 police it was very interesting. Officer Jennifer Sullivan graduated from Police Academy with flying colors and she is on the road now doing field training. There was a police exam given on April 15, 232 took it and 208 passed. They are already notifying the first tier of candidates that they are being screened. The honor guard went to Washington, D.C. for police week at their own expense. Chairman Plasko inquired where they take the test. Chief Brooks said at the high school. Chief Brooks referred to the One Mind campaign to provide services to people who suffer from mental illness and we engage with a service provider in town. All officers go through mental health training. The department will be doing pistol shooting at the outdoor range. Chief Brooks said that there were 15 bicycle and pedestrian accident last year and we are at 11 right now. He encourages people to pay attention while driving and walk safely.

Selectman Bishop spoke about distracted driving. He said that reading a text while driving is also a violation of the law. The chief concurred. They have been enforcing the texting and driving law. Discussion continued.

Selectman Maloney spoke about the report of a high school student's parents who were seeking a CRA Chief Brooks stated that this is a child requiring assistance which is an order issued by the Juvenile Court that supplies a parent who is struggling to control a child to have limits the child has to reach. This allows for court leverage for a parent.

Selectman Howard asked about opioids and overdoses. The Chief said the numbers are low since his last appointment with the Board. It has slowed down. Statewide they continue to track up and the crime lab continues to report cases with Fentanyl. He can e-mail Selectman Howard with more information.

New Business

Comcast:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file the following:

- a. notification that the Quarterly Franchise Fee of \$50,402.53 has been paid to NPA.
- b. CTV Form 200 Financial Balance Sheet, Form 300 Statement of Revenue & Expenses Parts A & B and Form 400 Statement of Ownership.

Edmund W. Mulvehill, Jr. Director of Veterans' Services:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file invitation to the Board to march at the head of the Memorial Day Parade. Exercises will start at the Old Parish Cemetery at 9:30 a.m. The parade to the Highland Cemetery will form on Washington and Howard Streets at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 29, 2017.

Jill Reddish, Verizon, FIOS TV:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file under Section 7 of Cable TV License statistical information concerning telephone availability and on time performance for prior quarter.

Doug Wigandt, President, AFSCME, Local 1451:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to approve request to use Memorial Hall on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 4 p.m. to meet for the purpose of an election. This will last no longer than one hour.

Eileen Famiglietti, Trinity Community Church:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve all requests to use the DAV Park for the following:

1. Vacation Bible School from July 10-14, 9 a.m. to noon;
2. Family Movie Night on July 21;
3. Annual Church Picnic on Sept. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and block off an area of Berwick Street from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.;
4. Youth "Kickoff" from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on September 10.

Victoria Mullen, Norwood High School Swimming and Diving Team.

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve request to use the parking lot across from the Civic for a car wash on Sat. August 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Norwood Crossing Board of Trustees:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to refer request to the Manager that the Town revise the methodology used to calculate their monthly water and sewer bills. Manager recommends the trustees meet with the water rate committee.

Bertucci Restaurant Corporation, 1405 Boston Providence Turnpike:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to approve request for Change of Manager from Christine Fitzgibbon to Kristin D. O'Donnell.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to sign and approval the following:

Elizabeth Cummings Burton, 2104 Friar Court, Flower Mound, TX to Lot C3-11

Stephanie Nadalini, 546 Nahatan Street, to Lot C3-8

Beverly Lynch, 54 Tamworth Road, to Lot C3-16

Karen McNeill, 136 Dedham Street, Canton, to Lot SGA-76

Morrill Memorial Library, Elizabeth Reed:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve application to use Town Bandstand Saturday, June 10, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to host a Worldwide Knit in Public Day.

Norwood Junior Women's Club, Ally Pike:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney voted to approve request for Special One Day WMB License for June 17, 2017 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for an event at Velocity Sports, 111 Morgan Drive.

Norwood Knights of Columbus, John Paras:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue to approve request for Special One Day AAB License for May 20, 2017 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for the Norwood Irish Music Club.

NHS Boys Hockey Club, John Gover:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve request to reschedule car wash from July 22, 2017 to September 23, 2017.

