

**Town of Nahant, MA
Board of Selectmen**

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 6, 2018 7:00 PM**

**Chesley R. Taylor Jr., Chairman
Richard J. Lombard, Vice Chairman
Francis J. Barile, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator**

Attendance: Chesley R. Taylor, Richard J. Lombard, Francis J. Barile & Antonio Barletta (T.A.)

1. Meeting Opening 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance- Led by Chairman, Chesley R. Taylor Jr.

a. Opening Comments-

- 1) Mr. Taylor led a moment of silence for President Bush 41
- 2) Pete Rogers 44 Pearl Road- donated a painting to the Town of Nahant. The painting is called, Aftermath, inspiration from the No Name Storm.
- 3) Mr. Lombard wanted to thank Patricia Mcardle for writing thank you notes to the beautification committee members.
- 4) Mr. Barile would like to thank Michael & Marsha Billias- for all of their devotion and dedication to this Town.

Mr. Lombard made a motion to send a letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator thanking the Billias' & Frank Cardile and wife for raising money/funds and for all of their hard work.

Seconded by Mr. Barile

Unanimous vote in favor

- b. Mr. Barile- I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the minutes of November 15, 2018

Seconded by Richie

Unanimous vote in favor

- c. Public Meeting-Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00pm, Town Hall- Mr. Taylor clarified that this will be a selectmen's meeting in which Northeastern is going to present their plans so far.

T.A. It's time for Northeastern to present the plans that they have presented to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. There will be no vote on Tuesday (12/11). This is just a check point. We are encouraging the community to attend the meeting. There will be an hour and 15 minutes for community comments. Logistics for this meeting will be better than the last one. We will download the presentation online for folks to follow along that night. We will provide an opportunity for the community to submit feedback to the Board and Town Administrator. Lastly, Northeastern put together a one page memo that will be arriving to mailboxes in the next day or two.

Mr. Taylor mentioned how December 11th worked for everyone's calendar. Informational meeting. One item on the agenda. He will not allow screaming and yelling.

Mr. Lombard would like to reiterate that there has been no deal made between the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator and Northeastern University.

2. Citizen's Forum

Polly Bradley 33 Summer Street- was inquiring if the Northeastern land is going to go to the highest bidder. She doesn't think that they will do it, but would like for the question to be answered on Tuesday.

Jennifer McCarthy 19 Range Road- (2) public events that she would like to share. This Saturday Nahant Village Church Fair from 9am-2pm. Second event is the Santa Parade Tides Fundraiser; next Saturday December 15th. (2) Thoughts she wanted to share- for the board to consider time limits on people when they speak. Regarding the potential addition of 1400 cars added to traveling on the Lynnway – it might be a good idea to talk to Lynn and discuss their plans with traffic on the Lynnway.

Mr. Lombard we have the numbers and we are talking to DCR on the traffic patterns. He believes Tom McGee will help us as much as he can.

Mr. Taylor stated that he will absolutely have time limits during citizen's forum for Tuesday night's meeting.

Jennifer McCarthy- clarified that she was not just referencing this Tuesday night's meeting, she was referencing all BOS meetings with citizen's forum having time limits.

Mr. Barile stated that our State Senator and Mayor of Lynn are certainly looking into the traffic congestion on Lynn Shore Drive.

3. New Business

- a. Approve Nahant Cultural Council Christmas Concert-December 16, 2018; 4:00-6:00pm, Town Hall

Mr. Lombard: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve Nahant Cultural Council Christmas Concert on December 16, 2018; 4:00-6:00pm, Town Hall

Seconded by Mr. Barile

Unanimous vote in favor

- b. Approve Santa Parade- December 22, 2018, 6:00pm, Kick Off at 40 Steps

Mr. Barile: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve Santa Parade- December 22, 2018 6:00 PM, Kick off at 40 Steps

Seconded by Mr. Lombard

Unanimous vote in favor

c. Approve Johnson Elementary School Winter Concert on December 19, 2018; 7:00pm, Town Hall

Mr. Barile: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve Johnson Elementary School Winter Concert on December 19, 2018; 7:00pm, Town Hall
Seconded by Mr. Lombard
Unanimous vote in favor

4. Town Administrator Report

- Christmas tree lighting at the Town Hall was a great event with the community.
- MVP Committee read aloud a statement on their behalf:
 - The Municipal Vulnerability Program or MVP is a state program that offers grants to help prepare communities for climate change and sea level rise. To be eligible for large grants, a town first has to hold an MVP workshop that will help the town prioritize critical issues and plan grants. Last March the Nahant MVP committee obtained a small grant to hold the workshop for about 30 key stakeholders in town. However, we want feedback from the larger community, and so we have started a survey that will run for the month of December. You can take the survey online or find paper copies at key locations around town (library, town hall, Dunkin Donuts, police station, golf course, etc.). In January the MVP committee will present the results of the survey to the public and there will be a chance for people to give more input. In February we will hold the MVP workshop with key stakeholders (e.g. police, fire, DPW, town committees) to develop a plan of action. In March/April a consultant will help us write up a plan based on input from survey and workshop, we will have a public meeting where people are informed about the plan and will be able to give more input. We use this plan to prioritize grants to prepare Nahant for sea level rise.

Mr. Lombard suggested that someone borrows the Police Station high-def camera to record the peak of our high tides and evaluate.

- Budget Development Strategy: I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you about this year's budget process and seek your approval and direction for our development strategy.
Balancing the budget this year is going to be more challenging compared to previous years due to a number of factors.
Last year our budget was balanced with over a million dollars of free cash and overlay surplus and we didn't put any money into a stabilization fund or OPEB (other post-employment benefits).
It's important to know that by not putting money into a stabilization fund and OPEB, we are jeopardizing the town's bond rating. If our bond rating goes down the interest rate on our borrowing could go up.

The division of local services of the department of revenue noted this in their review of our financial operations in July 2015.

Outside of this issue, we are estimating that we will have approximately \$225,000 less in free cash and \$50,000 less in overlay surplus compared to last year. If you look at the rough estimates on the sheet in front of you, that's a total of approximately \$275,000 less available to us to balance the budget compared to last year.

We also know that our expenditures will likely increase due to the estimated \$1.6 million in storm damage that FEMA will only reimburse the town up to 75%. That means that we will have to pay approximately \$400,000

Keep in mind that these are preliminary storm damage estimates. Tudor Beach came in about \$100,000 over what we estimated and so the 25% that we are responsible for could be in the range of \$400-\$600,000.

We may also see an increase in the school special education budget of about \$100,000

The point I'm trying to make is that it is going to be near impossible to balance the budget this year without making cuts unless we consider sometime of general override.

I am also looking for your (the board's) capital plan priorities because I am in the process of gathering the same information from our department heads and together this will help determine what we can apply to CPC funds and how much we might need to borrow for.

My thought is that a small general override equal to the amount of the 25% that we owe for the storm damage repairs would allow us to pay that debt in year one and put us on a path towards a healthy and stable balanced budget plus protect our bond rating moving forward.

I don't have the figures for an average home owners bill impact caused by this potential override at this time however I would note that Nahant has one of the lowest tax rates in the Commonwealth and the intent of this approach is to keep Nahant at the lower end of those rankings.

I need to know from you the board if you are comfortable with an approach that features the development of two budgets; one with a small override and one without.

Mr. Barile we did have a major sewer break and a major storm that wiped out a seawall. We aren't putting any money in OPEB and our stabilization fund.

- I would ask for the Coast Guard Housing Committee to come back to us with a report.

Mr. Taylor stated that a report from the Coast Guard Housing Committee is important to him as well. Stated that if we are going to go for an override it's important to know from Coast Guard Housing; what's happening?

T.A. stated that he is looking to the Board for some direction on starting the budget.

Mr. Barile's suggested direction is to sit down with each department head now, not later.

T.A. "Is the Board comfortable with the idea of a small general override to the tune of the 25%?"

All three selectmen stated that they are in favor of T.A.'s proposed strategy.

Mr. Lombard suggested starting from April Town Meeting and working your way backwards. Also, wants T.A to keep in mind that last year they only gave 1% increase to unions and teachers. He would try to get the override done by the end of February/March so that we have a profound budget come April Town Meeting. He also suggested freezing the 3% CPC residential charge.

5. Ongoing Business

- Mr. Barile has been receiving trash complaints (especially from Little Nahant). They haven't been picking up the trash.
- People cannot be bringing trash in from other communities to be picked up from the Town of Nahant.
- Need a strategic plan for storm water, especially in the winter (it turns into ice). Townspeople need an answer of where they can pump this water out, but they shouldn't be putting it in the street. Too hazardous.
- Mr. Barile will be meeting all day with FEMA on Monday, Dec 10th

6. Closing Announcements

- a. The Winter Parking Ban goes into effect Dec 21st - March 20th :
Mr. Taylor - The winter parking ban goes into effect Dec 21 – March 20
Residents with hardships that need to apply for a parking waiver can pick-up their application from the police department on or after December 1,
- b. Compost area will be closing for the Season on December 15th :
Mr. Taylor - Compost area will be closing for the season on December 15th

7. Adjourn:

Mr. Lombard made a motion to adjourn
Mr. Barile seconded
Unanimous vote in favor

Meeting adjourn 8:09pm
Meeting Minutes prepared by Bobbie-Jo Blair, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the _____ day of _____ 2018.

Board of Selectmen