

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 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 Paul A. Bishop, Selectmen William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Michael J. Lyons and Allan D. Howard. Also present General Manager John J. Carroll, Acting Clerk Christina K. Mulvehill.

Appointments

7:00 P.M. – Gerald Miller, Supt., Recreation Dept.:

Mr. Miller discussed the department's monthly activities. October is a busy month with the Halloween season. Upcoming events include the annual Halloween costume swap on October 22nd, Halloween Extravaganza, October 23rd, Trunk or Treat, October 24th, Pumpkin Fest, October 29th, and the Middle School Dance, October 30th. The annual CPR and First Aid certification will be held October 21 and 28 from 6:- 9:30p.m.

Mr. Miller reported that the lights at the Coakley fields are functioning now and look wonderful. Conduit trenching is currently being done for the Balch lights, which should be finished November 1st and there will be a training to teach users how to control those lights.

Selectman Howard encouraged senior citizens to make use of the Recreation Department, stating it is free of charge for those sixty-two years of age or older. It is a bit disappointing that more people don't make us of it. Mr. Miller said there should be an increase in participants when the weather gets bad.

Selectman Lyons inquired about a sporting equipment swap. Mr. Miller said they have done them in the past with little success. Selectman Lyons asked if there was an alternative and Mr. Miller suggested going to the league that is appropriate and donate equipment to them.

Selectman Plasko inquired about the financial support for Norwood Day. Mr. Miller said the participation was about the same, although they lost some sponsors shortly before the event. They tend to go into the day with costs covered, for the most part. They sold three thousand buttons.

Selectman Donohue asked if a date had been set for next year. Mr. Miller said he has to wait for the vendor of the children's rides to tell him his availability. Selectman Donohue said she had her high school reunion on Norwood day and it worked out well.

7:30 P.M. Executive Session- Town Counsel Brandon Moss, Esq. & Norwood Airport Commission

Re: Norwood Airport Commission-pending litigation

Boston Executive Helicopters, LLC v. Maguire et al., Norfolk Superior Court Civil Action No. NOCV2014-01591); and Boston Executive Helicopters LLC v. Town of Norwood et al, FAA Docket No. 16-15-05; Boston Executive Helicopters, LLC v Maguire et al., Norfolk Superior Court Civil Action No. 1582CV01280 and Hues v. Norwood Airport Commission, Federal Aviation Administration Part 13 complaint.

By individual poll of the Board, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue and on a roll call vote of Chairman Bishop and Selectmen Lyons and Howard, voted to enter into Executive Session after the business of the regular meeting to discuss litigation as stated above and possible purchase of property on two land matters.

New Business

2016 Liquor Licenses:

On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve the following licenses: Package Store AAB & WMB; Restaurant AAB & WMB; Innholder, and Clubs for year 2016. Signatures have been digitally scanned and the list of licenses is attached. Selectman Donohue abstained from voting on package stores.

Thomas J. McQuaid, Town Clerk and Accountant:

On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file FY2017 budget forms. They are to be submitted no later than Nov. 20, 2015.

Julie Cordero, 31 Church Street, #2:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to approve request to use the Bandstand on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. for wedding.

Denis M. Drummey, 661 Washington Street:

On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file as information request under Mass. Public Records law, MGL. Chapter 66, Section 10, for all work papers, records of meetings etc. as presented in the attached letter regarding the input of the numerator and denominator of 1.5%, to be given to him on October 28, 2015.

