

Selectmen's Meeting
Hybrid Meeting

August 17, 2021
Meeting is Recorded

Under Governor Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. C. 30A, Section 20", issued March 12, 2020 and in effect until termination of the State of Emergency: This meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be conducted hybrid model with Board meeting in person in the Selectmen's Chambers in Town Hall, and all other participants joining remotely. The Meeting will be called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 P.M. Please see meeting information below:

Tue, Aug 17, 2021 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EDT)
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/300521741>
United States: +1 (872) 240-3311 Access Code: 300-521-741

Present: Chairman Maloney, Vice Chairman Plasko, Selectman Donohue, Selectman Hajjar, Selectman Lane, Town Manager Tony Mazzucco, Jess Jozwik, Christine Woodward, from Moderna: Bankim Patel, Scott Nickerson and Lynn Tokarczyk, Norwood Fire Department: Chief George Morrice, Deputy Chief David Hayes and Deputy Chief John Cody

Executive Session

6:00 p.m. Executive Session

Chairman Maloney called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM for 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; Motion made by Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue . The Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session.

6:30 p.m. Executive Session

Purpose 6- To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body;

On completion of discussion, on motion from Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lane, the Board voted to move to open session. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 in the Selectman's Chambers, Town Hall, 566 Washington St, Room 34 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

Appointments

7:05 p.m. Mary Mulroney, National Grid:

Request for consent to install and maintain approximately 1,330 feet of 6 inch plastic main under Pleasant Street, from the 4 inch plastic stub near Morse Street to the six inch plastic stub near Sumner Street. Selectman Hajjar thanked Ms. Mulroney for appearing and posed a question to her regarding the four inch pipe that already exists. Mr. Hajjar inquired as to whether the four inch pipe that already exists – would be removed....Mary replied that it would remain in place. Selectman Hajjar then asked about the intersection of Morse St. and Pleasant. He asked whether it would be wise to remove that as there are other utilities underground and if someone were to hit that by accident, they may think that there's an actual gas line versus not having to worry about it at all. Ms. Mulroney stated that National Grid's practice is not to remove the abandoned pipe in the ground. Selectman Hajjar then stated that he wasn't looking for the entire pipe to be removed – just the section of pipe at the intersection of Morse and Pleasant Streets. Ms. Mulroney responded that that is something that could be addressed by the engineers when applying for the permit. Chairman Maloney then read the memo from Town Engineer,

Mark Ryan stating the recommendations regarding National Grid's request. Mr. Hajjar then added a fourth request – that the abandoned four inch gas pipe at the intersection of Morse Street and Pleasant be removed back to where the radius meets the street on Pleasant. Motion made by Selectman Plasko as follows: to approve the request subject to the conditions referenced by Town Engineer, Mark Ryan in his letter of memorandum dated August 13th, 2021 as well as Selectman Hajjar's amendment to include the removal of the old gas main, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.

7:15 p.m. Moderna, One Upland Rd.

Meet and Greet with the Board. Lynn Tokarczyk, Government Tax Incentives Consultant for Moderna, Scott Nickerson, SVP of Manufacturing for the US as well as the Norwood Site Head and Bankim Patel, Senior Director of Facilities and Engineering - appeared on behalf of Moderna. Ms. Tokarczyk opened by expressing her gratitude to Mr. Mazzucco as well as Town officials for their interest in Moderna's proposed expansion plans and the Town's consideration of tax incentives. Moderna has enjoyed being located in Norwood since 2018. Since that time, Moderna has established very strong relationships with local officials, educational leaders and community partners. A slide show was then presented highlighting three categories: 1) an update 2) proposed expansion plans and 3) intent to apply for tax incentives. Mr. Nickerson gave commentary as the slide show was presented.

7:30 p.m. Chief George Morrice, Norwood Fire Department

Fire Department Update and Review. Chief George Morrice along with Deputy Chief David Hayes and Deputy Chief John Cody appeared before the Board. Chief Morrice will be retiring on August 31st. Chief Morrice spoke of his accomplishments during his tenure as Chief of the Norwood Fire Department highlighting various improvements made throughout the department. A powerpoint presentation accompanied the narration by Chief Morrice, Deputy Hayes and Deputy Cody. This presentation can be viewed on demand via Norwood Community Media. The Board expressed its gratitude for all of the achievements that Chief Morrice has fulfilled and wished him well in his retirement.

