

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
APRIL 9, 2009**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:** The April 9, 2009 Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. By Chairman, Mrs. Steele.

A. **Roll Call:** Chairman, Mrs. Mary Steele; Messrs. Timothy Giblin, Stephen Gradie, Robert Kimball; and Robert Salvo were present. Mr. James Purcell, Town Manager, was also present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II WARRANTS AND MINUTES

A. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended April 4, 2009, Warrant #60, dated April 9, 2009, in the amount of \$1,037,710.64

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended April 4, 2009, Warrant #60, dated April 9, 2009, in the amount of \$1,037,710.64 Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Mr. Gradie voted "present" and all other members voted "In Favor" of Motion. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Approve bills Warrant #61, dated April 9, 2009, in the amount of \$1,227,194.76

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bills Warrant #61, dated April 9, 2009, in the amount of \$1,227,194.76. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

C. Approve Minutes –

No Minutes were reviewed/approved.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

1. Application of Sally Batista, American Legion Auxiliary Unit #222 Norton, for Annual Poppy Drive, to be held at Roche Bros. Supermarket, 175 Mansfield Avenue, April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd, 2009

Ms. Batista was not present.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the Application of Sally Batista, American

Legion Auxiliary Unit #222 Norton, for Annual Poppy Drive, to be held at Roche Bros. Supermarket, 175 Mansfield Avenue, April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd, 2009, and to waive all fees. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Autopart International to hold a Food drive from April 27 – May 1 for the Cupboard of Kindness Food Pantry. Boxes to be placed in various locations and signage supplied, etc.
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On May 3rd is Project Breads' Walk for Hunger.

May 3 is Run4NortonHigh to enrich high school programs and experiences.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M. - Fire Chief Richard J. Gomes Re:

(a) Kevin Paicos Re: Donation of used Town fire vehicles;

Chief Gomes spoke of a request from Middle East for ambulances. Mr. Kevin Paicos is present this evening regarding request to donate vehicles.

Mr. Paicos thanked Board for considering request. His employment capacity is that of Town Administrator in Hingham, and a veteran.

In Afghanistan, about a year ago, there was a story of a young man who was put in pickup truck (not an ambulance) and he did fortunately survive. 30-100 ambulances is the goal and will provide improvement in medical capacity and economic development.

Mr. Paicos stated if it is within Board of Selectmen's consideration he promises the people of Norton it will make a real impact and ambulance to be put in a place where all the fighting is happening.

Mr. Kimball said there was a small town in Vermont where a fire truck (an old pumper) was also donated in the past by Norton. That town's fire department burned down. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Paicos said the city of Fitchburg donated also. Municipal donations they are hoping for and will have a group of firefighters together and go through ambulance and ensure engine works, etc., and get ready to ship. It allows it to be out on Saturday (if Town can take it up there) and get it back to Town and

they will do all they can to say thank you.

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Mr. Giblin offered congratulations on behalf of Board of Selectmen.

It was noted Autopart International is having a food drive on 4/27 – 5/1 and he can contact Autopart International to involve food drive in this.

Mr. Giblin said pictures added to Town website would be beneficial as well as the place where people can send donations.

Mr. Paicos said he will send Mr. Purcell an e-mail with pictures and NECN video and send pictures of ambulance being presented probably in Fall. He asked them to let him know if they wanted a delegate to attend from Norton.

The Board thanked Mr. Paicos for coming in.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to declare this specific vehicle as surplus and donate vehicle as discussed. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Purcell thanked Mr. Paicos and said this will make image of America a bit better over where ambulance is needed. Two Town employees were mentioned; he said Jim Precourt helped build infrastructure and Dave Schepis to ship out next year.

Mr. Paicos said this has helped soldiers serving in Iraq and very beneficial to them and a big deal is made saying donation is from “regular” people; not government. It makes a big impression with them. He thanked Chief Gomes, Board of Selectmen and Mr. Purcell.

(b) Fire Department Budget Impact

Chief Gomes discussed budget. Impact of decrease of \$100,000—90% salaries and 10% expenses. He said it was an unfortunate requirement to meet with call firefighters and tell them they would be laid off July 1, 2009, and a full-time position cut. Also, as of July 1 Chartley Fire Dept. will need to close; cannot keep two stations open. Discussion followed.

Mr. Kimball said it was disturbing Chartley Fire Station to close. Also, the call firefighters are in a difficult position.

It was discussed there was less mutual aid available as other communities are suffering as well.

Chief Gomes spoke of impacts and simultaneous call increases in last five years.

Mr. Purcell said this is not posturing or whining; they are the facts.

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Mr. Salvo stated he was a call firefighter and losing his position in July 2009.

2. Proclamation - "Silver Star Banner Day 2009"
Mr. Salvo read the Proclamation aloud.

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to Proclaim Silver Star Banner Day 2009 on May 1st. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1.
esignation of Heather A. Graf as the Selectmen's representative to the SRPEDD Commission, effective May 27, 2009

Mr. Purcell said Mrs. Graf did not wish to be reappointed (term is up May 2009).

Mrs. Steele thanked Mrs. Graf for her assistance.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Giblin referenced Monday evening's Norton School Committee meeting and main focus is looking to cut some teachers and other expenses to be cut as well.

Mr. Giblin referenced Proposition 2 ½ and said he was quoted erroneously in newspaper and his comments were taken out of context by newspaper or members of community. He is not in support of Proposition 2 ½ at this time. Energies must be focused in everyone's best interest.

Mr. Salvo said his third grandchild was born at 3:58 a.m. earlier today and baby was named Braden Joseph Salvo!

Mr. Gradie said on Friday, April 10, Norton Parent Advisory Board holding fundraiser at Roche Bros. (receipts to count between 5-8 p.m.) for Norton High School and will help with cost of YMCA in Attleboro graduation party.

J.C. Solmonese Silent Auction items ready for bids and can view items, etc. at "www.JCS.CMarket.com".

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Landfill Site: completed the first draft for Request for Proposal and have one major financial backer. RFP in hands of counsel, then will start internal circulation of it.

A project very important to public safety dept. is the changeover of communications equipment which is now complete and up and running and a good job was conducted.

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Info from Town Counsel re: changing town meeting date: warrant not posted yet, so Town is able to

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take a vote and prepare such vote (May 11 to June 8 is change); not splitting dates just pushing it out.

Mr. Purcell referenced solar project site: Board of Health took this matter up and is wholeheartedly in support of project. Board of Health is very enthusiastic about it.

Motion was made by Mr Kimball that the Board of Selectmen delay date of 5/11/09 Town Meeting to 6/8/09 and Special Town Meeting also not to be held until 6/8/09 for same reasons. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Friendly Amendment was made by Mr. Kimball that 6/8/09 Town Meeting begin at 7 p.m. at H.A. Yelle School and Special Town Meeting to begin at 8 p.m. On same date.

Roll call: Messrs Gradie, Kimball, Salvo, Giblin, and Mrs. Steele all voted "In Favor". Friendly Amendment Carries.

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Mr. Purcell discussed trains and on 4/6/09, Ian Bowles, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, issued the MEPA Certificate for the South Coast Rail Project, including the 'Scope' of review; and which alternatives will advance for the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Unfortunately both alternatives (primary Attleboro Alternatives) were decided to keep on table. All eight going to environmental for review and next project date to be somewhere in Fall 2009.

Mr. Kimball questioned why they are spending all this money and said he is opposed to having them come to Norton. Taxpayers money is being spent on this.

Mr. Giblin said total cost is \$16M of where train should go (study) and probably more than that it will cost. \$16M would be great local aid money.

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Mr. Purcell said actions were taken by finance committee on Articles. Board of Selectmen can review next week; they can be put on table for review/action.

Report on Town Planner on outcome of deliberations. Some sharp debate on accessory apartments and LED signs. In dollar terms, close to 2/3 on how money will be allocated, and about halfway there or close to halfway.

Mr. Purcell stated he may need to downgrade once again and is working with the Town Accountant and see if original numbers, which are conservative, will hold up.

Mr. Giblin asked about April 13 road project starting date?

Mr. Purcell said Bruce Hicks said if night option to work is available should use it. There has been talk of worker safety and night time noise issues.

A night project vs. a daytime project. Mr. Silver would do as much as he could to get it done. Need a

determination from State. Contractor works for Town of Norton. It is a state highway and need state's permission.

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Mr. Salvo said he agreed the need to delay it and leave other things to get done Discussion followed.

Mr. Purcell said he will let water and sewer commissioners know feeling of Board of Selectmen on this and he is sure they will cooperate.

VIII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES.

XI. SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary