



TOWN OF NORTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

70 EAST MAIN STREET

MUNICIPAL CENTER, NORTON, MASS. 02766

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING FOR OCTOBER 15, 2009

- I. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN**: The October 15, 2009 Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Mr. Giblin.

A. **Roll Call**: Chairman, Mr. Timothy Giblin; Messrs. Bradford Bramwell; Robert Kimball; Robert Salvo; and Mrs. Mary Steele 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 October 3, 2009, Warrant #20, dated October 8, 2009, in the amount of \$1,008,032.83**

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended October 3, 2009, Warrant #20, dated October 8, 2009, in the amount of \$1,008,032.83. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. **Approve bills Warrant #21, dated October 8, 2009, in the amount of \$897,027.57**
MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bills Warrant #21, dated October 8, 2009, in the amount of \$897,027.57. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

C. **Approve bills Warrant #22, dated October 15, 2009, in the amount of \$129,059.55**
MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bills Warrant #22, dated October 15, 2009, in the amount of \$129,059.55. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

D. **Approve Minutes – May 28, 2009;**
May 28, 2009 Executive Session
MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated May 28, 2009, as written. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting of Executive Session, dated May 28, 2009, as written. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass Collectors and Treasurers Association sent letter, dated October 15, 2009, regarding Jacqueline Boudreau advising she earned the designation of certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer.

Mr. Giblin congratulated Ms. Boudreau on behalf of the Board. Discussion ensued on security of investments, etc.
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Haunted Happenings at Norton Outdoor Center to be held Oct. 24 and 25. Contact Danielle Sicard for more info or to volunteer at "dsicard@attleboroyymca.org".

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

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

a) Christmas is for Kids Program;

b) Fire Prevention Week

Fire Chief Gomes stated Norton is joining with Attleboro for Children's program (Attleboro Area Council for Children). Judy McCarron spearheaded this. Five children per volunteer vs. 20 children per volunteer in Norton.

People in local community can say they want to sponsor a "Norton" family. It is important integrity of program is there.

Mr. Giblin said Norton has worked with Attleboro Area Council in past so there is already a working relationship. Info will be provided for donations/applications. Mr. Giblin said he commended Ms. McCarron for her hard work and all she has done.

Chief Gomes said it's phenomenal the way Judy McCarron has done it.

Ms. Kelly Fox said this was her fourth year as president of this program, and she and Judy McCarron have been working behind scenes for about four years. Towns involved: Attleboro, North Attleboro, Seekonk, and Rehoboth, and helped Norton in past when needed. 100 people in Norton they assisted and with economy probably about 1,000 they will assist this year (five towns is the plan).

Ms. Fox said other programs were conducted by The Women of Today and Norton High students with the warm-pajama drive 200 pairs were also provided by the Children's Place retail store.

Ms. Fox said the first Sunday after Thanksgiving their phone lines will open and Sun Chronicle will have list of children and needs. Website is "councilforchildren.org" and 135 County Street, Attleboro, is address for drop-offs.

Mr. Kimball asked if people could drop off at Town Hall?

Chief Gomes said they are trying to get people to drop off to County Street address; they will get all items out and to County Street if needed though.

It was noted program was still here today because of Judy McCarron; she has been so dedicated to program and cannot say enough about her.

Ms. Fox said parents of children have some ownership in this too and so they do not wrap the gifts, they give parents that ownership. On distribution day, parents see items/gifts, etc.

Ms. Fox said they are adding a new facet and trying to have parents not need program anymore. Mandatory classes are starting for parents to get some understanding to be on their own. Bristol Community College donated auditorium for six of these classes. There are more than 20 classes available and they need to choose four and classes include but are not limited to gardening, American Credit counseling, budgeting of money better, etc.

Ms. Fox said they are in need of toys and clothes/gift cards, and they also take money. Account is set up at Rockland Trust and check can be made out to Council office or bring to bank. Also, they can use wrapping paper.

Chief Gomes said this should be advertised on the local cable channel.

Mrs. Steele said it would be ideal if Norton families could get copies of hours of soup kitchens, food pantries, etc., also.

Chief Gomes said Ms. Fox's group has a software program where Norton's was done by hand.

Fire Protection Week:

"Stay Fire Smart-Don't Get Burned" is slogan.

Chief Gomes said Norton suffered a fire death last year and it had been 14 years since that happened. Ensure smoke detectors are working and installed; change smoke detector batteries when you change clocks back/forward; all homes must have a carbon monoxide detector; an extinguisher important in the home, fireplace screens in place; caution with candles; and escape plan and place to meet are some examples of being fire safe.

Chief Gomes discussed portable heaters being used due to high price of fuel. However, price of fuel has decreased so hopefully there won't be many problems but many people are still unemployed, and need to decide to either heat or eat. Radiant (red) heat is dangerous.

Chief Gomes said the industrial and commercial programs have been stepped up.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mrs. Steele referenced Roche Bros. Plaza safety issues and complaint letter to be sent. It is dangerous especially toward end of day (3-6 p.m.) by Dunkin Donuts exit.

Mr. Giblin said they can contact management company. Mass Highway will need to be contacted for traffic light possibility at McDonald's exit. Dunkin Donuts to be used only as an entrance would be a benefit.

Mr. Purcell said timing depends on southbound slip ramp and they really do calibrate traffic, etc. Southbound appears to be on track for next year and traffic light proposed. Timing of it (computerized) and ramp is getting done and a couple of studies were done with construction phase.

Mr. Purcell said they have a financial self-interest. Preliminary plans: 1) southbound ramp and 2) up to Town.

Mrs. Steele said she would like this concern in writing, etc. to them. Engage them now and see what can be done. Many drivers not going to visit that plaza due to safety.

Mr. Kimball said a master plan is in place that Town developed themselves, anticipating future growth in that area. Development of 90 acres (traffic lights, etc.). This needs to be taken in phases. By Dunkin Donuts, fenced in area is overgrown with bushes and trees growing and maintenance needed. A right-hand turn only is needed. Location of driveway (by Dunkin Donuts) is not in right spot. If egress moved to other side of Dunkin Donuts that would be better (one-way out to right) and clean brush out of that area so people can have clear visibility.

Mr. Purcell said that was addressed a couple of years ago (a cleanup conducted) so it can be done.

Mr. Purcell said right-turn in and right-turn out only for fire dept. access for studies.

Mr. Kimball said it is important to get Mass Highway in also and talk to new owners.

Mrs. Steele said this has been "talked" about since she has been on Board of Selectmen and something bad will happen if nothing done.

It was noted the exit/entrance of Roche Bros. to meet with Roche Bros. first and vegetation Mr. Purcell will make a call regarding it.

Mr. Salvo said entrances are 150' apart and no direct interchange across from each other. For future growth, they should talk to Planning Board so this can be avoided in future and check on bylaws/regs.

Mr. Purcell stated he believed this was addressed in subdivision regs.
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Mr. Giblin said Intervention was a very informative event and quite a large turnout of Norton students including Reps. Barrows and Poirier. Guest was very informative and underage drinking and drinking in general was discussed. It was a very good event. Mr. Bramwell agreed and commended all those involved.
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Mr. Kimball spoke of Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) re: Norton High School-a feasibility study, not approval for a project. Bascially to find out what high school really needs and an encouraging letter from MSBA received by Town.
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Water and Sewer/projects and Tri-town agreement was referenced. Mr. Kimball said he asked Board of Selectmen for permission to become liaison and asked Mr. Purcell to get him on invitation list. Asking permission to go to some of these meetings re: Tri-town agreement.

No one on Board objected to this.

Mr. Purcell said part of project group was water study also; was he interested in this as well?

Mr. Kimball responded, yes, both he would be interested in.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Purcell referenced the School Building Authority letter (Tom Golota and Dr. Ansay involved and Diane Sullivan of School Building Assistance Bureau). Meeting held on 10/13/09. Next stage of process discussed and will include functional aspects; space summaries, etc. State Treasury Dept. has taken over this so state processes and lots of data gathering needed.
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Mr. Purcell said there is a need for another special town meeting. When recap sheet put together (tax rate) and submittal to Dept. of Revenue and to tell vendors Town's tax rate, one glitch occurred (and a major one) that started out of good intentions. Water Dept. budget more than \$1/2M out of balance. Begin repaying all of money (well site rehab, etc.). and water commissioners wanted to spare rate payers another spike and would use water surplus account for this amount. Water Surplus account = analogous to Town's free cash account. Without permission of town meeting vote this money cannot be used. It was not communicated that it's formal policy (technical flaw must be corrected in order for Town to set the tax rate).

\$1.7M in water surplus account. No impact at all on Town's property tax levy. Scheduleto be distributed to Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at Special Town Meeting.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to call for a Special Town Meeting on November 18, 2009, at 7 p.m. At the Henri A. Yelle School. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Kimball referenced the Special Town Meeting and questions of why non-profit land was not moved

at last town meeting. Three parcels in Grove area of Town and it is in regard to the way Town's bylaws are set up (Section 6.3-3 of Town's zoning bylaw). No less than 5,000 square feet for a piece of land owned (so three parcels Town determined were not legal). Cannot build on it if someone bought Town parcel who owns next to it. One lot on Hawthorne Road is legal/local housing partnership tried to build on it but voters at town meeting said no; but willing to try it again.

Mr. Purcell said a placeholder for some land can be done.

Mr. Kimball said maybe other lots were worth pursuing.

Mr. Purcell said by necessity this is an aggressive schedule due to effect on tax rate. Board of Selectmen to take action the last week in October.

Mrs. Steele asked for a spot to be held on warrant for Town Clerk's position and revisit this topic. A town clerk in place for that special meeting needed and whole topic on next week's agenda would be beneficial.

Mr. Giblin said they will go over position (its needs, the office, etc.) and can talk about it at the next Board meeting.
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Mr. Salvo said final pavement on Route 123 to be done on Monday weather permitting.

Mr. Giblin warned for drivers to be careful on Route 123 and to take it slow with bumps, barrels and heightened structures, especially with rainy weather.

Mr. Kimball said flashing lights on top of barrels and/or more cones needed; it needs improvements so no one gets injured.

VIII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

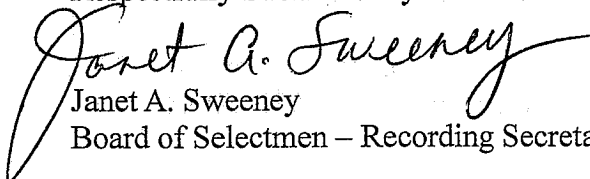
1. FY2010 Tax Classification Hearing - 7:30 P.M.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary