

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 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 Bishop, Selectmen William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Michael J. Lyons 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 introduced Officer Tom Carey, the newest member of the Department. He is a graduate of Stonehill College. He spent a couple of years working down on Cape Cod. He is originally from the South Shore and wanted to be back in this area so we recruited him and he is now in Field Training. His Training Officer is Officer Jay Payne.

Chief Brooks gave a report on the department's activities. On November 19th there was a bank robbery in East Walpole, near the Norwood line at the Sharon Credit Union. Upon the School Department learning of the incident, they put the Coakley Middle School on soft lock down, locking the doors to the school and delaying dismissal. The Chief said he then put officers every block or so, on Washington Street in South Norwood. With the Coakley dismissal delay, the other schools' buses were also delayed. On November 23rd there were ten housebreaks and it was quite an unusual day for the Department. The first call came in at 5:24 p.m. from a woman on Railroad Avenue who saw three men walking away from her house and found pry marks on her back window. From that point on until about 9:30 p.m. that night there were housebreaks on Edgehill, Ledgeview, Lenox, Walters, Chickering, and Highland. There were similarities with many of the back windows having pry marks on them. Among the items stolen was jewelry, which is typical, and laptops, which is not typical. There were sightings in the areas of three to four males working together, which is a little unusual, and the vehicle that was seen was a large black SUV. That investigation is still active. On December 3rd there was a street robbery in the Ward, along Washington Street, near Rama Wine & Spirits. A woman sensed someone behind her and went to cross the street when two men came up behind her. One grabbed her cell phone and as she pulled back the other one struck her over the head with what she thought was a gun. We learned later that it was a pellet gun and it broke in the process. There was a struggle and they pulled her purse from her and ran south on Washington Street. A good Samaritan who was in the area saw this happen; saw that she was in distress and ran down the street behind the two subjects who split up. He confronted one of them and demanded the purse back. Officer Diego Silva and Lt. Michael Benedetti quickly arrived at the scene. It is interesting to note that when officer Silva arrived and the Good Samaritan pointed out one of the robbers, and Officer Silva knew there had been an armed robbery, he drew his firearm and ordered the man to show his hands. The man did not show his hands, he kept them at his waistband and asked Officer Silva if he was going to shoot him. Officer Silva maintained great poise and calm and continued to give verbal orders and then Lt. Benedetti arrived. Fortuitously, the officers now have flashlights that affix to the bottoms of the handguns so the officers were able to light up the subject with the flashlights on their firearms, give him a series of orders, and eventually take him into custody. It is one of those cases where the training, policy issues, conversations at roll call and the good judgment of the people we hire and their restraint really are great benefits. This could have been a tragic situation. There is one more subject still at large and detectives are working on the case. The Chief received a call from a merchant in the area who was present for most of this and he complimented the Officers for being professional and bringing calm to the chaos. Chairman Bishop added that Rama Liquor Store was a great help also, providing the officers a place to go indoors and interview people. Chief Brooks agreed, stating that they were able to bring the victim in for first aid before transporting her to the hospital. Rama also kept the store open so they could take witness statements in side in a well-lit area and we appreciate all that.

Chief Brooks mentioned that he made an appearance at Norwood Hospital and spoke to the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. His relationship with NAMY goes back a couple decades

Chief Brooks (cont'd):

where he helped put together an in-service training at the in service academy where family members of people with mental illness teamed up with police officers to teach officers tactics to use in dealing with radio calls with emotionally disturbed people. One of things we try to do is ensure that everyone gets the appropriate level of service and that we look out for people who need attention from us.

Selectman Howard welcomed Officer Carey and congratulated the Chief on his upcoming swearing in as President of National Association of Police Chiefs.

Selectman Donohue inquired about the helicopters and lights present in the area a few nights ago. The Chief explained that was police searching for the second subject of the armed robbery who had run away.

Selectman Lyons asked the Chief if he could speak to the FBI activity on Washington Street last week. The Chief explained that he is aware of it, but should not speak publicly on it, but he did say there was another situation like it a couple weeks prior and the public is not at risk and there is violent crime involved, and certainly no terrorism. The FBI has a very broad range of things they investigate and it is nothing the public should be concerned about. Selectman Lyons extended thanks to Officer Silva for his composure, it is such a hard situation and you all understand better than anyone the heat of the moment in that certain circumstance and when you have certain information about armed robbery and the possibility of weapons being involved, maintaining that much cool and composure is very impressive and shows the training and the Chief's leadership. That attitude comes from the top down and is appreciated.

Selectman Plasko agreed completely with Selectman Lyons' comments and welcomed the new officer, wishing him a long, healthy, safe career.

Chairman Bishop welcomed Officer Carey and told him he had a great training officer. He asked in light of what has happened in Paris, France, San Bernadino, etc. if we have any particular security measures to discuss. Chief Brooks said he would be getting together with various department heads to talk about various ways to keep safe. Part of this will be risk assessment. When working in government you can deal with people who are frustrated. Sometimes there are threats; sometimes there are veiled threats. We will be visiting various buildings and talking to employees. He added that the risk is far more likely to be from a disgruntled employee than a terrorist. In addition, parents who have students in the schools will hear from the Superintendent soon, and safety and security systems are already in place in schools.

Chairman Bishop spoke about Columbine and the way things were handled during Columbine, and now through a series of events that have happened, we have changed our tactics so it is sad, but as we go, we learn. Chief Brooks agreed, adding that the practices of the subjects involved have evolved. What we are seeing today was unheard of ten years ago and our tactics today are in some part driven by the way the subjects behave. The Chief added that the chance of being killed by a terrorist is far lower than that of being hit by lightning and advised people to be happy, enjoy their lives, and live well.

Selectman Donohue spoke briefly about Officer Payne and his wonderful police family. Both his mother and father served on the Norwood Police Department.

7:15 P.M. – Fred Laskey, Exec. Dir., MWRA:-Appointment cancelled

7:40 P.M. – P.H., Tax Rate for FY 2016:

The clerk read the notice. Chairman Bishop explained this hearing would be opened and continued and on motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to continue the hearing until Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

7:45 P.M. – Executive Session- Town Counsel Karis North, Esq. and Zoning Board of Appeals

Re: Pending Litigation

New Business

Mass Chiefs of Police Association:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file reminder -Mass Chiefs of Police Association –Thursday, December 10, 2015 Sheraton Four Points-11:45 a.m.

CarMax Grand Opening:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file reminder - CarMax-Grand Opening-Thurs., December 10, 2015, 1320 Boston Providence Tnpk., 11:30 a.m.

Lisa Drummey, Program Director, Norwood Meals on Wheels, Inc.:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to approve request to submit an insert in the electric bills for the January 2016 mailing.

Cemetery Deeds:

For review and approval of the Board:

Helen T. Allen, 187 Hill Street to Lot C-1862.

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons to sign the deed.

AJC-Global Jewish Advocacy:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file correspondence thanking the Board for signing the statement opposing anti-Semitism in all forms. This thank you will be in the Boston Globe on December 10th.

Timothy J. McDonough, Chairman, Board of Assessors:

- a. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue voted to accept retirement of Assistant Assessor Joseph T. Turner, effective December 31, 2015 with great thanks to Mr. Turner for his years of service, that there will be a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. This term expires on April 1, 2016. Attached in the information published by the Mass. Dept. of Revenue re qualifications of Assessors and required training. This position also requires the appointed individual be available during regular business hours, to assist in property inspections.

Chairman Bishop advised anyone interested in applying to the Board of Assessors to stop by the Assessor's Office or go to DOR website. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to, accept resumes for the position through January 31, 2016 and post the opening on the Town Website.

- b. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to continue the scheduled public tax hearing on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 until Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Mary Cassidy:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file e-mail thanking the Board for the package pertaining to Forbes Hill and requesting a copy of the Applied Geographic's Report and a copy of the letter from the Board of Selectmen to Mass. Housing Partnership opposing a proposed 40B at the former Plimpton Press site. The Board asked that this request be forwarded to Karis North, Town Counsel.

Timothy D. Higgin, VP, Edgewood Development Company, LLC, Plainville, MA:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to send notice of Public Involvement Plan for Norfolk Asphalt, 601-635 Pleasant Street and that Norfolk Asphalt has filed a Draft Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessment and Draft Phase III Remedial Action Plan to the Planning Board, Police and Fire Board of Health, and DPW for comments. This can be found on Mass DEP website with a copy at the Norwood Public Library. Comment period begins December 2, 2015 and ends on December 22, 2015.

Memoranda

Mark Chubet, Building Inspector:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file monthly building report for November 2015.

Selectmen's Meeting:

On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve as submitted Board minutes of November 10, 2015, November 17, 2015 and November 24, 2015.

Executive Session

Town Counsel:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file Claim submittal

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Howard

Friends of St Nick

The annual luncheon will be held Friday December 11th. This is an organization that does much to help those in need.

Norwood Record

There was an ad in the paper for a small business that will pick up any type of appliance. The name is Affordable Roll Off.

Selectman Donohue

Friends of St. Nick

Ed Hickey will be honored at this year's Friends of St. Nick's luncheon. Thank you Eddie for all you do for Norwood sports, you have earned that great honor.

Norwood Historical Society

There will be a Dramatic Dickens reading at the Day House at 2 pm Saturday. It is free to the public.

Attendance

I apologize for missing meetings for a few weeks. The first part was due to a planned surgery and I was all set to come back last week when my sister Olga was stricken with a serious illness. Norwood Fire took care of her beautifully. Thank you to Norwood Fire and the medical technicians who took care of her. Olga is one of the four women who have been Selectmen in the town of Norwood. She was 24 when she was elected in 1969; the others were Mary Fox and Sue McQuaid. Olga and Mr. Carroll founded the Concerts on the Common and Flower Committees. Thank goodness she is getting better and I am back and doing my best to help out as usual.

Selectman Lyons

Olga

Julie and I have been thinking about Ollie and send all their love and thoughts to Ollie and Helen and the family. We know what a force she is and what she has done for the Town and for South Norwood. It would be a different town without Ollie and without your family.

Selectman Plasko

Olga

Helen, you, Ollie and your family have been in my prayers.

Municipal Finance and Government:

Yesterday Governor Baker announced the Municipal Modernization Bill that he intends to file. It has to do with making over one hundred different amendments to MGL and is focused on strengthening the state/local partnership in key areas and providing independence and flexibility to the local authorities. It

Selectman Plasko: (cont'd)

would mostly remove unnecessary and obsolete barriers to efficient local government and effective local services. Selectman Plasko handed out 16 pages of the different provisions, of which are very helpful to the community, and asked that the Board take it up again at the first meeting in January so we can lend our support through our State Representative and Senator.

Selectman Donohue said its beautiful way the Republican thought process can operate. Less government is better and more local control is appropriate. These are old fashioned, really good ideas.

Selectman Lyons gives his endorsement to the penalties of up to one thousand dollars per occurrence on the double pole issue.

Chairman Bishop

Hanukah

This is the third night of Hanukah and I wish my Jewish brethren a happy and healthy Hanukah.

Manager's Agenda

Traffic rules and regulations

The Manager explained these changes are being implemented to deal with the Board's recent orders to issue do not enter signs at Madeline, Forbes Blvd. and Bird Road and is being presented for signature of the Board.

Chairman Bishop explained these changes were made to deal with traffic problems that were occurring in that area of town and to keep people safe.

Selectman Lyons said the problem doesn't seem to be as bad to him lately. The manager concurred and Selectman asked if the cause was the reconfiguration of the traffic lights at Route 1. The manager believes it is a combination of that and people figuring out other routes and times to travel. Selectman Lyons said there are routes he will never take, such as Everett Street and Dean Street.

Chairman Bishop talked about travelling to Needham and running into similar traffic problems.

On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to include Madeline, Forbes and Bird Road in the traffic rules and regulations.

7:45 p.m. -Executive Session

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of ongoing litigation in Forbes Hill matter and advise the public we will return to Regular Session for the purpose of issuing a statement.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:30 p.m. and ZBA Chairman Phillip Riley read the following:

Joint Statement of Norwood Zoning Board of Appeals and
Norwood Board of Selectmen re: 1.5% at the Housing Appeals Committee

On December 3, 2015, the Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCH") issued a decision on the Zoning Board of Appeals' ("Board") assertion that the town has met the 1.5% General Land Area Minimum, under the Massachusetts Affordable Housing law and regulations. DHCD decided that in its opinion, the Town has not met the 1.5% standard.

The Town disputes DHCD's opinion, and asserts that its conclusion is based in part on errors presented by the Forbes Hill Comprehensive permit applicant, David Marcus Partners ("Applicant"). DHCD did

Chairman Phillip Riley, Zoning Board of Appeals-(cont'd):

not allow the Town to present a rebuttal of the Applicant's submittal, and DHCD failed to give the Town any benefit of the doubt when analyzing the documents submitted. It simply accepted the Applicant's arguments and representations.

Tonight, the Zoning Board of Appeals has voted to appeal the DHCD decision to the Massachusetts Housing Appeals Committee ("HAC"). The Board of Selectmen supports that decision and has voted to provide the necessary funding and support for that appeal. Town Counsel will file the required appeal documents within the next two weeks, and the proceeding is expected to go into next spring.

As we stated at the October 6, 2015 meeting when we voted to assert that Norwood was at the 1.5% threshold, we understand that we are meeting this requirement by a thin margin. However, to date, no analysis of the Applicant's submission or DHCD's response, has convincingly demonstrated to us that Norwood is not at 1.5%. The HAC will make that ultimate determination, and we look forward to Town Counsel presenting our case. The Board of Appeals and the Board of Selectmen believe strongly in the Town's position and we will continue to work together on behalf of the Town of Norwood and to take every action we deem necessary in support of our position.

Chairman Bishop reiterated that this statement is the most that will be said on the matter by either Board.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:35 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Assistant