

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 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. – Chief William G. Brooks III, NPD:

Lt. Peter Kelly presented the report of the department's monthly activities as Chief Brooks was unable to attend the meeting. Lt. Kelly began by reporting that citations are up, complaints and arrests are down, and calls for service have increased from last month. Chief Brooks was sworn in as President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. Chief Brooks, Lt. Kelly, and Officer Wennerstrand attended a classified briefing in Boston at the FBI held by the Joint Terrorism Task Force. The Chief also attended eyewitnesses identification meetings and drug abuse meetings with Sigalle Reiss, he attended a NORPAC Supervisors meeting and a Mass Most Wanted meeting. The BCI report caused a lot of concern earlier in the month because there were some federal search warrants that were served. They were not Norwood search warrants and there was no need for concern in Norwood. One warrant was with JTTF involving untaxed cigarettes. The other warrant involved the Child Response team Task Force. There were ten house breaks in one night last month. This is extraordinary, Lt. Kelly said he has not seen this in his twenty nine years on the force. That investigation is still ongoing and there are still leads being developed. This month's report has only one Breeding and Entering. As far as training, Officers Kevin McDonough and John Rooney are set to graduate the academy in March and they are at the top of their class. Recruits Melanie Wigmore and Jennifer Hoyle are in the Boston Police Academy and they are set to graduate in June and they are doing great as well. Officers Fundora, Lopes, and Payne attended SWAT training.

December is historically a busy month due to Christmas and this December there was a lot of identity theft reports, credit card fraud, UPS and Fedex package theft. Officers Bishop and Padden are on the Crime Prevention team and they are very productive.

Lt. Kelly reported that School Resource Officers, Paul Murphy and Jaime Mahoney are very busy in the schools; they are very visible and are a great point of contact. He can't imagine not having them in those positions. He also reported that Officer Tom Annino, a veteran of twenty-five years retired January 7, 2016. Tom was a great asset at the Police Department; he was an Evidence Officer, he was a Clerk, he was a Patrolman, and he did a great job and will be missed. Lt. Kelly went on to report that there was a fatal car crash in December that was very prominent, on Route 1A. There was an arrest made as a result for OUI Liquor and Drugs. The lieutenant mentioned social media and the help from people of the Town. He said one of the best things Chief Brooks did was put the department on Facebook and Twitter and start involving the public. As a result of this two men were arrested for stealing car keys at a gym and breaking into cars. There was video from the gym and Officer Brendan Green very proactively put that video on Facebook and social media and the two men were identified and arrested. That arrest will result in additional charges in Dartmouth, Fall River and Rhode Island.

Lt. Kelly stated there were two armed robberies with a knife this past weekend. One occurred at Stonebridge apartments and was a disagreement over an arrangement to sell sneakers. The other occurred less than an hour and half after that on Union Street and the motive of that robbery is unclear, but the two incidents are unrelated.

Selectman Howard referred to the theft that occurred when two parties got together for one to purchase something from the other. Our police department has an area next to the station that people can use for

Lt. Kelly (cont'd)

this purpose. Lt. Kelly said this is called the safe area designated for people to go and make exchanges and hopefully be in a safe environment.

Lt. Kelly spoke about the dating application being used fraudulently by people to set up dates then when the person arrived for the date, they were robbed. Lt. Kelly stressed being aware of what you are getting into and if you are going to engage in a transaction, do it in an environment that is safe.

Selectman Lyons spoke about Norwood Police being on social media. He said he is not sure if it is negative or not, but it seems like everyone is aware of every crime, now. Everything that happens is on social media, people are talking about it. A couple of years ago most people in Norwood would not necessarily have been aware of every little thing that happened. While he understands the reasoning for getting the public involved, and he applauds that, it also gives the impression that Norwood is high crime and things are worse than they are. However, according to Chief Brooks quote in the newspaper, property crimes are flat and personal crimes are down from last year. Lt. Kelly pointed out that these crimes occur everywhere and some departments don't disclose or put that information out there, but those crimes still exist. He wants the people of Norwood to know the crimes are not more prevalent in Norwood, they exist everywhere. The Norwood Police Department making residents aware of crime allow them to get involved in helping to resolve some of the crimes but it also notifies residents of what is going on and perhaps helps them avoid becoming victims. Lt. Kelly explained how crime statistics and sometimes be misleading.

Chairman Bishop stated this Board is very complimentary of the Norwood Police Department and believes they do a fantastic job. He went on to say that the younger people who are coming on are very aggressive, very well trained and very up to date. They are very much interested in the job and want to do the right thing. The Chairman requested that Lt. Kelly stay for Sheriff Bellotti's presentation.

7:15 P.M. – Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti, Norfolk County

Sheriff Bellotti gave an overview of the Sheriff's Department adding that Norwood is a town that has allowed its office to partner with them. He stated that Chief Brooks, Chief Greeley, and Kerri McCarthy have enthusiastically accepted whatever programs his department has that they believe in some ways complement what folks like Lt. Kelly do every day. His department's statutory mission is care and custody of inmates located at Dedham Jail, Daily Reporting Center in Quincy, a minimum security building on the Needham-Dedham line and a Youth Camp and Senior Program located out of Braintree. Sheriff Bellotti said his role is, and ninety percent of his budget goes to, care and custody of inmates and reentry of convicts to the communities. The Department handles reentry, offenders who are arrested and convicted in Dedham and Brookline, Wrentham, Stoughton and Quincy. Eighty percent of offenders probably have substance abuse a problem, and in addition they might lack things such as training, housing and healthcare or could lack a GED, have anger management or mental health issues. The Sheriff said the department has recently partnered with non-profits to connect prisoners with resources, which greatly reduces recidivism. He stated they need to do more in the way of monitoring, recovery home beds, etc. as the parolees come back into communities. The main thing is to get them into the pipeline. It is hard to keep these guys motivated but if we do it with close supervision, bracelet program, work release program. For the past five or six years Northeastern University has been involved in measuring every Sheriff's Department reentry program. Sheriff Bellotti spoke about partnerships outside his department with police and fire departments and senior centers and also about his department's community service program.

Chairman Bishop thanked Sheriff Bellotti, saying when organizations collaborate it takes public service to another level, especially with the Opioid crisis and everything else that is going on today. If people put their minds together hopefully we will find some solutions. Lt. Kelly added that the Town is lucky to have Sheriff Bellotti because they work so well together.

Selectman Donohue welcomed Sheriff Bellotti and remembered his fantastic father, Frank Bellotti, our Attorney General.

Sheriff Bellotti (cont'd)

Selectman Howard inquired about Fentanyl stating it can cause overdose because it is stronger than heroin. Lt. Kelly said there were five fatalities in Norwood in 2015, some of which were due to Fentanyl. Fentanyl is extremely powerful and is mixed in to boost the potency of the heroin and increase the intensity of the high, and people buying it don't even know what they are buying. He added that in Norwood the drug pushers go to jail, but the users either go into immediate treatment or to jail.

New Business

Supt. Sigalle Reiss, Board of Health:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request to insert the Recycling Newsletter into the Light Department bills for the month of August.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to approve:

Vittoria Tropeano, 11 Wedgewood Drive to C-1858

Michelle C. Morales, 257 Dean Street to C-1859

Alicia M. Bachofner, 147 Azalea Drive to G6-83

Anne M. Rowan, 49 Rosemary Street to C-1863

Norwood Public Access:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file minutes of meeting of November 2, 2015.

Norwood Lodge of Elks #1124, 152 Winslow Avenue:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve application for approval of change of manager from Stephen J. Kelley to Brian Fagan.

Clerk-Board of Selectmen:

- a. On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve as written Selectmen's Report for 2015.
- b. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to file ABCC Report which will be sent to ABCC as per M.G.L. Ch. 138 § 10A.

Derek Langenberg, Perks Catering, 685 Washington Street:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to approve application to change name from The American Coffee House, Inc. , to Dylan Lucas, Inc., dba Perks Catering, with Derek Langenberg as the Manager, issue CV to Dylan Lucas, and revoke the former license. A public hearing is not necessary.

