

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2015 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 Michael J. Lyons, Selectmen William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Paul A. Bishop and Allan D. Howard. Also present General Manager John J. Carroll, Clerk Frances L. Jessoe and Assistant Christina Mulvehill.

Appointments

7:00 P.M. – Chief William G. Brooks III, NPD:

Chief Brooks discussed his monthly report of department's activities. He extended his thanks to those who came out to show support for the department this past week. This has been a difficult time for police and the men and women of department appreciate the support. The Chief reported that three officers would be leaving the department. Officer Milton Vega has retired, Det. Sgt. Robert Rinn will be retiring on January 23rd and Lt. Brian Murphy will retire in February. He will be interviewing candidates tomorrow for three seats in the academy to backfill those officers' positions. An Honor Guard from the Norwood Police Department was sent to New York for the funerals of the officers who were killed there. Chief Brooks related an incident that occurred Christmas night on Brewster Road. The station received a 911 call that a seventy-year old man had collapsed. An off duty officer was present performing CPR. Officer Derek Wennerstrand was one of the responders and he administered the defibrillator. The man was taken to Norwood Hospital and according to reports received by the Chief, has continued to improve. Chief Brooks then spoke about staffing issues at the department. The department has dropped in staffing from sixty-three to fifty-eight in the years since the Chief has been gone. There have been officers reassigned, such as Officer David Eysie working narcotics only, and officers are walking the beat. The officers going to the academy in February will not be on duty until November and in reality, the department operates with fifty-four or so officers. He has spoken with Mr. Carroll about raising the staffing level. Chief Brooks said he has had to force officers to work against their will at times. Over the past year, this occurred ninety-eight times. He has added three positions into his budget to get officers back on the streets and he feels the department would be healthier operating at its previous strength.

Selectman Howard spoke about the rally for police and fire departments. He considered it a privilege to be there and everyone felt the same way. On January 9th the Police and Fire Departments will put on free CPR course at the station. Those interested can apply for the course by calling the Fire Department business line. Chief Brooks added the classes are filling up but interested residents can put their names on a list for the next one. Selectman Donohue said of the request for three more officers that she likes the idea but would like assurances that these people would be walking the beat on the street, or patrolling in cars or on bikes. Chief Brooks confirmed that he wants uniformed patrol officers, not administrative officers. He added that there are cars on road and officers then walking beat but many calls, such as domestic violence calls, are two unit calls and officers have to be pulled off the beat to assist – which involves working their way back to the parked cruiser then heading to the call. Selectman Donohue added that it would be cheaper to add salaries than to pay substitution pay. Chief Brooks mentioned that he teaches classes at the academy he sends his officers to. Selectman Bishop asked if there would be a function for Officer Vega as the Board has a plaque to present to him. Chief Brooks said there would be a get together Wednesday, January 21st and agreed to notify Selectman Bishop to confirm that date. Selectman Bishop thanked those who came out for the rally. He also mentioned Attorney General Maura Healey would be working aggressively on drug issues across the state by using a database of prescriptions and looking at the issue of those who sell opiates for profit. The Chief has been in contact with Ms. Healey on this as it is a priority for the Police Department as well as this Board.

7:15 P.M. – Fuji Hibachi Restaurant, Inc., 1200 Boston Providence Turnpike:

Application for transfer of AAB, application for Common Victualler License change of location and Pledge of License G & N Apollo, Inc., dba Apollo Restaurant to Fuji Hibachi Restaurant, Inc., 1200

Fuji Hibachi Restaurant, Inc., 1200 Boston Providence Turnpike cont'd:

Boston Providence Turnpike. Notice was read and public hearing was declared open on application which has been made to the Licensing Board of the Town of Norwood for the transfer of the Restaurant All Alcohol Beverage License from G & N Apollo, Inc., dba Apollo Restaurant, to Fuji Hibachi Restaurant, Inc., 1200 Boston Providence Turnpike, Ming Ling Yau, Manager, of the license under Section 12, Chapter 138 and Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, for the sale of All Alcoholic Beverages to be drunk on the premises of 1200 Boston Providence Turnpike, Norwood, Massachusetts. Description of the premises is as follows: Approximately 7,962 sq. ft. housing a 195-seat full service restaurant with bar service. Premises are on the first floor with one entrance/exit for the public, one entrance/exit for deliveries to the kitchen and one emergency exit. Alcohol will be stored behind the bar. License is being pledged to 1200 Providence Highway, LLC.

Attorney Macchi, counsel for 1200 Providence Highway LLC and Fuji Hibachi restaurant, has submitted materials to the Board and gave a brief synopsis of Mr. Yau's plans for the business. Also present were Jason Kates, the owner of the property, and Attorney Plakias as Counsel to the seller. Attorney Macchi explained the applicant is looking for transfer of liquor license, change of location, pledge of license as security to the lease from Fuji Hibachi to 1200 Providence Highway LLC. The applicant has submitted floor plans and information regarding corporate structure. The Board of Health, Building Inspector, Tax Collector, and Light Department have signed off on the application. The property is the old Salvation Army building and has been in the Kates family for years. Mr. Yau has twenty years of experience in the restaurant business and he is TIPS Certified. He owns a restaurant in Medway and is partner in a restaurant in Southboro. He is looking forward to moving closer to his home in Warwick where he has also owned or managed restaurants. Selectman Howard thanked Attorney Macchi for the information and asked if all the employees would be trained in Serve Safe. Mr. Yau said they would and there will be a bar area but it will be off to the left side of the restaurant.

