

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 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, and Paul A. Bishop. Also present General Manager Tony Mazzucco, and Clerk Christina K. Mulvehill.

Appointments

6:30 p.m. Executive Session:

Per Purpose three: To discuss strategy with respect to litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body.

Pending Litigation

Boston Executive Helicopters, LLC v. Town of Norwood et al., U.S. District Court – Massachusetts Civil Action No. 1:15-cv-13647-RGS.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue and on roll call vote of Selectmen Plasko, Donohue, Bishop and Chairman Maloney, voted to enter into executive session for discuss pending litigation referenced above.

7:00 P.M – Norfolk County DA Michael Morrissey, Chief William Brooks and Deputy Chief Peter Kelly:

Attorney Morrissey, present to discuss the Norfolk County Outreach Program, expressed his gratitude at being invited in by the Board and added that Norwood Police Department is one of the best in the County. Chief Brooks introduced Deputy Chief Peter Kelly, and District Attorney Michael Morrissey. Deputy Chief Kelly has really led this project on the law enforcement side. Deputy Chief Kelly said they are excited about this program. The police department has been doing intervention and follow on substance abuse since the nineties. Beginning in 2014 they started to track overdoses, to determine patterns and to enable follow up. In October of 2018 the department received a grant for a Recovery Coach, who is a female recovering substance abuser. She helps them get people to detox and she is a great resource for the town. She services the fifteen NORPAC communities. Plymouth County has a model with software that tracks county wide. Norwood wanted to do something similar but did not have the funding. Deputy Chief Kelly explained that District Attorney Morrissey came up with the funding and has been very supportive. He enabled and allowed Norwood to do this county wide project. Norwood always knew when someone overdosed in Norwood, and could follow up with that person and hopefully get them into a substance abuse facility and get them some help, but this is a county wide endeavor. D.A. Morrissey explained that drug overdose is the single largest killer in Norfolk County, so his office was tracking these and collecting data based upon when there is an unattended death Two years ago, 173 people in the county died from overdose, and last year, approximately 130 died. Those are conservative numbers because if the death was outside the county or in a hospital, he would have to wait a year or so for the Department of Public Health to come up with statistics. Chief Brooks is forward thinking and had the department trained on Narcan before most. Deputy Chief Kelly followed the model of the Plymouth County tracking program and worked to get the grant for NORPAC, when the Chief suggested trying to include the all the counties in the state. This program takes committed people to take the lead and put this together. Norwood training facility is being used for training for other towns. The goal is to get people help. The Sheriff's Office is now involved because people who have served a prison sentence and then get released, if they have had a substance abuse problem, may use again. The problem is they take the amount of drug they took previously, but don't have the tolerance and are ripe for an overdose. The same is true with people who come out of rehab. This tool will give us more up to date data. DA Morrissey said he is fortunate to have people like those in the Norwood Police Department. There was a brief discussion of the DOVE Program and Chief Brooks said they have an advocate at the station, who is there weekly and works with them on domestic violence cases. The A.D. spoke about Norwood Police Department being progressive and great partners in law enforcement. He added that the Norwood Police Department makes his job easier.

7:15 P.M. – Travis Farley, Recreation Department:

Mr. Farley gave the highlights of his monthly report of department activities. The Recreation Program Guide went out recently and they will be starting spring and summer registrations. Mr. Farley gave thanks to the Police Department for providing a last minute detail on Nahatan Street recently. He spoke briefly about plans to partner with the Norwood Junior Women's Club.

New Business

Dave Monaghan, Mug n Muffin, 716 Washington Street:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve application for One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for Wednesday, February, 20, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a Circle of Hope fundraiser.

George Hazerjian, Chair, Community Service Day Board:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko voted to approve application to use DAV Park on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to hold an Outreach Awareness and Service Project Event sponsored by First Congregational Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Grace Episcopal Church, First Church of Christ, Sai Baba Center, all of Norwood. Police will be notified.

Patrick Moore, Comcast of Massachusetts:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file statement supporting latest quarterly franchise fee payment.

Viola Baboola, Verizon:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file Grant Report, 4th Quarter 2018.

Frances Downey, Norwood Art Association:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve application to use Town Common on Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the Annual Art in the Park, and request that DPW deliver the panels to the Common on that day and pick them up after the event. (Rain Date June 9th)

Robyn Konopacki, Director, Physician Practice Operations, Norwood Hospital:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request to hang temporary banner for the new Steward Medical Group Practice: Norwood Primary Care, located at 900 Washington Street, for six months, starting February 13, 2019.