William Hurley, 5 Nikisch Ave, Roslindale:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file request for an appointment with the Board to discuss Grass Roots Cultural & Performing Arts Center and the establishment of their group at the Norwood Commerce Center. This has been withdrawn.

John Hall, 10 Alden Drive:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to hold application to join Community Preservation Committee.

Michael Bergeron, 238 Railroad Ave.:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to hold request to be considered to be appointed as one of the members at large on the Community Preservation Committee.

Robert M. Thornton:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to hold letter of interest to be appointed to the Community Preservation Committee.

Gerald Miller:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to hold letter of interested to be appointed to the Community Preservation Committee.

Debra Hayward, dba Gallery 2, 61 Endicott Street:

Submitting request to extend hours for her shop to include Wednesday from 10-7, from now until June 21, 2017. This is prohibited by zoning board. On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to inform her that she would have to go to the Zoning Board in order to change the hours.

Colleen Padden, Chair, Republican Town Committee:

By voice mail to the Town Clerk & Accountant-the following names were submitted for the Board of Registrar position; David Tuttle, Patricia Sterritt and Patricia Barrett to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Marion Boch. On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop voted to table for one week.

Unfinished Business

Stuart D. Ravech, Esquire, Ravech Law Offices:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file information re notification that as counsel for Limeys they will not be appealing the decision of the Board to the ABCC. The license will be suspended on Monday, May 15 and Monday, May 22.

Memoranda

Judith Howard for Citizens for Responsible Development:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file copy of letter to Chairman Philip Riley, Zoning Board of Appeals regarding Chapter 40B application of Davis Marcus Partners/Forbes Hill.

Selectmen's Meeting:

On motion of Selectman Maloney seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve minutes of February 28, March 7, 14-21, and March 28.

Mark Chubet, Building Inspector:

On motion of Selectman Maloney seconded by Selectman Bishop voted to accept monthly report for April 2017.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Maloney

Norwood Commerce Center Study Committee:

Will meet June 1 to deal with getting information to the neighborhood about things going on at the Norwood Commerce Center. He will keep the Board updated.

Eagle scout court of honor

For Zaal Panthaki and thank you for opportunity. It was a great thrill to do it. It was an honor to represent the Board.

Selectman Donohue

Bar Association-Honor to Judge Menno

This board gave him a certificate in his honor. He graduated St. Catherine's in 1989 and Xavierian brothers, Boston College and Harvard Divinity School. He grew up in Norwood and it was a huge tribute. It was a great honor for a son of Norwood.

Steve Eosco

He is a member of the Norfolk County Marine Corp League Detachment. He served in Vietnam. He has been volunteering with Norfolk county RSVP volunteer program. If you are interested get in touch with him. He being a marine has taken it upon himself to give rides to veterans to medical appointments. He spoke at the State House on April 25th.

Selectman Howard

Senior center veteran's event which will take place on Monday. They will have a lot of memorabilia.

Mrs. Dolly Parker puts the exhibit together. She did this at the Balch School and the Last Hurrah. Veterans Agent Ted Mulvehill will be speaking.

Sportsmen's Association 75th Fishing Derby

Was held this past weekend. It was a great success and for \$2 they get prizes and refreshments. It is a lot of fun.

Recreation department dance recital

Wonderful event. He had a great time and it was a quick two hours with over 130 young ladies. Beautiful costumes. Very well done and a lot of fun.

Manager's Agenda

Fire Department

Request for transfer of funds within fire department under muni relief act. On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve. The vote was 4-0. Chairman Plasko abstained regarding the transfer into Fire Dispatch pay. Chairman Plasko said while he finds the other to be justified and explained they should have been included in the Special Town Meeting specifically because the Chief was advised directly that he should be looking at the budget and bringing anything to Town Meeting, therefore, he will be voting opposed. The first vote was for the dispatcher pay and the second vote on motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve. The vote was 4-1. Chairman Plasko opposed.

Pleasant Street Feeder

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file.

Manager's Executive Session

EEOC

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to take under advisement.

Adjournment

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

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____

Clerk