

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**HYBRID MEETING**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

**HARRY BUTTERS SELECTMEN'S CHAMBERS**

**NORWOOD TOWN HALL • 566 WASHINGTON STREET • NORWOOD, MASS.**

**BOARD PRESENT: Matthew E. Lane, Robert G. Donnelly, William J. Plasko, Amanda R. Grow, Michael Saad**

**BOARD ABSENT:**

**RECORDING SECRETARY: Christine M. Woodward**

**1. Warrant Signature Update**

Submitting notification of reviewed and approved Warrant Reports, signed by the Board's representative.

Motion to accept.

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly

*Seconded by:* William Plasko

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

**2. Meeting Minutes for approval of the Board**

Submitting meeting minutes for January 23rd, 2024.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Amanda Grow

*Seconded by:* Michael Saad

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

### 3. Appointments

- 3.1 6:30 PM - Chief William G. Brooks, NPD and Chief Timothy Bailey, NFD

Chief Tim Bailey of the Norwood Fire Department presented the Board with several updates. First Due, a reporting software will be going into place on March 1st. Lexipol, the department policies and procedures program is moving along very well. With regard to fire prevention, the department is working on all the major projects here in town. Two members have retired and two members are currently in the Fire Academy. The new ambulance has arrived in North Attleboro and will be in service in early March. The Board expressed their thanks for all the work that the NFD performs on a daily basis.

Chief Brooks spoke about HRECC - the Holbrook Regional Emergency Communications Center. In order for staff to have a better understanding of what it's like, Chief Brooks has sent some of their sergeants there in four hour blocks to see how it all works. There have been a few commercial break ins in the center of Town. Chief Brooks also spoke of the Grandparents Scam and said that a local resident was unfortunately a victim of that scam. The Chief mentioned the grant that has allowed both the Police and the Fire Departments to replace their radios, screens and portables as well as the laptops equipped in their vehicles. Chief Brooks also mentioned the negative impact on his department and that of Public Safety in general with regard to the Norwood Hospital situation. In closing, Chief Brooks spoke of his upcoming retirement in late April. The Board expressed their great appreciation for all that Chief Brooks has accomplished and what he has done for the Town during his tenure as Chief of Police.

- 3.2 6:50 PM - Facilities Director Paul Riccardi and Assistant Facilities Director Chris Folan (Cancelled)

- 3.3 7:00 PM Liquor Hearing - Arena NL DBA Launch

Application has been made to the Licensing Board of the Town of Norwood for All Alcoholic Beverages for Arena NL DBA Launch Entertainment Park, located at 570 Boston

Providence Highway, Norwood, Massachusetts, Ryan Debin, Manager of Record, under Section 12, Chapter 138 of Massachusetts General Laws, as amended for the sale of All Alcoholic Beverages to be drunk on the premises of 570 Boston Providence Highway, Norwood, Massachusetts. Description of premises is as follows: A 26,613 square foot warehouse building with one floor and one lofted area. There is an entrance, check-in and arcades at the front of the establishment. Past the arcades there is a counter service restaurant, seating and bathrooms. The seating area is divided from the other attractions with a half wall. Food and drink are not self service and must be purchased from a cashier at the counter service restaurant.

Public hearing on this application will be held on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Room 34, Norwood Town Hall.

Counsel for the applicant Brian Almeida, introduced himself to the Board as well as those present with him representing Arena NL DBA Launch including principal owner, Ryan Debin. Mr. Debin described their business to the Board, as a family entertainment business, and spoke about their hours of operation, seating and capacity. Discussion took place between Board members and those present representing Launch. Details were explained regarding the area in which the alcohol would be sold and consumed. Selectman Plasko had a concern regarding whether or not the alcoholic beverages would be consumed in areas outside of the noted seating area - for example - arcade area, party rooms. Mr. Plasko entertained the idea of restricting the area and limiting it to the seating area where food is sold. There was no public comment.

Selectman Donnelly had concerns with classification of the license as an All Alcohol Beverage license. This license has been up for other approvals previously and he is having a hard time distinguishing the denial done previously to this current application. Mr. Donnelly would be more comfortable with a WMB license if there were one available but there is not

at this time.

Selectman Plasko was impressed by the presentation as was Selectman Donnelly. Mr. Plasko is looking at the license and how it is to be used in the community and in service to the public; in this geographical area within a half mile - there are already five All Alcohol licenses in use. Mr. Plasko stated that these licenses should be open to serve the public and then gave the example of Launch and its limited hours of operation when it comes to serving the public which is the intention of the license. Mr. Plasko also expressed concern about the supervision once alcoholic beverages have been served by counter service with so many young children in the establishment. In closing his comments, Mr. Plasko felt that the area was already well served and that the applicant has not proven or given enough reasons to warrant that this license would serve a public need or common good.