Chairman Bishop said he has spoken to Counsel on this matter and they will contact Mr. Drummey. Selectman Plasko spoke of an old saying that some people are fueled by drama, but that doesn't mean you have to attend the performance. He has been trying to live by that for over a year now with Mr. Drummey, Mr. Pentowski, and others in town and the misinformation they have been putting out through letters to the editor and other means. In this case Mr. Drummey has every right to ask for this information, but in his letter, instead of just asking for the information he goes on to make accusations, challenges to people's credibility, and I, personally have had enough of it. It is without merit, it is demeaning to our whole process, it would be much better if people in town with the same concern we have of getting to the same goal would use their energy to support our town officials rather than try to undermine them at every turn. He challenges our counsel and our choice of counsel saying our counsel has lost 0-2 in cases before the housing appeals committee. This is untrue; he just throws out information without any facts. Our counsel, in fact, is zero for zero, which isn't bad-she hasn't lost a case yet. She has won many other cases and the law firm she works for has won cases before the housing committee. They are experienced and they have chosen to assign this case to her in our best interest. She has authored municipal law quarterly, is acknowledged by her peers as a qualified expert. Most recently she wrote an article about how to get to the 1.5% general land area minimum. They have chosen her for her knowledge in this field. The attorneys that he is suggesting that we should hire have been before the housing appeals committee on numerous cases and after reviewing seven or eight, I have not found one that they have won. Don't know how that is an expert. They might be experienced in going before the committee, but that doesn't make them expert in the matter when they continually fail. They also supported a consultant in many cases that this group has continually tried to push the town into hiring yet this gentleman has been in a number of these cases in addition to being an advisor and has been criticized by the housing appeals committee for his work, his methodology and even his math in performing those consulting services. I think we know what is good for the town and are working in the best interest of the town. Nobody has a crystal ball but I would ask that these people work with us and not against us.

Chairman Bishop spoke about a statement made by former Premier of Russia, Nikita Khrushchev, during a time when people were afraid Russia would invade the United States. Khrushchev said he would not need to invade; we would destroy our country from within. That is what is happening here; destroying ourselves from within. There is no reason why people can't sit at a table, whether we get along or don't get along, and try to discuss the common issue.

REMINDER-Articles meeting on Wednesday, October 21 at 11 a.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers.

Richard A. Mason, Deputy Director of Lending, Mass. Housing Partnership, 160 Federal St., Boston:

Submitting notice that Mass. Housing has received a request for determination of Project Eligibility from Norwood Avalon, Inc., c/o AvalonBay Communities, Inc. for 119-165 Lenox Street. They are requesting written comments regarding the proposed development within 30 days. The official site visit will be conducted on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 9 a.m. Selectman Plasko encouraged the Chairman and others to attend the site visit. He also recommended asking the Planner, Police, Fire and DPW Departments to review the application get back to the Board with their comments within fourteen days. The Manager will handle that part. The report will be forwarded to Board of Health to review for a potential rodent problem.

Lee Kennedy, Norwood Circle of Hope:

- a. Submitting request to meet with the Board in November to discuss the Luminary Night.
 - b. Submitting application to use the Town Common and Bandstand on Saturday, December 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the Luminary Night and to block off Washington Street around the Common between Cottage and Nahatan Street as in previous years.
- On motion of Selectman Lyons Donohue to approve the request and have Circle of Hope in.

Thomas J. McQuaid, Clerk to the Finance Commission:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to approve request to place two articles on the Special Town Meeting; funding of OPEB and to reclassify amounts from one set-aside account to another regarding Fire Department and Public Safety.

Anthony A. Rassias, Deputy Director of Accounts, Mass. Dept. of Revenue:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file notification that the amount of available funds or "free cash" as of July 1, 2015 is \$2,598,112.

Thomas J. McQuaid, Town Clerk and Accountant:

- a. Submitting information on the status of Free Cash – to consider both the long and short-term effects it will have on our financial position. Selectman Plasko stated he has spoken with Mr. McQuaid about the \$2.9 million not being a very strong financial position based on availability for free cash. In years past, we have had more.
- b. Submitting signed petition to place an article on Special Town Meeting warrant proposing to appropriate the sum of \$125,000 from Free Cash or other funding source, for use by Board of Selectmen to hire specialized counsel and a 40B consultant to confirm that the Town has reached 1.5 %. (127 signatures were verified)

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to include both on warrant.

