

# Norfolk in Brief

## Expect An Override Request

Selectmen will likely ask voters for an operating budget override of Proposition 2 1/2 this spring.

That's because selectmen consider likely cuts that would have to be made without an override to be unacceptable.

"I personally think there is going to be an override without a doubt, and I don't think there would be too many people to argue with me," Town Administrator Jack Hathaway said during the town Advisory Board meeting this past Thursday night.

Hathaway said the size of the override will be an important decision for selectmen, as they decide whether they want to try to get by with a relatively small tax increase or whether they want to ask for enough money so they don't have to come to voters for a few years in case the budget situation remains bad.

One budget scenario that town officials are working on calls for a 4 percent reduction in spending for fiscal year 2011 (which runs from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) from this current fiscal year.

"We know, for example, a 4 percent cut to the Police Department is two police officers," said Selectman Jim Lehan, board chairman, during the Advisory Board meeting this past Thursday night.

The Norfolk Police Department already has fewer police officers than the Federal Bureau of Investigation recommends for a town of Norfolk's size.

Selectmen expect to hear budget-impact scenarios from other town department heads at their meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 8.

A level-funded municipal budget that includes expected salary increases for town employees leaves the town with a projected \$972,000 shortfall between expected revenues and expected expenses, Hathaway said.

If the budget were reduced by 4 percent, the projected shortfall drops to about \$25,000, he said. The budget numbers Hathaway laid out assume a level-funded budget for King Philip, which serves grades 7 through 12 for Norfolk, Wrentham, and Plainville.

## Selectman's Race On

It's official: There's a race for Norfolk Board of Selectmen.

Challenger Scott Bugbee returned nomination papers with signatures this week to qualify for the ballot. He joins Jim Lehan, the current chairman of the Board of Selectmen, who had already returned nomination papers.

One three-year term is available on the town's top board.

Bugbee, 46, is a director of product sales for Rogerscasey, a software company with an office in Boston.

He has coached youth soccer in Norfolk for the past four years. He has lived in town since 1994.

"One of my main goals is to give the voters a choice ... giving people maybe a different perspective for the town," Bugbee said in an interview this week.

Bugbee identified dealing with continuing budget problems in town as a priority.

"I want to keep services level as best we can without putting an excessive burden on the taxpayer. That's going to be one of the most challenging things a selectman is going to face," Bugbee said.

Bugbee said he is running to try to help Norfolk.

"I want to give back to the town.

... I have the time and desire to help," Bugbee said.

Lehan, a retired insurance executive and current financial consultant, is running for what would be his third three-year term on the Board of Selectmen. He is also a former member of the Norfolk School Committee.

"First and foremost, it has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Norfolk. I first ran for this position to help our community remain financially sound, ensuring fairness in our boards and that decisions reflect the overall interest and values of our town. I have tried to represent all the needs of all our citizens from our schools to our seniors," Lehan said in an email message.

Lehan also addressed budget problems.

"The last few years have been extremely difficult as we all try to work our way through this financial crisis. Budgets continue to shrink, basic services continue to be strained and difficult decisions had to be made. Next year will be no less challenging. I am running for reelection because I believe my experience on the board will be helpful in continuing to manage the many issues that lie ahead," Lehan said.

Lehan touted the town's management of its money.

"Last year Norfolk was one of the very few towns whose bond rating was increased by Standard and Poor's, a recognition of how well we have managed our finances. But ultimately it is all about helping people, this has been the true reward. I love this town and I am running for reelection to continue to give back to a town that has given my family so much," Lehan said. "I hope that the citizens of Norfolk will allow me the privilege of continuing to serve them."

Norfolk's annual town election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11.

## Police: Shotgun-Wielding Man Gets Year In Jail In Domestic Incident

A 34-year-old man whom police say beat up his live-in girlfriend and then barricaded himself inside their home at 6 Priscilla Avenue with two shotguns in November was sentenced to a year in jail this week, police said.

Jason Cifizzari, 34, was convicted of assault and battery, intimidation of a witness, and malicious destruction of property in Wrentham District Court this past Thursday in connection with the incident, which occurred November 11, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

The woman, who owns the house, sustained a laceration on the chin, a scrape on the forehead, and bruises on both her arms and legs during the altercation, police said.

Police were in a standoff with the man for two hours 47 minutes, during which time some neighbors of nearby homes were evacuated. The man eventually surrendered.

Cifizzari was being held in jail after a dangerousness hearing in the immediate aftermath of the incident, first at Norfolk County Jail and House of Correction in Dedham and most recently at Bristol County Jail and House of Correction in Dartmouth, Carroll said.

He was sentenced to a year in jail plus a suspended sentence of one year for a three-year period after that, meaning if he violates the terms of his release during the three years after he gets out he can be put back in jail to serve the remaining year of his sentence.

He was also ordered to pay \$525 in restitution to the victim, Carroll said.

## Potholes Appearing

Norfolk police have gotten several complaints over large potholes that have appeared on town roads recently.

At 6:41 p.m. February 24 a driver reported a pothole on Main Street on the way to Walpole.

Later that same night, at 10:25 p.m., a driver reported a large pothole on Route 1A near Valley Street. (Route 1A, known locally as Dedham Street, is a state road.)

At 9:52 a.m. February 26, a driver reported a pothole on Grove Street near Strawberry Lane.

Potholes often appear this time of year as the ground thaws and the frozen water that has gotten into cracks expands as it turns from ice to liquid.

## School Buses Pinched For Running Stop Sign

Norfolk police stopped three school buses and several other vehicles for running the stop sign on King Street at Union Street this past Wednesday afternoon.

Police had gotten complaints about vehicles running the stop sign, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

The drivers got verbal warnings, Carroll said.

## Name This School

The Norfolk School Committee plans to solicit names for the new elementary school that is to replace Freeman-Centennial School.

The School Committee got a request from the architects that school officials come up with a name now so that it can be included on design plans and so designers can figure out how big the area on the building for the name needs to be.

But School Committee members decided to put off a final decision for a while, to allow opportunity for suggestions.

Beth Gilbert, chairman of the School Committee, suggested that elementary school students could be asked to write essays in support of a particular name.

"I think it could be a really neat exercise," Gilbert said during the School Committee meeting this past Wednesday night.

School Committee member Ross Gilleland noted that many elementary school students have trouble envisioning the new school, but that it will be easier once it is under construction.

"I think next year it will be more meaningful," Gilleland said.

Freeman-Centennial School derives its name in part from the original 1950 building, which was known as the A.J. Freeman School, after a longtime town resident and School Committee member. The Centennial portion of the building was built in 1970, the 100th anniversary (or centennial year) of the town's founding.

"So I think a lot of the feeling is this is kind of now a long and rather complicated name. Now that we're going to replace that building with one building, it might be a good time to try to make that a little more handy for everyday use," Gilbert said.

One member of the audience suggested that school officials should hesitate before changing the name of a building that honors a past member of the community.

"But the other suggestion that the committee has already received, the building committee had received, was to name the school in honor of Sergeant Adam Kennedy," Gilbert said.

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