Selectman Grow stated that the limited hours are a concern for her but she does see the shift in the market as more adults are responding to a different type of entertainment. She is not strongly opposed and sees the points made by fellow Board members and could support a denial for the reasons mentioned.

Selectman Saad stated that he concurs with senior members of the Board.

Chairman Lane commented that he would not vote for a motion to deny. He feels that the applicant has made a compelling argument - business wise and operation wise, as well as taking into consideration the track record at the other sites. Mr. Lane stated that he wished that the State would grant specific licenses for this type of category.

Mr. Plasko explained the options when an application is denied. They will have five days to appeal and contact the ABCC who would hold a full hearing. Selectman Plasko also made the applicant aware that this same license was denied to a similar entertainment venue and they have appealed. It is under appeal now; the hearing has been held and the Board awaits a decision from the ABCC. That establishment has requested and has been granted a 'hold' so the ABCC would not consider an appeal from Launch should there be one - until there is a conclusion to the other case.

Motion to close the public hearing

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly

*Seconded by:* Michael Saad

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

Motion to deny.

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly

*Seconded by:* William Plasko

**Aye** Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Nay** Amanda Grow and Matthew Lane

**Carried 3-2**

- 3.4 7:30 PM Kerri McCarthy - Director, Council on Aging  
This past year 365 new members were welcomed to the Senior Center. The average daily attendance is 156 people. There are many exercise and educational classes , special events and parties that take place throughout the year. There were 4,500 rides provided by the Senior Center for senior residents in 2023. Ms. McCarthy mentioned that unfortunately they are seeing an increase in food and housing insecurity. The Board offered their appreciation for all of the great work that the Council on Aging does for the residents of Norwood.

#### **4. New Business**

- 4.1 Car Wash - Norwood High School Field Hockey  
Submitting request to hold a car wash on Saturday, August 17th, 2024 from 8:30 AM until 1:30 PM at the municipal parking lot.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Amanda Grow  
*Seconded by:* Robert Donnelly

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad  
**Carried 5-0**

- 4.2 Car Wash - Bay State Animal Cooperative  
Submitting request to hold the annual Dog Wash/Car Wash, Rabies Clinic and Microchipping Clinic on Sunday, June 9th, 2024 from 9 AM until 2 PM at the municipal parking lot.  
Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly  
*Seconded by:* William Plasko

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad  
**Carried 5-0**

- 4.3 Car Wash - Norwood High School Softball  
Submitting request to hold a car wash on Saturday, May 4th, 2024 from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the municipal parking lot.  
Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly  
*Seconded by:* Amanda Grow

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad  
**Carried 5-0**

- 4.4 Town Common Request - Patriotic Rosary  
Submitting request to use the Town Common/Gazebo on July 3rd, 2024 at 1:00 PM for the recitation of the Patriotic Rosary.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Amanda Grow

*Seconded by:* William Plasko

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert  
Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

- 4.5 Town Common/Central St. Request - Acoustic Thursdays  
Submitting request to use the Town Common/Central St. for a new concert series, Acoustic Thursdays. The concerts will take place on Thursdays from May 23rd, 2024 until June 27th, 2024 from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM with approximately 100 attendees expected per concert.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Michael Saad

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert  
Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

- 4.6 Morse House Request - Norwood Democratic Town  
Committee  
Submitting request to use the Morse House for a Norwood Democratic Town Committee meeting on Monday, February 26th, 2024 from 6:00 PM until 9:30 PM with 20 attendees expected.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Michael Saad

*Seconded by:* Amanda Grow

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert

Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

- 4.7 Banner Request - DPW, Ecumenical Food Pantry  
Submitting request to place a banner on the poles at Washington Street between Vernon and Day Streets from Monday, April 22nd, 2024 until May 13th, 2024. The banner will advertise Household Hazardous Waste/Recycling Day and the National Association of Letter Carrier's Food Drive. Both events will take place on May 11th, 2024.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly

*Seconded by:* Amanda Grow

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

- 4.8 Sign Placement Request - League of Women Voters  
Submitting request to place six sandwich board signs at the following locations to promote maximum citizen participation: Coakley Middle School entrance at the empty lot, Chapel & Walpole Streets intersection, Winter & Prospect Streets intersection, Walnut & Washington Streets intersection, Pleasant Street and Lenox Ave. intersection and Dean & Neponset Streets intersection. These signs will be placed two weeks prior to the election on March 5th and then two weeks prior to the Town election on April 1st.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Michael Saad

*Seconded by:* William Plasko

**Carried**

- 4.9 Cemetery Deeds  
For signature of the Board.



Elizabeth A. Ogryzek, 396 Fisher Street, Walpole. MA for Lot. No. C3-274

Maureen R. McMorrow, 35 Dorset Street, for Lot No.: G6-133

Janet O. Smith, 90 Devon Road, for Lot No.: C-656B

Perry Siegel, 29 Fairview Rd., for Lot No.: C3-244

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Robert Donnelly

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

4.10 Bad Debt List - Norwood Light and Broadband

Submitting bad debt list for aged cable and electric accounts that are over seven years old.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Robert Donnelly

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

4.11 Traffic Safety Recommendations

Submitting recommendations from the Traffic Safety Committee:

1. Posting no truck or trailer parking on both sides of the road - Carnegie Row and Vanderbilt Avenue.
2. Request to change the signage on Park Place, formerly Monroe St. Ext. - to No Parking Anytime.
3. Request to allow two hour parking to extend from Washington Street at Guild Street down to Hoyle Street.

Motion to approve.

*Moved by:* Robert Donnelly  
*Seconded by:* Amanda Grow

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

#### 4.12 Hawes Pool Timeline Construction

Selectman Donnelly opened with comments regarding some confusion that surrounds the Hawes Pool and the need to, based on the current construction project, close the pool in order to effect the construction of the pool as soon as possible. There have been some discussions on Capital Outlay regarding a different timeline. During the Pool Feasibility Study, there were some conversations regarding the opportunity for the Town to keep the pool open and start the construction after the pool season is over. Since that time, Mr. Donnelly noted that a number of things have interfered with that goal. If there had been approval at the May Town Meeting, then it may have been possible to proceed but capital projects are not approved in May, they are approved in November which changes the timeline. The Town has organized the appropriate bid documents and they have gone out to bid recently. With the complexity of this project, it is determined to be in the vicinity of a 6-8 month timeframe which necessitates the closing of the pool. Discussion followed. Chairman Lane commented that it is not an ideal situation but it is the reality at this time.

#### 4.13 Storm Water

The Storm Water Committee has concluded their report. Mr. Mazzucco asked Selectman Donnelly if the next step that the Board would want to take would be to have the consultant who has worked with the committee throughout this time appear at the next board meeting on February 27th. Mr. Donnelly thought this was a good idea and that the consultant could offer an education base regarding how fee structures work and the data associated with these

structures.

4.14 Canoe Donation

For acceptance by the Board.

Motion to accept the canoe donation under Chapter 44, Section 53 1/2, to be used under the auspices of the Recreation Department with thanks to the donator, Vic Babel.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Michael Saad

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

4.15 Senior Tax Work Off Program - Program Changes

For approval by the Board.

Motion to approve: to increase the maximum threshold of property tax reduction effective immediately from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per program year.

*Moved by:* Amanda Grow

*Seconded by:* Michael Saad

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**Carried 5-0**

4.16 Town Meeting Warrant for signature of the Board

Motion to sign the warrant as submitted.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Robert Donnelly

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**5. Memoranda**

- 5.1 Verizon  
For information. Submitting Annual Complaint Filing.
  
- 5.2 Norwood Light Broadband  
For information. Submitting Annual Complaint Filing.
  
- 5.3 ABCC Approval - Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC  
Submitting notification of approval for Change of Manager.
  
- 5.4 Letter from Selectman Plasko  
For information.
  
- 5.5 Early Voting Process  
Town Clerk Mary Lou Folan submitting, for information.
  
- 5.6 Warrant - Presidential Primary  
Town Clerk, Mary Lou Folan submitting for signature of the Board.
  
- 5.7 Mass DOT Traffic Signal Project  
For information.
  
- 5.8 St. Gabriel's Chapel  
For information.
  
- 5.9 Monthly Police Report - Norwood Police Department  
For information.  
  
Motion to file items 5.1 - 5.9.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Robert Donnelly

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert

**6. Manager's Update**

Mr. Mazzucco opened with comments regarding hybrid meetings. During the pandemic it had been a requirement. But now we very rarely have anyone join the meetings virtually. And with Norwood Community Media streaming the meeting live, it is an advantage for us. After brief discussion it was decided that we will continue to retain *the option of remote participation* but preferably the meetings will be in person. The hybrid link will no longer be noted on the agenda.

**7. Selectmen's Addenda**

Selectman Saad congratulated the NHS Wrestling Team and the Hockey Team as well.

Selectman Grow offered kudos to the Community Development Department. She has received comments from the public who think that they're doing a great job.

Selectman Donnelly announced the final concert in the Winter Concert Series will take place on Sunday, February 18th.

With the pending retirement of Chief Brooks, Mr. Donnelly asked if Selectman Grow would be willing to get in touch with the state's delegation and inquire as to the process to get recognition for the Chief and his many years of service to Norwood. Ms. Grow said that she'd be happy to do that.

Motion to enter Executive Session for Purpose 3. Based on the information before them, when the Board leaves Executive Session it will be for the purpose of adjournment.

*Moved by:* William Plasko

*Seconded by:* Amanda Grow

**Aye** Amanda Grow, Matthew Lane, Robert Donnelly, William Plasko, and Michael Saad

**8. Executive Session**

Purpose 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.