

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 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. – Anthony J. Greeley, Chief, NFD:

Chief Greeley presented the monthly report of department's activities and wished everyone a Happy New Year on behalf of the department. He stated that the year 2015 was busy with 56,067 total runs. There was a major fire on Endicott Street in February. In addition, three senior members of the department have retired; Captain Kevin Romines, who was a 30 year veteran, fine leader and great lieutenant and captain and he will be missed; Captain Robert Henry, who served for thirty-three years, led Group 2 and was quick with a joke and a personality that welcomed all. Firefighter Joseph McDonough, who served for 34 years and will retire as of today-97 years of experience just walked out the door. They are working on the replacements with the Manager and have offered employment to 3 and they are going through their screening now. He hoped to have one in the building Monday and the other two in a few weeks. He said that this is a big change as 3 senior people are leaving. That is a lot of movement in a short time but he hopes to have the new recruits accompany him to the Board meeting next month. The Chief wished all three retirees a happy and healthy retirements. He received an email from Chile where the old ladder truck is and may show pictures next month.

Selectman Howard wished the best of luck to the retirees and noted it is a big challenge bringing people up through the ranks. He said that it is a big challenge bringing people up through the ranks. He inquired if the new hires are trained? Chief Greeley said that the Town hired one Norwood local who needs to train but the other two are already trained. They vetted the candidates out thoroughly. The four candidates we picked today are good. There is an exam in April and he encouraged women to take it. They could use more women in the fire service.

Selectman Howard asked about smoke detectors and carbon monoxide. Are they required to be in all rooms in the house? Chief Greeley said state law says they have to be on every level of the house. He said that it depends upon when the house was built-pre 1975 they can be battery operated, post 75 hard wired with battery backup. Now with the cold heating systems coming on, it is a good thing to have a carbon monoxide detector. He said that there was a double fatality in Milford just because of the lack of a carbon monoxide detector. He said with a malfunction of a heating system the gas gets into the home. It is state law to have it. The safest was to do it is at the base of every stairway. If the carbon monoxide is chirping there is a problem. Selectman Howard said he added carbon monoxide detectors on each level and one kept going off. They have a life of seven years and it was done. Chief Greeley said smoke detectors are ten years and carbon monoxide is a 7 years life span. Chief Greeley said there have been other fires with space heaters. Some older homes are drafty and need secondary heat source and the best thing is to follow manufacturer's instructions. The Manager discussed an incident at his daughter's home in Mattapoisett where the carbon monoxide detector saved them during the Christmas holidays.

Selectman Plasko clarified that one detector on every level is a minimum. This depends on the size of the house-usually within 10 feet of any bedroom, but smokes are recommended inside every bedroom now. Chief Greeley said yes depending on when the house was built and the size of the house. He said you should have two regarding the size of the home. Lt. Butters can explain about this.

Selectman Plasko discussed the substitution budget and he thought from reports we were doing well but financially you have gone through two thirds of the budget. Chief Greeley said that it is a seasonally

Chief Greeley (cont'd)

affected budget. He said typically in January, February, March and April they are low vacation months and typically it rights itself. Starting in July 1 you have the most usage and that is where substitution comes in to replace people. At the end of the year it spikes as well as people use their time. He said there are 3 lines in the budget to keep a fourteen man minimum which he advocates for; substitution training and overtime recall and he needs those to be adequately staffed. He spoke with Chairman Bishop and through muni relief he would be able to do it. He has confidence that it will right itself. Selectman Plasko felt that he wanted to check. The Chief said he has a plan in place and is confident in it.

Selectman Plasko wished the retirees well and asked what is happening with the replacement of the officers. Chief Greeley said that Lt. Harkins has been moved up to Captain, Lt. Maurice up to Captain and Private Campillio was moved to Lieutenant. Those assignments will start Friday, the 7th. There has been a lot of work to get this into place so the budget line is not affected. He is happy with that. There will be one more lieutenant position filled after the exam

Chairman Bishop referred to the smoke detectors. There are some out there that communicate with each other, the same with the CO2. Chief Greeley said they are interconnected. He wished those promoted well, and wish the three that retired all the best.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Board:

- a. Submitting proposed CORI and Fingerprint Policy which must be approved by the Board of Selectmen with the process as per the attached 4 steps as listed on the second page of the letter which includes a vote of the Board of Selectmen

Chairman Bishop asked the Board to put this off for one more week to go over it carefully and compare with town bylaws. On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to table for one week. Selectman Plasko concurs but would not be restricted to one week. He said there is a lot of important information and just looking at it he has several questions; some for the committee, by law and town counsel. It is quite a document and is very involved as it is the Board's responsibility-they did a good job. He has several questions and personally he will need to go through it 2,3, or 4 times and would like additional time. Chairman Bishop inquired if Selectman Plasko would like more than one week. Selectman Plasko said he felt that it would take more. For example part of this effects the police chief and the police department and he would like to ask the Chief some questions. Selectman Plasko said he would need a minimum of two weeks. Chairman Bishop changed his recommendation to two weeks. On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to change to two weeks. Chairman Bishop said there is a lot to digest.

Mr. Hajjar stated that aside from the policy that the Board is considering, it reflects the fingerprint by-law that town meeting passed a couple of years ago, which is great, but in speaking with Chief Brooks the Board might want to consider expanding the fingerprint by-law to include some of the other licenses that the Board approve on an annual basis such as people that come in contact with the elderly, etc. Selectman Plasko said that is something that he wants to look at as we may need to do other things, etc. There is some cross checking to go over, there is reference to volunteers and we didn't ask about that. Discussion continued. This is very detailed and important we need time to get into the details. Chairman Bishop referred to Hawkers and Peddlers. Discussion continued. Mr. Hajjar said he would be here in a couple of weeks when the Board is going over this information.

- b. On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by selectman Howard, voted to file Org. Chart Updates

Jill Reddish, FIOS TV, Verizon:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file upcoming price increases.

Thomas J. McQuaid, Town Clerk & Accountant:

- a. Submitting request on behalf of Joseph Greeley, Chairman of the Finance Commission that they receive electronic copies of the monthly department reports that have been filed and accepted by the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Commission requests that the Board ask each Department Head to send their report in one PDF file shortly after their presentation to the Finance Commission.

Selectman Plasko stated he is confused about this request. On first pass, asking for public information is not a problem, but I am concerned about the tone of the note and what it is all about regarding seeking to increase transparency about copies of our reports from departments under the General Manager to us for informational purposes. He said once they are here they are public information typically we have asked questions, so he doesn't know what the real intent is. He referred to comments on Norwood Now regarding a comment about having Department Heads into the Fin Com but it is unclear what the real intent here is. Discussion continued. We could ask Mr. McQuaid or the Chairman of the Fin Com what they want. Selectman Donohue said she felt they just want to process the information. Selectman Plasko referred to the police report about arrests and this probably would not be needed. He is concerned about the Board over reaching into other authority and defensive if people reach into the Board's authority. In the end it is public information, but why every month they need the reports.

Selectman Howard agreed with Selectman Plasko and said that each month we get from the Town Accountant the financial report and this is disbursed to the Finance Commission. He felt it would be finances they need to know about.

Chairman Bishop said we should ask the Manager to ask the Departments if they have a problem with this. The Manager said the Board should reach out to the Finance Commission and see specifically what they want. Selectman Plasko said that was his intent. He said that they are also looking for information from the Light Department and some of the Broadband information is confidential. We would have to pick and choose to

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to have the Manager sit down with Mr. McQuaid and try to get clarification as to what they really want and if there is something we can do to cooperate.

- b. On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request for official vote of the Board to sign Snow and Ice Amortization Schedule.
- c. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to file Revenue and Budget Analysis.

Clerk, Board of Selectmen:

Does the Board wish to set a date for Budget Hearings? Last year they were held on the last Thursday in January with major department heads only. Chairman Bishop said that one option would be to hold on Tuesday before our meeting.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to have budget hearings on the last Tuesday of the month starting at 5 p.m. January 26th.