Judy Bass, Communications Specialist/Webmaster, Blue Hills Regional:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file notification that the renovation project web site previously known as www.renovatebluehills.com has been changed to www.bluehillsrenovation.com.

Benny Wong, Mass Development:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file Notification of Public Hearing by Mass Development Finance Agency, February 13, 2019 at 9 a.m. at 99 High Street, 11th Floor, Boston. The hearing is concerning bond financing for the project at 750 University Avenue, (Skating Club of Boston).

Jean Taylor, 11 Monroe Street:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to forward to the Manager, Officer Begley, and Mark Ryan correspondence regarding the intersection of Hill Street and Lower Washington Street.

Norwood Portuguese Club, Silverio Aroujo:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve application for Special One Day WMB License for Sunday, March 3, 2019 from 5 p.m. -9 p.m.

Kim Weineck, Friends of Norwood Center:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve application to use Town Common to hold Farmer's Market on Tuesdays from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Beginning June 18 through October 15, 2019.

Darryl Hanson, Norwood Light Broadband:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file 2018 Annual Complaint Form (Form 500) in accordance with Massachusetts cable regulations.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to sign:
Shawna L. Dolabany, 1 Elsworth Street, Franklin, MA 02038 to Lot C3-83.
Joan S. Roberts, 121 Summer Street, North Easton, MA 02356 to Lot SG-1406

Car Wash:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve Norwood High School TV, Saturday, May 25, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

John Aprea, III, Progress Norwood:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve application to use Town Common, Sunday April 28, 2019 from 8 a.m to 2 p.m. to hold Earth Day community picnic and fair.

Julie Barbour-Issa, Katie Neal-Rizzo, Denise Kiley:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file notification of newly formed One Norwood, a municipal ballot question committee.

Fletcher Longley, 34 Arcadia Road:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to deny request for newly installed No Parking signs on St. George Avenue to be changed to 30 Minute Parking.

Castle Island Brewing Company, Adam Romanow, Founder & President:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve request for Automatic Amusement Devices License for 1 pinball machine, 2 ski-ball machines, and 4 video arcade games.

Additional New Business

Chairman Thomas F. Maloney:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve and forward to Finance Commission request for Reserve Fund Transfer of \$ 5,200 to Selectmen's Full Time Salaries Account.

Unfinished Business

Override Correspondence

Chairman Maloney acknowledged the correspondence received by this Board regarding the override, including two letters from Robert Thornton, the former Chief Financial Officer. Chairman Maloney explained that Mr. Thornton's letters were loaded with data and suggested forwarding them to the Budget Balancing Committee. On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to forward the minutes to the Budget Balancing Committee and the Finance Commission.

Selectman Plasko said in addition the correspondence received by this office, he personally received approximately one hundred emails. He also spoke at length with Mr. Thornton about the subject and commends him for his knowledge and commitment to the Town, and for providing so much assistance.

Selectman Bishop appreciates the work Mr. Thornton did and believes both sides of the issue should be available for public consumption.

Chairman Maloney said he has also spoken and exchanged emails with Mr. Thornton and finds all the exchanges enriching. Thank you to all who corresponded with us.

Selectman Donohue asked if the public could get copies of these letters. Residents are welcome to request these documents if they would like them.

Override Article

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted 4-0 to place the following question on the June Special Election Ballot: Shall the town of Norwood be allowed to assess an additional \$5,950,000.00 in Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes for the purposes of operating Municipal Government, \$550,000.00, School Department, \$4,700,000.00, and establishment of a Stabilization Fund for the Municipal Government and School Department Operations, \$700,000.00, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. Selectman Howard was not present.

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen:

Chairman Maloney announced the appointment of Aoife Kelly as the new Administrative Assistant to this Board. Christina Mulvehill was promoted to Executive Assistant and Aoife Kelly will replace her. She will be starting March 4, 2019. The process of hiring an administrative assistant was very well conducted under the leadership of our former HR Director Michelle Pizzi. Chairman Maloney and Selectman Bishop were involved in that. There were thirty four applicants, of whom eleven were interviewed with a final interview pool of four. Ms. Kelly was offered the position and she accepted. We are delighted to have her. She was here this evening before the meeting and met the Selectmen she had not yet met. We know she will do a bang up job here. Selectman Bishop said we got the best candidate for the position. There was a lot of time and effort put into it. Selectman Donohue thanked all those who applied, showing they care about the Town. Selectman Plasko also welcomed Ms. Kelly and thanked Chairman Maloney, Selectman Bishop, Ms. Mulvehill, and Ms. Pizzi for going through the process and finding her. She comes to us, by coincidence, as a local resident, which is always nice, with great experience having worked in the Town of Brookline. Chairman Maloney thanked Ms. Mulvehill, stating her involvement in the process was critical.

Manager's Update

Reserve Fund Transfer – Airport:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request for Reserve Fund Transfer of \$1,500 for non-snow removal overtime.

Norfolk County Mosquito Control District:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request to utilize the old Norwood landfill as a staging and loading site during the District-wide aerial larvicide, between April 16 & 19, 2019. They would only use the site for a couple of hours on a single day.

Budget Process:

FY 202 Budget Presentation with CFO Thomas McQuaid. The Board received the General Government budget earlier in the week. School Department has not completed theirs yet so there is still work to be done. Also included is a detailed expenditure list, all of which should be published on the website in the near future. Chairman Maloney inquired about departmental budget hearings timeframes. Mr. Mazzucco said Finance Commission is starting theirs this week and next week, late March would probably be good. And sometime in April he would like to do formal budget presentations as part of a change in our overall budget process. Mr. Mazzucco said he has made it clear to the Selectman and Finance Commission that we do need to look at a new budget process. We start really early before we have real numbers in hand, and one of the things that leads to is an enormous amount of staff work that gets put into the budget that doesn't actually generate any results. Both Superintendent Thomson and he would prefer to release a budget in mid to late February that is a completely balanced budget. Then there would be proper budget presentations for the Fin Com, Selectmen and School Committee. Those three boards can then make changes or recommendation as they see fit. This would be a much more transparent process. Selectman Plasko recommended the Manager make that proposal each year in November or December and have the Board accept it, until there is some permanent change.

The Manager spoke about the General Government budget and how it got balanced. This year departments were told to submit flat budgets with only contractual increases in wages or other costs. The General Government budget tends to be more stable, where schools are subject to state mandates. There were three

Manager's Agenda-Budget Process(cont'd):

areas of major savings in the General Government budget; Veterans' Services, changes in indirect cost accounting with the Light Department. The Light Department absorbs some of the cost of General Government to pay for the services that General Government provides the Light Department. This is recommended by the Department of Revenue. We need to move towards more proper enterprise accounting. Selectman Donohue asked whether a lot of the extra items that would have been included in the budget had been shifted to Capital Outlay. The third area of cost savings was in street lighting with the completion of our retrofit of our LED lights resulted in a significant decrease in the cost of street lighting. The savings associated with these three items was about \$440,000. Some cuts were made to the software requests. The proposal for the airport matching grant is that it be funding out of free cash. Road money has been reduced. The reduction in Forbes Hill cost would be, in the case it does not get sold, we mothball it. Discussion ensued. Selectman Plasko pointed out that the Board members would give input on details down the road, but this is an overview of where we are going. The Manager clarified that this is his recommendation and the Board can take the budget and do with it what they please. He continued with his presentation. The major cost increases were in snow and ice, solid waste and recycling, Fire department training and mid-year implementation of a deputy chief position to improve the management infrastructure. The proposed Town Wide Facilities Department director and admin would be absorbed by General Government. Discussion ensued.

There have been some revenue changes since the first pass of the budget came in, in state aid increases, Veterans' services, meter fee, so the total positive revenues changes after the split for the general government side is about \$700,000. Both general government and schools are facing a structural deficit in the future. The Manager said over the next four years we would be looking at position cuts at town hall, the library, public works and public safety. In addition there could be some cuts to retiree benefits and social service programming. The stabilization fund is not growing and we are borrowing for a lot of smaller items.

Mr. Mazzucco commended Mr. McQuaid and the Accounting staff and Bernie Cooper, Cathy Carney, and Sue Bartlett. Kudos to the staff for putting up with a very difficult process. Chairman Maloney pointed out that we have not spent anything on free cash this year. Selectman Plasko spoke briefly about trying to build up cash reserves. Mr. Mazzucco spoke in length about OPEB.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Plasko

OCC Lease

This is the year the lease comes up and we should be asking if the tenant has an interest in staying and the structuring of the bid. The term of the lease can now be up to thirty years. Need to start working on it.

Forbes Hill

Got advertised and there are some promising prospects.

Override

The cost in yearly taxes on an average house would be an additional \$389 increase per year.

Chairman Maloney

Special Town Meeting

STM will be early this year, beginning on Thursday, April 25, 2019.

Adjournment

Returning to open session and no other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:15 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____

Clerk