New Business

1. Moderna, One Upland Rd.

Submitted letter regarding expansion plans. Motion to file approved unanimously.

2. Lt. David Benton, Norwood Police Department

Submitted request to use the Town Common and Bandstand on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, for the National Night out event from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, with setup beginning at 3:00 pm. Motion to approve made by Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Lane. Selectman Plasko discussed his reservations – he supports the Police and what they would like to do but thinks that there may be a better venue to serve this use. After further discussion, Selectman Hajjar then withdrew his motion and Selectman Lane withdrew his seconding of the motion. Selectman Hajjar then presented a new motion to table this request until further discussion with Chief Brooks, motion seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Director Clayton Cheever, Morrill Memorial Library

Submitted request to continue to use the Bond Street Field for weekly story hour into the fall, Thursdays from September 9th, 2021 through October 21st, 2021 from 9:30 AM through 11:00 AM. Motion made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Hajjar. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. Masa Hibachi, 1200 Boston Providence Highway

Submitted request for a Common Victualler license for location at 1200 Boston Providence Highway, serving Japanese Hibachi style food, with hours from Monday through Saturday, 11:00 AM -1:00 AM, Sunday Noon

until 1:00 AM. Motion made by Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Hajjar. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Let's Eat Norwood, dba Sky, 1369 Boston Providence Turnpike
Submitted request to set up a public hearing to transfer liquor license to Masa Hibachi. Motion made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. The Golden Bull, 1066 Washington Street
Submitted request for a Common Victualler license for location at 1600 Washington Street, serving Brazilian food, with hours from Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Motion made by Selectman Plasko to table this request until a more complete application is received for review, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.
7. Update to Hackney Rules and Regulations
For approval of the Board, removal of requirement that drivers hold an in-state driver's license. Motion to approve made by Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Donohue. The motion was approved unanimously.
8. Unlicensed Hackney Companies
For discussion. Selectman Hajjar through discussion with the owner of the taxi company, it was pointed out that there are many limousine services throughout the Town that are not licensed. The owner of the taxi company presented a list to Mr. Hajjar. Selectman Hajjar submitted a draft letter to Executive Assistant, Jess Jozwik with the list of those companies – their names and locations. After a conversation with Chief Brooks, it was determined that a copy of the rules and regulations should be sent to inform the limousine services and give them an opportunity to comply.
9. LATE AGENDA ITEM: Xavier Cullen, General Manager's office
Submitted request to use the Morse House at 3pm on Saturday, August 21st, 2021 to interview Susan Clare as part of an archive of interviews with people in Norwood - discussing their experiences of the past year and a half. Motion made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.
10. LATE AGENDA ITEM: Masshire Metro South
Submitted request to schedule a rain date for their already approved event, in case of inclement weather for their event originally scheduled for August 23rd. They wish to set the rain date for the job fair on August 31st, 2021 from 2:00pm until 5:00pm. Motion to approve made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.

Memoranda

1. Chad Mackey, Comcast
Submitted quarterly franchise fee. Motion to file made by Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Donohue. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Kevin Shaughnessy, Norwood Light Broadband
Submitted quarterly franchise fee. Motion to file made by Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Hajjar. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Viola Baboola, Verizon
Submitted second quarter PEG Report. Motion to file made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Building Inspector Matthew Walsh
Submitted monthly building report for July, 2021. Motion to file made by Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Plasko. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Chief William G. Brooks III, Norwood Police Department
Submitted monthly police report. Motion to file made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. Cemetery Deeds
For signature of the Board:
Christine Byron, 6 Erin Place, Easton, for Lot Number G3-126.
Motion to sign made by Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko. The motion was approved unanimously.
7. Selectmen's Minutes
For approval of the Board:
May 4th, 2021
Motion to approve made by Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Lane. The motion was approved unanimously.
8. Forbes Hill
Discussion and possible action.

Manager's Update

The Town has been updating its PRP software – the software that drives the ‘business’ behind the Town. The last phase of this is planned for September 1st, 2021, when the Town will move to online permitting for most permits throughout the Town – building, zoning, etc. Mr. Mazzucco notes that this has been a long time coming and that there will of course be challenges the first couple of weeks. Chairman Maloney commented that this is in line with something that Mr. Mazzucco had been talking about – a virtual Town Hall where many things can be done online – enabling residents to pay bills, etc. should they choose to.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Plasko: Looking at the Town's website, Mr. Plasko commented that we have a vacancy on the Community Preservation Committee and Mr. MacFarland was here and we thanked him for his service but really didn't do anything about advertising the position. Mr. Plasko noticed that it is now advertised, which is great but it is also asking for people who might be interested in applying to the committee. There is no applying to the committee as the Board of Selectmen is the appointing authority. People should be applying to the Board. Selectman Plasko also noted that it references the Talent Bank, which Mr. Plasko stated, is a wonderful thing that enables people to volunteer in different areas but it is outdated and it needs to be amended and reviewed by someone. Mr. Mazzucco interjected that this is being worked on right now. It has been converted to an online format where you can go to the website and enter your information and click ‘submit.’ Mr. Plasko said that it was time for a revision and Mr. Mazzucco made note of some of the items that Selectman Plasko mentioned.

Selectman Hajjar: Friendly reminder to anyone seeking employment – there will be a career fair held on the Town Common on August 23rd sponsored by MassHire Metro South. Mr. Hajjar commented that he, along with Mr. Mazzucco and other Town officials will be attending the dedication ceremony at the MWRA – honoring the late Bernie Cooper. On a personal note, Mr. Hajjar mentioned that his son was married this past week up in New Hampshire. He wishes his son and new daughter in law all the luck in the world. It was a fun wedding with two hundred people attending – a good time was had by all. Chairman Maloney offered his sincere congratulations..

Selectman Lane: Summerfest continues tomorrow night (Wednesday..)

Selectman Donohue: ‘There was talk around the Town a few months ago that Norwood Hospital would start to demolish the building in August.’ Mrs. Donohue commented that she has not seen any action there. Selectmen Donohue addressed the Board, asking whether a letter should be sent to Norwood Hospital and inquire as to what their plans are..Mrs. Donohue stated that she would like to make a motion that the Board send a letter and ask that representatives from the hospital come in and talk to the Board or do something to help us understand what the situation with the hospital actually is at this point. Chairman Maloney asked – would it be better to add something to the next agenda as the motion made by Selectman Donohue was not an agenda item for this meeting. Selectman Plasko had no problem with sending a letter and inviting them in even though they’ve been reluctant to do so. If there is more specific information that is being sought, Mr. Plasko suggested contacting the Planning Department. Selectman Plasko stated that the local attorney who the hospital has hired has been talking with Planning to set up hearings for bringing their plans forward - so while they haven’t started anything that can be seen – like demolition – they are still moving forward through the Town process. Mrs. Donohue then asked whether the Board could get in touch with Paul Halkiotis, Town Planner and find out what information he has regarding the hospital. Chairman Maloney suggested that it be added to the agenda for the next meeting dated August 31st, 2021. Mrs. Donohue then made note of Tom Cummings’s 90th Birthday. Tom and Angie Cummings are a perfect example of people who ‘chose’ Norwood. They came here and brought their two children up here. They have both volunteered in countless ways throughout the Town. Mrs. Donohue wished Mr. Cummings a very, very Happy Birthday. In closing, Selectman Donohue commented that Chairman Maloney did a great job with the meeting for the 150th Anniversary that was held at the Senior Center last Sunday.

Chairman Maloney: Confirmed that the next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 31st.

Mr. Mazzucco added that we had lost a wonderful lady in our community, Kathy St. Cyr – who passed away unexpectedly just a few days ago. She was instrumental with the Circle of Hope as well as Dancing With the Norwood Stars. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. It was noted that Mrs. St. Cyr’s son is a Norwood firefighter.

Motion to adjourn made by Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Hajjar. The motion was approved unanimously.

A True Record.

ATTEST:

Assistant