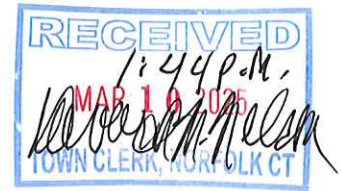


Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
4:30 PM Town Hall



Present: Matthew Riiska, Sandy Evans, Henry Tirrell, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard
and Avice Meehan

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: February 5, 2025

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2025 meeting as presented.
Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

MOTION S. Evans to add discussion of assessment of motor vehicles for property taxation and State of CT House Bill 7067. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

- M. Riiska read the following explanation of House Bill 7067: For assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024, any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, or in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, by vote of its board of selectmen, elect to apply the following modified schedule of depreciation with respect to motor vehicles based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price of such motor vehicles, provided no motor vehicle shall be assessed at an amount less than five hundred dollars (*Norfolk's modified schedule listed in motion below*).

MOTION M. Riiska to elect to apply the following modification to the method of how motor vehicles are assessed beginning assessment year October 1, 2024. Motor vehicle assessments will use a method based on a vehicle's manufacturer's suggested retail price and its age, as opposed to the former method of using the appraisal guides from the National Automobile Dealers Association.

- o The schedule for depreciation will be as follows:
- o 90% - up to 1 year to not less than \$500 for 20 years and beyond
Using the 90% method will yield a higher yield compared to an 85% schedule and increase the Town of Norfolk's grand list through additional revenue.

Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

(M. Riiska will notify the State of CT Office of Policy & Management within 14 days.)

Appointments: Pension Committee, Friends of the Meadow, Website Committee

M. Riiska presented the following individuals for appointments:

- Pension Committee – Deborah Nelson – to fill vacancy - term to expire 07/31/27
- Friends of the Meadow – Mark Burke – to fill vacancy – term to expire 02/01/26
- Website Committee – Jennifer Pfaltz – to fill alternate vacancy – term to expire 07/01/27

MOTION S. Evans to appoint all individuals listed above with terms as stated.

Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Budget

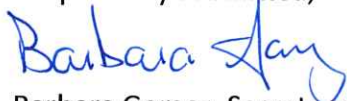
- M. Riiska distributed copies of the proposed fiscal year 25/26 budget. He will be presenting the budget at next week's Board of Finance Meeting on 3/11/25.
- Town employees, excluding Public Works union employees who have a contract, will be receiving a 2 ½ % wage increase.
- Various budget lines were reviewed and discussed in detail.
- Road repair and tree trimming are big items and were discussed extensively.
- M. Riiska received a quote today for \$262,000 to pave from Pond Town Cemetery to Wheeler Road. This would include skim paving to level and a second coat of asphalt. We will get two more quotes for milling and double chip sealing which will cost less but will not be as durable. EMS Building parking lot will be paved at a cost of \$45,000. These quotes show how quickly the road repair budget line of \$425,000 can be used up.
- Prior to the Board of Finance Meeting next week M. Riiska will make a list of road projects being considered and will highlight those needing immediate work.
- Sidewalks along Station Place in front of Arcanum Building and from the Berkshire Store to the Post Office are being considered for replacement.
- Town Hall - The side staircase at the Town Hall outside of the Selectmen's Office needs to be taken down and repaired. Also, the wall in the window well in the front of the building needs repair.
- The \$3,500 usually appropriated to Geer has been taken out of the FY 25/26 budget as residents don't have any luck getting a bus ride through Geer.
- City Meadow – money has been added to the "parks" line for maintenance of City Meadow. Most work done in City Meadow is privately funded but the town needs to assist with maintenance.
- Tobey Pond – increase is for lifeguard wages and additional hours
- River Place Bridge – M. Riiska will be working with the State of CT to make sure we get 100% reimbursement after original costs.
- Mountain Road Bridge – Eight more years on loan
- Firehouse – Committee still working and will need a town meeting to approve. The State of CT has approved a total of \$1,750,00.00 (\$1,250,000 through the Senate and House Appropriations Committee and \$500,000 through Rep. Jahana Haynes). We are still looking for additional funding.
- School budgets reviewed – M. Riiska to attend Regional #7 School budget meeting tonight
- Botelle School budget to be presented on Wednesday, March 26th.
- M. Riiska asked the group to review the budget and contact him with any questions.

Selectman's Report

- River Place Bridge – The project is moving along well and should be paved in mid-April and completed by 4/30/25.
- Fuel Spill – Homeowners affected by the fuel spill are going through the assessment appeals process.
- Wall Project – Employee parking has been a problem as well as people jumping the traffic light. M. Riiska meets with wall project managers on a regular basis.
Smith Road temporary bridge – M. Riiska is filing paperwork with the State of CT DEEP and has been in touch with the Army Corps of Engineers trying to get this completed.

MOTION M. Riiska to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Gomez, Secretary