Chairman Lyons pointed out that this location is a half block away from Hibachi restaurant and asked if there would be an issue with confusion. Attorney Macchi admitted the name could have been chosen differently but this restaurant is not the Hibachi model. It is a sit down restaurant that will contain a small Hibachi station also. Hibachi refers to the style of cooking.

Attorney Dean Plakias, represented G and N Apollo, seeking sale of this license to the proposed licensee due to closure of the long standing Apollo restaurant. The license is no longer necessary at the location because the restaurant closed and building was sold. Selectman Donohue expressed appreciation for all George and Nick did for the Town, including helping with Concerts on the Common and being patient when the sidewalks were town up. She acknowledged the esteemed Attorneys Macchi and Plakias. Mr. Nick expressed thanks to the Town – he was here for thirty-five years and appreciates all the Town did for them.

Selectman Plasko inquired about the plan for the pledge of license and the plan for the rest of the building. Mr. Kates spoke of a two-million dollar redevelopment, which would include adding an elevator to make second floor handicap accessible.

Chairman Lyons inquired if anyone would like to speak in favor or against the application. Seeing none, on motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to close the hearing and on motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve the transfer and pledge of the license, and approve the CV license.

New Business

Rama Wines & Spirits, Inc., 898 Washington Street:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted 4-0 to approve change in hours to open at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Selectman Donohue abstained.

Personnel Board:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file notice of public hearing to be held on Wed. Jan. 21, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. for updating the policy

Personnel Board cont'd:

format and standardized language regarding Equal Employment Opportunity Policy in the Finance Commission Room, Room 24, Town Hall.

Russ Maguire, Manager, Norwood Memorial Airport:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file memo from Flight Level's line Supervisor Kevin Putnam.

Linda Berger, Program Director, Norwood Recreation:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve request to use Municipal Parking lot on Nahatan Street on Sat., May 16th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the Touch-A-Truck annual event.

Talaat Morgan, Giorgio's Pizza, 641 Washington Street:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request to add Moen Albataresh to license. Mr. Albataresh was in attendance at the hearing and is listed on the corporate papers.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to sign and acknowledge deeds: Meaghan Devlin, 129 Nichols St., to Lot C-1820
Barbara L. Reagan, 1 Lenox St., Unit 116, to Lot G1-140
Maureen Charney, 7 Philbrick St., to Lot G6-91
Louise Lane, 767 Washington St., Unit 103, to Lot C-1807
Karen Jones, 22 Putnam Rd., #6, Foxboro, to Lot C-1812

Town Counsel John P. Flynn:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to sign Purchase and Sale Agreement from St. George's Orthodox Church land located off Nichols Street.

John E. Reardon, P.O. Box 587, Norwood:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to file correspondence regarding tax rates for FY 2015.

MWRA:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file meeting notice and agenda for January 15th Advisory Board Meeting.

Revocation of licenses for year 2015:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to revoke the following licenses revoked as they failed to renew:

Fred's Auto Sales, Inc., 169 Rear Railroad Avenue, Class II MVL

J.C. Ventures Inc., dba All Seasons Rent-All, 924 Boston Prov. Tnpk, Class II MVL.

Wadley Pierre, 211 Central Street, A202:

Submitting request for letter to Mass. Port allowing him to operate a private limousine within and through the boundaries of the Town with certificate of insurance, certificate of organization, etc. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to allow a letter stating the Board has no opposition to Mr. Pierre operating through Norwood but not within the Town.

Knights of Columbus, 572 Nichols Street, John Paras:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to request for one-day AAB and dance permits:

a. Saturday, January 10, 2015, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

b. Saturday, January 17, 2015, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

MWRA Advisory Board:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to accept as information the thumb drive of MWRA Advisory Board 2014 Annual Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey.

Unfinished Business

Courtney Murray, State Publications & Regulations Division:

Submitting Chapter 397 of the Acts of 2014, this was signed by the Governor on December 19, 2014: An act relative to Special Police Officers in the Town of Norwood. On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file the information and also extended thanks to Town Meeting, Senator Mike Rush and Representative John Rogers.

Town Counsel, David DeLuca, Esquire:

Submitting opinion on Appearance of Conflict of Interest inquiry regarding Providence Bruins hockey game tickets provided to the Board to be made available to Norwood youth. The receipt of the tickets for the benefit of the children in Norwood is not prohibited. Recommend disclosure be filed by the Chairman and the Board should choose school, Rec. Dept. or other charitable organization to distribute. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to authorize and direct the Chairman to sign the disclosure document and forward the tickets to the High School Athletic Director.

Memoranda

Mass. Dept. of Revenue:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file notice to Assessors that FY 2015 tax rate has been certified.

Personnel Board:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file information to Supt. Mark Ryan, DPW/Town Engineer regarding W2 reclassification.

Paul Ranalli, Cemetery Dept.

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file as info correspondence regarding grave opening. Selectman Howard stated this incident is an example of handling issues and he thanked the employee through the manager.

Selectmen's Meeting:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve and file the Board minutes of December 9, 16 and 18, 2014.

Supt. Sigalle Reiss, Board of Health:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file copy of correspondence to Town Accountant requesting to amend the FY 16 budget as the department's dental chair is broken and unable and cannot repaired.

Executive Session

Deborah Frangioso, Clerical Chapter Chair, AFSCME Local 1451:

The Manager reported setting up a meeting for week after next, therefore the Board did not enter into executive session on this matter.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectmen Plasko

Town Clerk & Accountant interviews

There will be a gap of a few weeks between Mr. Thornton's retirement and the replacement's start date. Mr. Thornton has stated he will be available as a consultant to help with the transition. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to appoint Selectman Howard to represent the Board of Selectman and meet with Mr. Thornton to discuss a formal agreement for the transition.

1.5 % Letter:

The letter points out that if things work out, the Town we will be safely over the threshold but in reality they will be at 1.51 % which is not enough. There is a case in Stoneham he is watching. He attended a hearing with Mr. Halkiotis and expects to have information about it by the end of February.

Selectman Donohue

Traffic Signal at Neponset and Dean:

Mr. Carroll said a light at that location was discussed a long time ago and the Board opted instead to have a light at Driftwood. Roughly fifty percent of the traffic on Neponset Street heading to Norwood turns left on Dean Street. Selectman Donohue asked the Manager to take another look at this as she feels it would be much safer with a light at Dean.

Morse House

Sunday, January 11th the Morse House will be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and it is free of charge.

Selectman Donohue asked the Manager to find out what the \$ 3,000 plus request for Human Resources Incidentals is about.

Winter Concerts

Beginning February 1, 2015 and will be held every Sunday in February.

Selectman Howard

Neponset Street

The biggest addition of traffic on Neponset Street is people trying to divert off Route 95. The slip ramp at University Avenue will divert considerable traffic.

1.5%

Selectman Howard concurs with Selectman Plasko that the number has to be built higher than 1.51 % for him to have any confidence in the position.

Irving Street

Thank you to Mr. Carroll for putting the do not enter sign back at the Senior Center going on to Irving Street to keep people off Irving Street. The residents will be happy.

The Manager informed the Board the winter banners, which are part of the seasonal banner series paid for by Norwood Bank have been installed. The spring banners will be a larger size. The banners were designed by ADJ.

Selectman Plasko

Manager to look at the budgets of some of the larger departments; the overtime budgets are out of line.

Town Wide Budget Balancing Committee

The date being discussed for the first meeting is Wednesday, January 21st.

Chairman Lyons

Town Wide Budget Balancing Committee

This Board, the Fin Com, and the School Committee have two representatives from each board on the committee. Chairman Lyons recommended Mr. Plasko and Mr. Bishop.

Manager's Agenda

The transfer from Foxborough Police Department of Officer James Payne, Jr. to replace Officer Angela Gulla. His father was officer in Norwood for 30 years as was his step-mother Maureen Murphy.

Walker Property:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Walker Property.

Patrol Officers:

Chief Brooks to restore three of the five vacated patrol officers' positions in the Norwood Police Department. The Chief addressed this during his report.

Notice regarding traffic improvements at Morse Street and Route One:

The Manager said this is state highway project and he has not gotten to the bottom of it yet. Chairman Lyons requested the Manager get more information and keep the Board informed.

1 ½ Issue memo from Paul Halkiotis:

Including his analysis of each recommendation in the 2014 Housing Production Plan and memo from Andy Murphy outlining exactly where Norwood stands in relation to the 1.5% number. Selectman Howard asked Selectman Plasko and Mr. Carroll if at the meetings they are concerned about the various tracts of wetland, some of which are substantial. Selectman Plasko said the committee will be discussing that issue Thursday as well as the on-going process of shoring up the Town's 1 ½ % position. Three or four privately owned tracts that have some acreage are being considered.

High voltage bushing failure on Transformer #1 at Station 469:

The station will not be shut down and no one has lost or will lost electricity. Mr. Carroll explained the bushing failed on New Year's Eve at the substation on Route One near Ellis Wellfield. They are very expensive units. That transformer was shut down, but there are two remaining at the station. The repair of the bushing will take considerable time, will require engineers from Japan, and will be charged to the Light Department Depreciation account.

Mr. Carroll announced that the budget books will be ready this Friday or Monday and he needs to schedule a meeting with this Board in addition to a Budget Balancing Sub Committee. Chairman Lyons suggested January 27th for budget hearings as he is trying to schedule interviews for the Town Clerk & Accountant position for the near future. The schedule for the budget hearings was set for 5 p.m. on January 27, 2015.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:00 p.m.

A True Record.

Attest: _____
Assistant