Mary Cassidy, 78 Meadow Street:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file request under Mass Public Records Law, MGL Chapter 66, §10, a request for all documentation regarding 1.5% Task Force meetings, including reports, back up evidence, charts and maps, as presented in the attached email dated October 19, 2015. Town Counsel will address the request with Ms. Cassidy.

Memoranda

Selectmen's Meeting:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to approve as submitted, Board minutes of October 6, 2015.

Edward McKenna, Chairman Permanent Building Construction Committee:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, vote to file copy of correspondence to Mary Pichetti, Director of Capital Planning, MSBA regarding Norwood Owner's Project Manager Onsite Representative Requirement. Chairman Bishop explained the situation, stating it is related to the boiler system at Callahan School.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Plasko

Special Town Meeting

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to insert placeholder article on warrant for adding funds to Town Counsel legal budget for pending items.

Haunted Driveway Food Drive

Oct 31st at 130 Walpole Street. Admission is non-perishable food items.

Elks Trivia Contest/silent auction

November 6th at 6:30 p.m. cost is \$150 per table of ten. Fundraiser to support veterans and active military.

Selectman Howard

911 Calls

When dialing 911 on a cell phone that call goes to state police and is then transferred to the Norwood Police Dept. or the Fire Dept. for a medical call. As an alternative you can call 781-762-1212 for Police and 781-762-1313 for Fire.

Town of Dedham traffic study

Dedham refers to this as traffic calming policy. Asking the Board to review it and let him know if they want to refer this to a committee as Dedham did. Selectman Lyons asked Selectman Howard if he was referring primarily to the Everett Street issues. Selectman Howard said he is referring to the whole town; maybe there are certain things we could do to alleviate some of the problem. Selectman Donohue said it sounds like a good idea and why not take a look at it and please get the league of women voters involved, because this is the type of project they are used to doing. Selectman Plasko said in light of the traffic issues we are having he thanks Selectman Howard for bringing it forward, but we did just get it and attached is a sample of Dedham's policy – not comfortable voting something that might be interpreted as adopting this whole policy.

The Manager said traffic calming devices are like speed bumps and they are a pain in the neck for snow plows. He suggested referring this to the pedestrian safety committee.

Chairman Bishop said the state was out today to readjust the lights at University Ave., Route 1, and Everett Streets; the major intersection that brought all this forward. As far as traffic in Norwood, I don't think anyone else is without traffic issues. Speedbumps are a problem that adds to backup. Would like to see how the lights turn out at University Ave. and Everett to begin with over the next couple of weeks.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to table for two weeks.

Chairman Bishop spoke briefly about 911 calls- if you call from your cell phone the call goes to State Police in Framingham and they will decide where it goes from there. It is in transition, there will be a point in time when you will be able to pick up your cell p[hone and it will go directly to the local authorities. Still firm believer in 911 but if you are going to use the local Police/Fire numbers please write them down somewhere.

Selectman Donohue

NPA-TV

A couple of weeks ago Scott Murphy was before the Board and he spoke about an award NPA had won. She had read that article in the newspaper - # 1 in the United States is a very good thing. Congratulations to Norwood Public Access.

Norwood Alumni Chorus

This is a group of former Norwood High School students who sang in the high school program under the direction of Catherine Connor Moen. They performed at the funeral mass for Charlie Parker. They sound like the Tanglewood Chorus. See them if you have the chance.

Manager's Agenda

Dumping of yard waste on Westover Parkway.

Manager had copy of letter that was sent to residents about dumping.

DPW Open House

Sunday, November 1, 2015 will be open house at the new DPW facility from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a formal dedication at 2 p.m. Anyone in town can attend.

Manager's Executive Session

East Walpole Cemetery

136 Access Road

This will be handled in Executive Session as previously voted.

Adjournment

Returning to open session and no other business being presented for discussion, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:30 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Acting Clerk