

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 24, 2019 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 (TA)

**1. Meeting Opening 7:00 pm**

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

a. Opening Comments-

- 1) Mr. Lombard- congratulated the public works for a spectacular job on managing the storm/ice. Excellent work.
- 2) Mr. Barile- sends his condolences to the family of Dean Dennis. Also, Dean Palumbo's dad, Dante, past away. Please keep those two in your thoughts.
- 3) Mr. Taylor -Town Employees did an awesome job handling storm/ice. Terrific job on the streets. Thank you.

b. Mr. Barile made a motion to approve January 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lombard seconded

Unanimous vote in favor

**2. Citizen's Forum**

a. Alice Court: 7 Valley Road-

- 1) Remind everyone that December 20<sup>th</sup> she and Susan Solomon sent a letter to Northeastern University – raised questions about Northeastern University's proposed expansion.
- 2) January 3<sup>rd</sup>- BOS voted to request that Northeastern University respond to all questions within 2 weeks. We have yet to hear anything back from them. She reiterated that she requested for the answers to be in writing.
- 3) Yesterday's edition of Hungtinton News: story "Proposal for Expansion in Nahant Faces Backlash. Article brought to mind some comments made in the past by Board of Selectmen.
  - i. She would prefer that the board does not meet individually. She would prefer for the board to meet with Northeastern University publicly only.

(TA): Thanked everyone involved with writing the letter- we appreciate the time put into the letter and its valuable feedback. Stated that they spoke with Northeastern University today about those questions. Northeastern University stated that they are working on a

written response including additional questions as well. Hoping to have this information to us by the end of this month.

With regards to private meetings vs. public: The goal of the private meetings was to have a more organized discussion and push what we were hearing from the community onto Northeastern. The December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was the product from those private meetings. Stated that he (TA) has been in every meeting with NEU, one of our Selectmen (rotated each visit) and our attorney from KP Law; the message has been consistent each time. TA doesn't think that they are done, there are still unanswered questions & they will continue to get them to produce that information.

Mr. Taylor stated to T.A that we should have more meetings scheduled with NEU and inform the public after the meetings on what was accomplished.

Mr. Lombard stated that he met with the Northeastern Team only one time. He is not in favor of any expansion.

Mr. Barile stated that we have to meet with them individually because of the open meeting law.

Alice Court suggested to make the meetings open as opposed to individual private meetings.

Mr. Taylor reiterated that the public heard all of the information that was discussed at the individual meetings during the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Taylor confirmed that the Board of Selectmen and T.A. have the letter from the Association of Massachusetts Bird Club

Mr. Taylor read aloud a letter he received from Julie Tarmy regarding Nahant Historical Society Board of Directors; Position on Northeastern University Expansion. Stated that he received it in an email and wanted the Town to hear it.

Mr. Lombard made a motion to move that tonight's two mentioned letters be put in the annual report of the BOS and any tab we may have regarding Northeastern that these letters be put in the report.

Mr. Barile seconded for discussion.

Mr. Lombard was under the impression that we were going to put Northeastern's proposals in the annual report.

To clarify, T.A stated that he discussed with Mr. Lombard that there has been rumor out there that there could be a citizen's petition to authorize the Board to pursue eminent domain with Northeastern. He hasn't been approached by The Board to put anything in there but if that were to happen, we could add these letters.

Mr. Taylor tabled the motion on the floor. Stated if that happens, these letters will definitely go on the report.

### **3. New Business**

- a. Approve the appointment of Officer Hoffman as a full-time Nahant Police Officer: Mr. Lombard stated; I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the appointment of Officer Jason Hoffman as a full-time Nahant Police Officer.  
Seconded for discussion by Mr. Barile  
Unanimous vote in favor

T.A this position was to fill the position of Officer Brian Palangie who has been with the Town for some time. He is now moving on to join the state police academy. Wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his time as a Nahant Police Officer.

Mr. Lombard asked if there is anyway, when we hire new police officers, we sign a 3 year contract with them?

T.A. stated that he would need to look into ways that we can try to prevent it from happening. One of the benefits of Officer Hoffman is that he is fully trained, he also has 911 dispatch training and he has already been through the academy. The benefit is that we won't have to pay for him to get trained.

- b. Approve Annual Tobacco Licenses- Mr. Barile stated; I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve, Tobacco License renewal applications, with an expiration date of January 31, 2020, for Nahant Market, Richland and Seaside Variety.  
Seconded by Mr. Lombard

Mr. Barile stated that he knows the vap thing is becoming an issue. It's a nicotine product that you have to be 21 to buy now. Most cities and towns adopted the 21 year old age. We didn't adopt it right away so some kids (kids that were 18 December 31, 2000 are exempt) are grandfathered in. City Hall Systems contact would have liked to speak about this topic tonight but wasn't feeling well.

Mr. Taylor stated that she can speak at the next BOS meeting.

Mr. Lombard tabled the motion on the floor until we hear from City Hall Systems contact at our next meeting.

T.A stated that we may have another BOS meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> so we could potentially hold on this motion for a week. Would like for the Board to take into consideration that the existing licenses expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month.

- c. Approve McIlveen Wedding Ceremony at Lodge Park September 7, 2019: Mr. Lombard stated I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the McIlveen Wedding Ceremony at Lodge Park September 7, 2019

Seconded by Mr. Barile

Unanimous vote in favor

- d. Approve the Annual Nahant Beach Cleanup Day to be hosted by Swim Inc. on April 28, 2019: Mr. Barile stated I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Annual Nahant Beach Cleanup Day hosted by Swim Inc. on April 28, 2019

Seconded by Mr. Lombard

Unanimous vote in favor

- e. Approve Concert to benefit the Friends of Nahant Public Library for May 18, 2019 at Town Hall: Mr. Lombard stated I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve a concert to benefit the Friends of Nahant Public Library for May 18, 2019 at Town Hall

Seconded by Mr. Barile

Unanimous vote in favor

- f. Approve MVP Committee Community Resilience Workshop for February 9<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall: Mr. Barile stated I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the MVP Committee Community Resilience Workshop for February 9<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall

Seconded by Mr. Lombard

Unanimous vote in favor

#### **4. Town Administrator Report**

- a. Budget Development Strategy: Last time TA spoke about the budget he highlighted (as noted in the 2015 Division of Local Services Department of Revenue Report) that we aren't putting any money in our OPEB or our reserves which jeopardizes our bond rate. On top of that we have our free cash and overlay funds are decreasing. This year we have roughly \$275,000 less than we did last year and we project that it is going to continue to decrease going forward. Also we have about 1.6 million dollars in storm damage that FEMA will cover 75% of so we estimate that our 25% will be somewhere between \$400,000 and \$600,000.

Based on our draft operating budget (department heads requests that he has received) we have \$13,430,507 in draft expenses. Our revenue projections are \$12,145,587 plus the use of overlay and free cash is \$741,918. After calculations you will see we have a shortage of \$543,002. Plus if you add \$600,000 of FEMA damage we are estimating a shortage of about \$1.1 million dollars. This is why we started to speak of an override. The next step in this process is for TA to go back to department heads and try to cut as much as we can from requested amount without jeopardizing necessary services to the Town. We also want to make a decision on how we want to treat that 25% of FEMA that we owe. We can borrow to pay that off but the concern for that is if you borrow for the whole amount and pay it off over time, we are kicking the can down the road, plus we are projecting less revenues next year and the following year. We want to try and determine with an override potentially take a significant piece of that and pay for it, this year, and borrow for less plus make some cuts. Hopefully we can try and minimize the amount of the override.

Enterprise funds vs revenue projections are level. No shortage in either one of those.

T.A. discussed an override bill impact based on \$600K, \$700K, \$800K and \$1 million override. These are estimated impact based on the average home value of \$647K

\$600K override = average home 1<sup>st</sup> year total increase impact would be \$433 (which is split into two bills)

\$700K override = total 1<sup>st</sup> year increase impact; \$500

\$800K override = total 1<sup>st</sup> year increase impact; \$575

\$1 million = total 1<sup>st</sup> year increase impact; \$700

Next steps T.A will have more precise numbers and a plan of approach.

Mr. Barile agreed that we cannot continue to keep borrowing money. Referencing the Capital Plan, Mr. Barile asked T.A. if there was any sewer in the plan.

T.A. stated that we borrowed 4 million dollars last year for sewer. We are in the beginning stages of doing a sewer assessment. In his (T.A.) opinion, because of a lot of turnover last year we aren't getting the money out of the door fast enough. He believes we already have enough borrowed money, for sewer, to pursue significant projects next year.

A discussion between the Board and T.A on ways that we can control some of our expenses and not just "get more money to solve our problem" occurred.

Mr. Taylor requested from the T.A. to at some point address, "what if the override doesn't pass". He would like to see that plan at some point.

T.A there are things within the budget that we have to look at. If no override we have to think about cuts, we would be risking our bond rating and our infrastructure is aging at the same time. We are required by state law to provide a balanced budget.

Mr. Lombard stated that he would like to set a date to vote on an override.

T.A stated that it is a ballot question and there are three options-

- You can have a ballot question on an override prior to the Annual Town Meeting
  - You can have it the same day as the Annual Town Meeting
- or
- You can have it after the Annual Town Meeting

If you do it the same day or after then at Town Meeting we would basically approve two budgets; one contingent upon that vote.

Mr. Taylor stated that he is in favor of voting on this in June.

T.A. stated that he will double check the process and update the Board.

A discussion between T.A. and the Board regarding potential partnership with neighboring towns for maintenance of our sewer main took place.

**5. Ongoing Business**

**6. Closing Announcements**

a. Mr. Taylor stated; Winter “Red” and “Blue” light graphics are now on both the Town and Police website homepages:

- 1) Red Light = winter parking ban is in effect
- 2) Blue Light = snow emergency is declared

Mr. Lombard asked if we could get a plaque for the recent painting that was donated to Town Hall.

**7. Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourn 8:25pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by Bobbie-Jo Blair, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2019.

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Board of Selectmen