Revocation of licenses for year 2016:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted 4-0 in favor of revoking the following licenses as they failed to renew. Selectman Lyons abstained.:

Gus Centola, dba C & E Auto, 1401 Boston Providence Turnpike, Class II MVL

Lynn N. O'Leary, dba Neponset Auto Parts, 576 Pleasant Street, Class III MVL

Sons of Shephanie, 487 ½ Washington Street, CV License

Irish Heaven, Inc., dba Concannon's Village, 60 Lenox -CV License-liquor license was renewed.

Breadbasket Bakery & Café, 485 Washington Street

John Mantis, E & N Mantis Partnership, dba Broadway Pizza & Grill, 75 East Cottage Street:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve application to change his corporate name to Stagios, Inc., dba Broadway Pizza & Grill, 75 East Cottage Street and revoke E & N Mantis Partnership. He has formed a new corporation-everything else will remain the same.

New Business (cont'd)

Paul Halkiotis, Director of Planning and Economic Development:

- a. Submitting amendment to Norwood Housing Rehab Program for Chairman's signature.
- b. On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve information regarding a video that will be on the Town's webpage. This video will allow people looking for a location for a new business or home to learn more about the Town.

Board of Appeal:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Lyons, voted to file notice that an application for a Comprehensive Permit under Chapter 40B has been received from Norwood Avalon, Inc. regarding 105-158 and 165 Lenox Street. The date of the hearing is February 2, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Thomas J. McQuaid, Town Clerk & Accountant:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file e-mail that the Finance Commission will only need the December departmental reports from the Police, Fire, DPW and Light/Broadband for their budget meetings in February. The Fire report has been sent.

Memoranda

Building Inspector Mark Chubet:

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

Selectmen's Meetings:

On motion of Selectman Donohue, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve as written the Board minutes of December 8, 15, and two meetings of December 18, 2015.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Donohue

Frank Fruci, Grant Avenue

Requesting that the Manager talk to Mr. Fruci, who is having a problem with paving.

Water Bill

If a resident's water bill is much higher than it usually is, does the billing department warn the homeowner. The Manager said yes, they do that as quickly as they can. They monitor twice a day and if there seems to be a problem, residents and landlords will be notified. Selectman Donohue spoke of a friend who owned a three family house whose toilet ran for a month, and the tenant did not notify them. The water bill was very high. Mr. Carroll said he is familiar with the case and just before the water bill went out this man was called.

Selectman Plasko

By the time the billing department sees increase in water use and calls the owner, the water has already been used.

Selectman Howard

Met with two staff members of the billing department and at the current time, thirty to forty five days can go by with a leaky toilet, etc. There is not enough staff to check 12000 readings per day. He suggested changing the programming so the computer does the work of checking each day as the readings come in. They are currently looking into this.

The Manager said he will get a report to the Board on this.

Chairman Bishop

Asked the Manager to explain how the sewer rate is determined. Mr. Carroll handed out a document showing the calculations.

Manager's Agenda

Schedule of budget meeting with the Board

Budget meetings to be held Tuesday, January 26, 2016 with major department heads.

Recommending the Board approve notice regarding dog walking on the grounds of the cemetery.

The Manager stated there has been a problem up there. Selectman Howard said the notice is very well done. Selectman Plasko said he thought we had responsible dog owners but it seems people are getting lax with their responsibilities, particularly on school grounds and other such areas. He asked that people control their pets. Chairman Bishop said he finds it very discouraging and the cemetery is not the place to walk your dog. It shows disrespect for the deceased and their families. Please show the proper respect. Selectman Donohue stated that the Dog Park Committee is having a hard time finding a location, but this would help the pet owners around town.

FYI-letter from the Simon companies regarding their appreciation of the Norwood Fire and Police Department efforts during the January 7th fire at Olde Derby Village Apartments.

The Manager reported that there had been a fire at Old Derby Village last week; a grease fire in a kitchen. He said he should have notified the Board of the fire but he didn't. He went on to say he received a wonderful letter this afternoon pointing out the great work done by the Fire and Police Departments and commenting on the compassion they showed to the residents.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:05 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Assistant