



## TOWN OF NORTON

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

70 EAST MAIN STREET

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### BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING FOR OCTOBER 22, 2009

- I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The October 22, 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 ending October 17, 2009, Warrant #23, dated October 22, 2009, in the amount of \$1,037,508.80

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ending October 17, 2009, Warrant #23, dated October 22, 2009, in the amount of \$1,037,508.80. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Approve bills Warrant #24, dated October 22, 2009, in the amount of \$133,127.78  
MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve bills Warrant #24, dated October 22, 2009, in the amount of \$133,127.78. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

C. Approve Minutes – July 23, 2009

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated July 23, 2009, as written. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

### III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

1. Application of Edward J. Brault for Veterans Day Parade Permit, to be held November 11, 2009, 10 A.M. - Approximately 11:00-11:15 A.M.

Residents were encouraged to attend this parade in support of the Veterans.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve Application of Edward J. Brault for Veterans Day Parade Permit, to be held November 11, 2009, 10 A.M. - Approximately 11:00-11:15 A.M., and to waive all application fees. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Haunted Happenings" to be held Friday and Saturday, October 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>  
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Halloween Parade to be held Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 12 Noon.  
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Mr. Kimball stated Aggregate is doing final paving in mornings and from 2:30-5 p.m., residents should take alternate routes and this will run into next week.  
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Mr. Kimball spoke of the flu shot clinic at library and said many people were disappointed as state only gave Town a small number of vaccines, but learned Norton is supposed to receive more in future.

Mr. Purcell said he met with Mr. Leon Dumont, Health Agent, and supply line is very slow.

**V. BUSINESS**

**A. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Suzan Duggan, Director of Assessing, said decision is mainly if rate will be split.

Sale prices of homes was reviewed: this year's average being \$349,550; and last year average at \$380,900.

Information was reviewed with Board. Few sales for commercial/industrial.

Mrs. Steele said some small businesses really support this Town. She would vote no change.

Mr. Giblin said it was his opinion to not split it.

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to vote that the Board of Selectmen votes to not split tax rate for FY2010. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to vote no discount on open space class. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Purcell said they do have a considerable number of prperties under 61/61A, etc.; certain restrictions and more than 1,000 acres of properties.

Ms. Duggan stated any under land conservation does not qualify.

**Residential Exemptions:**

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to not adopt a residential exemption. Seocnd by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to not grant a small commercial exemption. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Ms. Duggan said it was important to add to the minutes of meeting to leave this part of it open in case something changes (leave meeting open-ended for that).

Ms. Duggan said residential factor is 1.

Mr. Kimball referenced possible exemptions for seniors/tax rates; primary owner(s) of property.

Ms. Duggan said she never heard of it. There is a circuit breaker and a number of exemptions for the elderly (for over 70 years of age and surviving spouse) and explained some programs. Also some seniors work-off credits and hardship(s) referenced; tax deferral, etc.; 8% can change at Town Meeting for a lower percentage.  
.....

Mr. Giblin referenced the resignation of Ms. Dorfman. Board of Selectmen can appoint an individual and effective only until next town election.

Mr. Kimball said Town is six months away from election and person needs to get a certification. Town should fill position in Town's best interest. Three or four people were interested. Another joint meeting should be held and to appoint a person. Will follow-up with individuals who were previously interested (Cathy Peterson, Attorney Macek, and Nancy Baretta).

Mr. Kimball said any others interested should apply. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Steele said the Board should contact people who were here before and had an interest and allow others to apply.

Mr. Giblin said it was important to have someone who is seriously looking to get certified and someone who wants to run for election.

Ms. Duggan stated the Board of Assessors signed notification this evening and Board of Selectmen will soon receive it.

Mr. Purcell referenced rule and vacancy is that Board has thirty (30) days to notify Board of Selectmen of vacancy; if no notice within thirty (30) days, then Board of Selectmen has authority to make appointment themselves.

Mr. Kimball requested to have this item put on the next agenda.

It was noted next Board of Selectmen meeting was November 5. Mr. Kimball said he will not be present on 10/5 but he advised to not stop joint meeting from taking place. It will allow about two weeks for people to apply.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to open up position of appointment to the Assessor and take all letters of interest to Board of Seelcment and Friday, November 6 applications to be due and November 12 Joint Meeting to be held to fill that position.**

**Second by Mrs. Steele.**

**Discussion:** Mrs. Steele said as a point of courtesy, it would be beneficial to put Board of Selectmen's intentions in writing to Assessors.

**Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Plan will be Board will accept applications but hope to have Joint Meeting on November 12, 2009.

Mrs. Steele thanked Ms. Dorfman for her efforts and wished her best in her future endeavors.

2. 8:00 P.M. - Duane Knapp, Water/Sewer Superintendent Re:
  - a) Project Status Report
  - b) Sewer odor issues, etc.

Mr. Knapp stated a lot of jobs were lined up (double-named streets, etc.) and had meetings with Police Chief Clark.

Mr. Knapp said Water Dept. was able to abandon old main on So. Washington Street. Dean Street (Park and Hodges) problems and old main abandoned and roads repaired.

A lot of hydrants hit by vehicles during spring/summer.

Other major project planned to be completed by November 15<sup>th</sup> and working with church and plan to work it out. Well 3 is on-line and on-line as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Water distribution upgrades; job is 99.9% done.

Mr. Knapp said he has reviewed checklists with Highway Superintendent and Water Dept. is checking the Highway Superintendent's checklist to ensure it is ok. He is asking Highway Superintendent to go on Pine Street regarding road layout and drawings being done; as-built needed so to know where main is.

Mr. Kimball said it is on his personal property (on Pine Street) and has no issue with it but a future homeowner may.

Discussion that Pine Street road shifted/moved.

Mr. Purcell commended the work done and some anxious moments did occur. He also commended townspeople and customers also for putting up with necessary construction and townspeople dealt with a lot.

Mr. Salvo said there were a lot of questions on color of water.

Mr. Knapp said 8-10 weeks it takes and flushing will help but won't cure it. It is natural and it is not a health issue. All Town's wells are in wetlands; cannot backwash in wetlands. For wells 4, 5, and 6 maybe one big filter system could be made for these wells.

Mr. Salvo thanked Mr. Knapp for that report.

Mr. Knapp stated new tank has been on-line and RFP for desal people/company has been sent out. Also the Land Swap bill has not passed yet.

Mr. Purcell gave a point of clarification: three reps and senator worked on this issue. State Senate has different views. House of Reps, House Counsel, and Senate Counsel with Town Counsel need to work it out, and does not want to point any fingers at them.

Mr. Knapp said Water Commissioner, Wesson & Sampson, and himself meet with Mansfield one time per month for regional sewer project discussions and work with Wheaton and owner of Norton Glen in negotiations (they'd like to put municipal sewer in).

Mr. Kimball said he asked Board of Selectmen's permission to be liaison with water and sewer commission; he asked to be alerted ahead of time of meetings, discussions.

Mr. Knapp said he would let Mr. Kimball know of meetings, etc.

Mr. Knapp said there was more work to do next year. In most New England towns, the water systems are old and date back to late 1800's. It is important to stay on top of it for good drinking water.

Re: Odors, Water Dept. was getting blamed for odors. Mr. Knapp said he was not here when sewer system was put in. There were no engineers that represented Town that he could find out about. Mr. Knapp showed Board pipes and explained. He said sewer gas has to get out someplace and when you have gravity and a pump system it takes a long time and causes odors.

Mr. Knapp explained traps/back water valves are mandatory for houses. Now gas from Town goes to high point. DEP says Town is responsible to solve issue: 1) is a trap; 2) couple of minor parts and houses for full basement where it can get in.

Also, other solution is a back-water valve (clapper is there) at \$88 cost. He had a meeting with Mr. Purcell about this and how does Town get homeowner to do this. Some owners' responsibility and some Town's responsibility. Water Dept. will pay up to \$200 for a homeowner to install it and subtract it off sewer bills. Need to verify it was done and need a copy of plumber's bill. 1100-1200 sewer customers in Norton and will reduce income on sewer side. Plumbing permits (\$45) needed and to waive it by Town possibly. Some areas of "K streets" section and Reservoir are worse. It is a way to attack odor problem.

Mr. Salvo said priority areas are "K" streets and Reservoir area. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball spoke of possibly working out a deal with a plumber, etc. He would not waive \$45 on permits so it is known who is working on it even if amount is reduced.

Mr. Knapp said the Water Dept. would probably get a call at their office. He would like to hear everyone's input. They also looked at hiring a plumber as they need to see it, verify it, etc. Two year time limit on this project and at end of two years it would be mandated.

Mr. Giblin spoke of cost being less to homeowner if buying it in bulk/at one time.

Mrs. Steele said it sounds like a good program. It is a large number of houses and if Town gives out to plumber and if homeowner wants their own plumber then they pay out of their own pocket.

Mr. Knapp clarified that homeowner needs to pay plumber.

Mr. Salvo said concept is good. He inquired if letters would be sent out and about resale of houses? All should be done prior to closings.

Mr. Knapp responded if a house is sold, it would be a requirement before house sold that trap be put in. House would be in violation of municipal sewer.

Mr. Knapp discussed Route 495 odors in hot summer weather and traced back to Mansfield composting (to turn into liquid sludge possibly).

Mr. Giblin said it would be beneficial for Mr. Knapp to return and give Board an update and some input from townspeople is important.

## **B. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Town Clerk Position**

Job duty of what workload is of department (recording; licenses; elections, renewals, etc.). Mr. Giblin said Mr. Purcell and he sat with Diane Casagni (former town clerk) and in his opinion is to try to find and appoint a temporary candidate until next year (need to get some resumes from people and get a qualified individual).

Mrs. Steele had a difference of opinion. She felt it would be ideal to go to November Town Meeting and Town to make appointed vs. elected position. If approval, appoint a permanent position and allow Town to get office in line like other offices. If it fails at Town Meeting they could put a temporary person in.

Mr. Kimball said he took "heat" about this a year ago and it was not personal thing. He felt to get a qualified person in office even though there are two qualified people in that office now who could run office in his opinion. This position to be appointed. This position changed a lot and state mandated a lot back to Town. It lost by eleven votes. It is important to take a look at this and get the most qualified person for the job.

Mr. Giblin stated he was open to bringing it to Town Meeting for appointed position and to ask for application in time for November 18 Special Town Meeting.

It was discussed there are currently two other qualified people in that office and three weeks won't make a huge difference.

Mr. Salvo asked if person is required to be bonded?

Mr. Purcell responded, yes, the person needs to be bonded and it is not that expensive to become

bonded.

Mrs. Steele suggested that either way after November 18 Special Town Meeting, the need to make position appointed so resumes should be sent in in any event.

Mr. Kimball said it is a very limited office and suggested to advertise position locally.

Mr. Bramwell agreed with Mrs. Steele. It couldn't hurt to have names of qualified individuals/candidates ready and it would help to be prepared.

Mr. Giblin said at that time, they could extend advertisements, etc., if needed. Also, no disclosing of applicants until after Town Meeting.

Mr. Purcell said the schedule/calendar works no matter what decision is made. Close date on warrant is October 27, 2009.

Mr. Giblin said, in his opinion, he would put that question on warrant.

Mr. Purcell said it did not need to be a resident of Town of Norton. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to place on Town Meeting Warrant an article pertaining to town clerk position as discussed above. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

### **C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

#### **1. Appointment of Assistant Animal Control Officer(s)**

Mr. Purcell said Mr. Plante, Animal Control Officer, recommended two of five applications and one being Mary C. Bassick. Mr. Purcell thought he had two people interested but now appears only one is interested. Mr. Purcell said Mr. Plante was receiving time and a half-rate and this assistant will receive straight time (saving Town money).

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Mary C. Bassick as the Assistant Animal Control Officer. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

#### **2. Appointment of Part-Time Local Inspector**

Mr. Purcell said Scott Barbato is assistant building inspector in Mansfield and his hours there were reduced and he would fill in for vacation and sick time basically and Mr. Barbato is certified.

Mr. Purcell spoke of 1) seasonal issues: swimming pool installers for final sign-off would be necessary and 2) lodging houses is the other issue.

Mr. Kimball agreed the lodging houses are a very important issue and need to look into it as lodging and rooming houses need a more clear definition, including emergency exits; safety concerns, etc. It is also a good idea towns can use regionalization approach utilizing same person(s).

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Scott Barbato as the part-time Local**

**Inspector, effective November 3, 2009. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

3. Appointment of Matron in Police Department

Mr. Purcell said Police Chief Clark wanted to keep contingent of four matrons and a \$2500 line item appropriation. One matron left service of Town and he wants to back-fill.

Mr. Kimball said experience needed and police matron also trained and certified.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Valerie L. Dalton as Matron in Police Department. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

4. Resignation of Risa Dorfman from the Board of Assessors position effective October 29, 2009

October 16, 2009 letter of resignation was recieved by Ms. Dorfman (letter was read aloud) and indicated she is relocating. This is an elected position effective of next town election which is 2010. This should be looked at and discussed with Assessors since they are here this evening as well.  
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Mr. Kimball said a late request was received from Rec Commission. They are reorganizing and new members needed. Laura Bamford has interest in becoming a member of that commission.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Laura Bamford to Recreation Commission. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL**

Boston Post Cane was discussed by Mr. Kimball. Mr. Yelle was last position holder and need to find out who person is who should next receive it.

Mr. Giblin said he has the name of person and will see if she can make it in.

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**VIII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

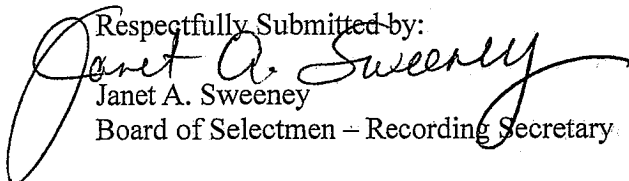
1. Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Director, and Conservation Commission  
Members Re: Wetland Protection By-Law

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 9:17 p.m. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Janet A. Sweeney  
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary