



TOWN OF NORTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

70 EAST MAIN STREET

MUNICIPAL CENTER, NORTON, MASS. 02766

TELEPHONE (508) 285-0210

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2010

- I. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:** The February 25, 2010, 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; and Mrs. Mary Steele were present. Mr. Robert Salvo was absent. 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 February 20, 2010, Warrant #50, dated February 25, 2010, in the amount of \$1,014,416.15**

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended February 20, 2010, Warrant #50, dated February 25, 2010, in the amount of \$1,014,416.15. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. **Approve bills Warrant #51, dated February 25, 2010, in the amount of \$502,984.21**
MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve bills Warrant #51, dated February 25, 2010, in the amount of \$502,984.21. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

C. **Approve Minutes – October 22, 2009**
MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated October 22, 2009, as written. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. **LICENSES AND PERMITS**

1. **7:00 P.M. - John M. Freeman Re: Request to amend the name and address to his Class III Motor Vehicle Junk License from Freeman's Garage, on the premises described as 29 Ford Road and 17 Freeman Street to John M. Freeman d/b/a Freeman's Garage, 29 Ford Road only**

Mr. Freeman said there was a problem licensed to "Freeman's Garage" and he wished to have his name added. The other issue is to leave 29 Ford Road on that only and delete "17 Freeman Street"; Class III never issued to other address (same piece of property and his driveway is a private way with a different name for deliveries, etc. ("17 Freeman Street" deleted).

Discussion ensued if road is gated?

Mr. Freeman said every night it is gated and possibly public safety and electric company could share way to open if needed.

Mr. Giblin said in future new licenses the Board could require gate/locked issue specifics.

Mrs. Steele asked if this was a private way per Fire Dept.'s opinion? Mr. Giblin responded., yes.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve Request to amend the name and address to his Class III Motor Vehicle Junk License from Freeman's Garage, on the premises described as 29 Ford Road and 17 Freeman Street to John M. Freeman d/b/a Freeman's Garage, 29 Ford Road only. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote; Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. 7:30 P.M. HEARING – Application to transfer the Retail Package Goods Store License to Expose, Keep for Sale, and to Sell Wines and Malt Beverages Not To Be drunk On the Premises, at 50 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766, from Bruce Finch d/b/a Finch's Package Store, Manager: Bruce Finch to The Swirling Vine, Inc., Manager: Bruce R. Finch, Jr. same address

Mr. Kimball read aloud notice of Hearing.

Attorney Henry J. Sousa, Jr., West Main Street, Norton was present on behalf of Mr. Finch. It was bad timing as his client was away this week, therefore, he asked to continue to two weeks so Mr. Finch and he could appear before Board. Mr. Bruce Finch, Sr., held license for about four decades and former Chief Finch who is retired has some time on his hands and Attorney Sousa referenced documents in packets (Mr. Finch is TIPS certified and enrolled in a course for advanced certification); a wine course for extending his knowledge of wine. Cosmetic changes; new shelving and new flooring, etc. Brochure shown to Board of Selectmen. Price point is higher than usual as store is carrying different wines.

Mrs. Steele said it was a complete application, and applicant has in the past enforced Town's laws on alcohol, etc., and no need to continue this hearing in her opinion.

Mr. Kimball agreed with Mrs. Steele.

Attorney Sousa said it will be the exact same size and provided Board with a sketch; all cosmetic changes and steel roll-down door to be gone.

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to approve Application to transfer the Retail Package Goods

Store License to Expose, Keep for Sale, and to Sell Wines and Malt Beverages Not To Be drunk On the Premises, at 50 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766, from Bruce Finch d/b/a Finch's Package Store, Manager: Bruce Finch to The Swirling Vine, Inc., Manager: Bruce R. Finch, Jr. same address. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Attorney Sousa said on behalf of himself and, he was sure, Bruce Finch, he thanked the Board.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3/17th St. Pat's Corned Beef and Cabbage at American Legion, 85 East Main Street (\$7.00).
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On 3/5th 8th Annual Kathy Bailey Basketball game at Norton High School at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 each and no tickets to be sold at door. This raises fund for those families with a serious illness or loss of a parent.

Mrs. Steele said this same night Mr. Schepis is leaving for Afghanistan and will have a collection for supplies (chap stick, etc.)
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Mr. Kimball said Texas Hold-em - NEED Fundraiser to be held at VFW. \$75 per person for buy-in and begins at 5 p.m.
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Mrs. Steele said H.A. Yelle School looking for mentors of some students. If interested call 285-0100.
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V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M. - Christopher Cox, Chairman Historical Commission Re: The Campbell House

Mr. "Butch" Rich was present also.

It was discussed to keep this two-story framed saltbox structure and need to keep maintaining it. Campbell House is oldest house in Town of Norton. This is one of projects they have been working on (Butch Rich, Christopher Cox, Marilyn Benaski , Peter Hunt, Kristen Foote, and Ellen McGrath). All very good people/appointments and Peter Hunt very experienced and knowledgeable.

Historical signs they will be asking for \$1,000.

Mr. Cox spoke of grant funding and pool of resources. He said they have no experience in grant writing. Peter Hunt to potentially be willing to write grants for them and to work pro-bono (at no cost or little cost to Town). Campbell House is truly a National Treasure; plan is to continue applying to be put on National Register.

No preservation plan for House so need to work on that.

Mr. Bramwell said he was impressed with amount of progress and thrilled to find out it is a gem Norton has in Town, and glad to see they have corrected erroneous opinion of the age and historical value of the house.

Mr. Cox thanked him for the positive feedback. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball spoke of possibly charging admission/some type of tours, etc., in future. It does need a lot of work.

Mr. Cox said all utilities are turned off.

Mr. Kimball said use of grant money to help would be great.

Mr. Rich said what House can be used for: possibly museum and possibly use the barn for storage as Frances Shirley and others indicated.

It is "a diamond in the rough" the Feds said.

Sylvanus Campbell to form the Town of Norton to get away from North Purchase of Taunton. He left behind his wife and 14 children and he died young. Dr. Ware then bought the Campbell House and ran a road house with refreshments, etc. House important but also family and 6/12/1711 incorporation of Norton.

Mr. Giblin said he was glad work being done to keep House to get grants and give house to Historical Commission.

Mr. Cox said transfer of House planned in future to Historical Commission.

Mr. Purcell said cat shelter (Nine Lives) will vacate soon and Town can go in and tear structures out. He asked if it affected their organization at all?

Mr. Rich said no it does not affect them and thanked the Board.

2. 7:45 P.M. - James Perry Re: Appointment to the Board of Registrars as a Republican Member, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Patricia Kelley, term to expire March 31, 2010; The full term would be effective April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2013

Mr. Perry has been a Norton resident for many years and his father and grandfather are well known throughout Town. Recommendation letter of Michael Smith was indicated.

Mr. Purcell stated Secretary of State's Office will provide info/materials.

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to appoint James Perry to the Board of Registrars as a

Republican Member, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Patricia Kelley, term to expire March 31, 2010; Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to appoint James Perry to the Board of Registrars as a Republican Member, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Patricia Kelley, term to expire March 31, 2010; The full term would be effective April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2013. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Chief of Police Brian M. Clark Re:

a) Proclamation for Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month

Chief Clark was present and Mr. Kimball read Proclamation for Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month.

It was noted followup program to be done and calls for service lessened from 2007-2009. School Resource Officer Program is still intact. Sgt. Dennett and Detective Zaccardi involved.

Mr. Giblin commended him and his staff and bringing those statistics down. Proactive not reactive, etc.

Chief Clark said Norton Police Dept. and Wheaton College holding a self-defense class at no cost; R&D Program with Sgt. Dennett assisting.

Discussion ensued.

4. Vote to Lay Out Rubin Drive

5. Discussion – Norton Town Charter

Norton Charter states with years ending in zero need to review Charter. Mr. Giblin said he would like to volunteer for that.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Mr. Tim Giblin to Norton Charter Review Committee. Second by Mr. Bramwell.

Discussion: Mrs. Steele said they are open meetings so any one of Board of Selectmen can attend even though one rep is appointed.

Mr. Kimball spoke of learning from past mistakes and importance of recognizing issues brought up and listening to public. Important to take baby steps vs. big giant steps and changes can be made as they go along.

Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Purcell said sample letter/ballot question for upcoming town election for Charter change and passed at 2009 Town Meeting and Board's execution of this is required.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve charter amendment proposed and accept as voted. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Purcell said next Wednesday at 6 p.m. Town Meeting Screening Committee meetings re: Town Clerk's position.
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FinCom is in full swing meeting Mondays and Wednesdays until Town Meeting occurs.
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Draft proposal for VHB/Roche Bros. Plaza and working with Reps Barrows and Poirier. A face to face meeting with VHB. Pricing and scoping and the items to talk to plaza owners about.

Mr. Purcell said he will e-mail VHB.

Mrs. Steele said Mondays are good.
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Mr. Purcell referenced Ansar Energy Site Plan approval application; approved 1/28th by Planning Board and 28-day appeal period has lapsed.
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Mr. Purcell said a couple of organization issues: Water Dept. and IT services. He received two of three proposals of vendors to look at IT services, etc.

Mark Morse of MMA he will meet with; he needs a third party. Full-time IT person or third party support person or both necessary.

Two things are evident: 1) under budgetary constraints; 2) need to key-in on end-user time.

Mr. Purcell said when he first became Town Manager six workstations with dial-up service and have grown dramatically over that period of time. End-user time is where Town is very deficient and needs to do a better job.

Second area: Water Dept. funded last fall and work has begun and Water Dept commissioners have begun. That study in full swing and results in April and will come in to town hall.

-Reduce by 25% water for Hawthorn Road (non-profits).

-Proposed sewer stabilization fund. He is intrigued by this concept. Very substantial increases coming up in sewer operation costs. Capitalization expenses will be very expensive. Norton Glen has been working on tying in their complex with Town's system (several hundred thousand dollars from that)

and should be set aside for sewer purposes. This article would establish that receiving account. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball said this keeps extra money in general account basically which is good.

Mr. Purcell said personal objective; take strain off property tax levy.

C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Appointment of Full-Time Civil Service Police Officer

Kevin K. Schleicher, Jr. was top candidate.

Chief Clark said two retirements in 2008 so department is down two people and soon three people as one officer is going to Afghanistan soon.

Mr. Schleicher works for the Dept. of Corrections/Bridgewater and is a hard worker and had highest ranking said Chief Clark.

Mr. Kimball said the Board would like to thank Officer Schepis before he departs for Afghanistan and asked if he could come before the Board.

Mr. Kimball clarified these are two funded positions (funding in budget) and trying to back-fill these spots.

Mr. Kimball said he has known Mr. Schleicher since he was a young boy and thinks he'll do a great job.

Mr. Purcell said he comes from a family of police and fire and knows Kevin Schleicher will do an excellent job and his father, Lt. Schleicher, to be commended as well.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Kevin K. Schleicher to position of Full-Time Civil Service Police Officer, with effective date of 3/7/10. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Chief Clark said he is in process of looking at another candidate but process not complete and will plan to be back in a few weeks when complete.

2. Appointment of Permanent Full-Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic

Mr. Purcell said there are 15 days to affirm this or not.

Andrew Gomes is top candidate.

6/7/10 is effective date. Recent custom is to wait for four weeks before candidate enters academy. This Fire Dept. screened a large number of candidates and this list was due to expire.

Mr. Giblin said he and Mr. Purcell were part of this just to ensure all was on the "up and up"/honest, and extra care taken by himself and Mr. Purcell.

Mr. Kimball said there were a number of qualified candidates, but need to take best person for job no matter what the name of person is, etc. Both candidates from Norton and in a past instance a person was trained by Norton and went back to his former town.

Mr. Giblin said one of the deciding factors was Mr. Gomes was a trained paramedic with significant field experience.

Mr. Purcell said other candidate had "transport" experience mainly.

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to appoint Andrew Gomes as Permanent Full-Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic, effective 6/7/10. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Kimball said a letter was received from Epoch Nursing Center regarding closing of senior center; if they can be of assistance to Board of Selectmen please contact them.

Mr. Kimball said this was a great opportunity and they should come in before the Board.

Mrs. Steele said the timing is excellent and they should come in and see what need is.

Mr. Purcell said send letter to existing COA now is important.

Mr. Kimball said Town has a building for use. He suggested they do a workshop and bring in both groups. Epoch: what can they offer Town? And Seniors what do they need? And meeting can take place at any location, even at senior center.

Mrs. Steele said important to have all three parties in room (Epoch/COA/Bristol Elder Services, too).

Mr. Bramwell said if people interested in COA, send a letter to Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Steele said Recreation Dept. has some openings still (two openings). Contact Carol at Board of Selectmen's office-285-0210 if there is interest.

Mrs. Steele said she is the only member currently of IDC and needs volunteers from community to step forward. Norton has a park that is half empty; Town has land that can be developed and don't feel Town missed the boat. Town has gone backwds with IDC; a plea for help and asked reports to get this into the newspapers, as well. She said she's not interested in a two-three member committee. Two people interested in joining are both successful and talented business people.

Mrs. Steele said IDC can change to Economic Development Committee. About a five to seven member committee at least is desired.

Mr. Giblin said any people/residents interested can contact Town Hall.
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Mr. Giblin spoke of Board of Assessors resignation of Assessor- 3/12/10. Leaving her present position due to salary; benefits; a four-day workweek; and closer proximity to her home. It has no reflection on Town Hall and said it was her most enjoyable work experience in Norton in her 26 year career.

Mr. Purcell said Sue (Assessor) will be missed. One person may be as capable as Sue but no-one better. She liked working in Norton Town Hall and the feeling was mutual.

Mr. Purcell said they have advertised the position. He spoke to Joan DaCosta in Floridaa and James Puello and Jackie Boudreau to assist in recruitment of Assessor. The most qualified person Town can acquire is needed.

Mr. Giblin asked to send a letter to departing Assessor thanking her for her service.
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Mr. Kimball asked for next week's agenda to try to have Office Schepis in before Board before he departs for Afghanistan.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

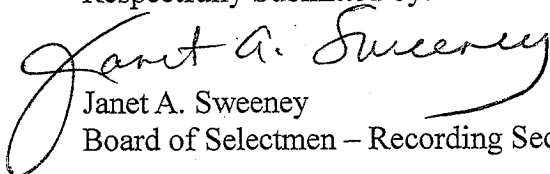
1. Fire Chief Richard J. Gomes Re: Certification of the Greater Attleboro Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC).

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.


Respectfully Submitted by:


Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 25, 2010**

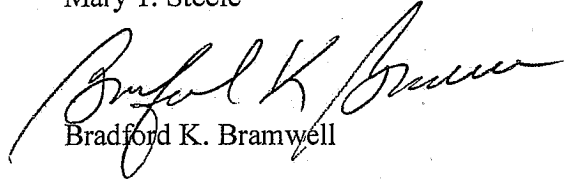
BOARD OF SELECTMEN:


Timothy R. Giblin, Chairman


Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Robert S. Salvo, Sr., Clerk

Mary T. Steele


Bradford K. Bramwell

Dated: 06/03/10