Steven Ayoub, Senior Patrol Leader, BSA Troop 49:

Submitting request to hold car wash in the municipal lot across from Civic on Saturday June 4th or Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Selectman Plasko asked to hold this item. The office gets requests in a way that is not necessarily fair and some organizations are getting shut out as some don't know when to make the requests. Chairman Bishop suggested approving this one and that each organization that applies gets one car wash per year.. They will give all the information to the Selectmen's Office and that will prevent people coming in January looking for six or eight, it will be fair for all. The Board moved the Chair's recommendation.

Mass. Dept. of Revenue:

On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to file notice that the FY 2016 tax rate has been certified by the Bureau of Accounts for Norwood.

Selectman Plasko said a lot of people in town are happy with this year's tax bills because they went down or stayed the same and many are unhappy that theirs went up. This is a revaluation year and it caused a lot of adjustments to be made. The tax rate went down but some house values went up a lot. Chairman Bishop said the purchase of certain types of property had large increases in value because people were willing to pay for that. Someone whose bill stayed the same or went down probably paid more than their share last year.

ABCC:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file request for Certificate of Good Standing from the Department of Revenue for the Shamrock Pub dated within 90 days of transfer. Certificate has been forwarded to the Selectmen's office and we will forward same to the ABCC.

Luis Rodriguez, P.E., Chief, Engineering Management Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file Letter of Map Revision Floodway Determination Document (Removal). (has been forwarded to Asst. Town Engineer Andrew Murphy) .

Melanson Heath Accountants:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2015.

Unfinished Business

Capital Outlay Committee:

Does the Board wish to make an appointment to the Capital Outlay Committee? Selectman Lyons said the Board has a representative in Allan Howard but he was appointed by the Moderator. Selectman Plasko said we should ask Mr. Howard to continue and notify the moderator of an opening. Selectman Howard said the Finance Commission and the School Committee have two members. Chairman Bishop said but you could become the Board's representative and there would be a vacancy for the moderator. Selectman Plasko stated that he understood now that Selectman Howard would remain the moderator's appointment and inquired if anyone from the Board would like to serve. Selectman Donohue stated that she would serve. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by selectman Lyons, voted to appoint Selectman Donohue as the Board' representative to the Capital Outlay Committee.

Thomas J. McQuaid, Town Clerk & Accountant:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file response to the Board's email regarding Early Voting Process in Massachusetts, which will be implemented in October 2016 for the upcoming presidential election. He will keep the Board informed of the details. This is regarding a letter from a concerned citizen.

Selectman Plasko:

Submitting information regarding An Act to Modernize Municipal Finance and Government section summary. (tabled from December 8, 2015). Selectman Plasko asked the Board to support these measures by sending a letter to our representative and state senator. There are 109 of them that he distributed. He has read them over and felt all assist municipalities and some local options and felt there was no harm in supporting this entirely. This won't be filed until the Spring if the Board would like to table further, but he is prepared to support all at this time.

Selectman Plasko (cont'd)

Selectman Howard asked for clarification on page 3, Certification of Local Property assessments. Seems contradictory to what they are trying to do. Selectman Plasko said it is decreasing how often the assessors have to go through the revaluation such as this year. If we do it every 5 years instead of 3 the potential of the information could be a little stale, hopefully this wouldn't happen often. Discussion continued. The upside of this and he did discuss this with Mr. McDonough, it costs a lot of money to go through this process and the Mass. Assessors Association does support this. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to support these changes recommended by the Governor and send a letter to our representative and state senator and ask for their support.

Memoranda

Richard A. Mason, Deputy Director of Lending, Mass. Housing Partnership:

Submitting copy of letter to Michael J. Roberts, Norwood Avalon, Inc. regarding Determination of Project Eligibility under MHP's Permanent Rental Financing Program as the Project as proposed appears generally eligible.

Selectman Plasko said the former Plimpton Press Property that was discussed as a potential 40R and turned down by town meeting has gone into a purchase and sales agreement with Avalon Bay. Avalon Bay's intention is to put in a housing development under a 40B law and the first step is to get this certification. The Town had an opportunity to comment and we sent a protest as to why this should be denied which was over ridden and the certification was submitted to Avalon and now Avalon will be submitting an application to the Zoning Board of Appeals which will start the process.

Selectman Howard said he thought they were going to do condominiums. Selectman Plasko said no, Avalon does only rental properties. He said that they don't do mixed use or commercial. Selectman Plasko said the initial plans has a four story building up against the railroad line of property and the side closer to Plimpton Ave. will be two story or three story town houses. Chairman Bishop said there will be 218 rental housing units, 81 one bedroom, 115 two bedroom, 22 (3) bed room located in ten buildings. There is a long way to go.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Howard

Recreation Department

Parent's night out coming up, please register at the Civic.

Selectman Donohue

Patsy Santoro

Passed away. He was the superintendent of the cemetery years ago. He was 92 years old. He had it running beautifully.

Jeanne Babel

She was married to Vic Babel and carried on the Babel family business. She cared about promoting business around the town or Norwood. Their generosity was unbelievable. They donated thousands of dollars of paint to the Balch school project, and did the same for the Morse house. We appreciate all she did for the Town of Norwood.

Morse House

Tour and open house celebrating all veterans who have come from the town of Norwood from 1-4 pm on February 14. Please give any pictures to Dale Day to post at the Morse House.

Selectman Lyons

Plumbing Code:

Selectman Lyons said that he has become aware of legislation at the state house that would give relief to towns building athletic stadiums at high schools re plumbing codes. He would like to ask our representatives for help on this and their support. On motion of Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to contact our state senator and representative to support this to help with our concession stand.

Jeanne Babel

It was incredibly sad day at the wake and funeral. She passed away way too young and she was an amazing person in this town. He said his wife Julie worked at Babel's for years and got her start in interior design and decorating at Babel's. He said being at the wake and seeing the line of past and current employees that came to show respect to Jeanne and Vic. He said that it was humbling to see the outpouring of love and respect from people who worked for Babel's. She was active on many committees and she was a personal friend of his wife Julie and himself. Jeanne was a force in this town and she will be missed. Selectman Plasko said she was chairman and active member of the Economic Development Committee.

Chairman Bishop

Jeanne Babel

At the wake Vic Babel said he was amazed at the sense of community. Chairman Bishop said that in situations like this the town of Norwood is a family. She will be sorely missed-she was a very classy lady. Thank all those who supported her when she needed it most.

Patsy Santoro

Chairman Bishop said that he was the Supt. of the Cemetery Department. He was Joe Welch's predecessor. He went to Connecticut to run a cemetery. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Appointment as a Police Officer:

Chairman Bishop stated that years ago the Board of Selectmen were the appointing authority for the Police Department. He said that 45 years ago today he sat on the other side of this table and was appointed to the Police Department by the Board. Selectman Donohue also mentioned Paul's father who preceded him on the job for 38 years.

Manager's Agenda

Recommending the Board accept two checks from Campanelli regarding I/I payments.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to accept under Chapter 44, Section 53A for said purposes two checks from Campanelli in the amount of \$50,549.62. As soon as the buildings go on line these amounts of money kick in and this is the first payment. The Manager said they are working on lining the sewer system and this will go to that.

Realignment of Services and Duties at the Police Station.

On motion of selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file information that there is a retirement coming up and there will be reassignments.

Executive Session:

The following items were presented to the Board for Executive Session, but was handled in open Session.

The Board filed the following:

Pending litigation-Norwood Airport

Selectman Plasko see no need for discussion – it is information from counsel keeping us informed.

Executive Session (cont'd)

Appeal of DHCD

Selectman Plasko said this is not really an executive session item; because we have appealed to the housing court over a recent decision and this is notification by town counsel .

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 8:15 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk