



TOWN OF NORTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

70 EAST MAIN STREET

MUNICIPAL CENTER, NORTON, MASS. 02766

TELEPHONE (508) 285-0210

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2011 FEB 18 P 2:47

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, April 1, 2010
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The April 1, 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; 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 bills Warrant #58, dated April 1, 2010, in the amount of \$546,209.48

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #58, dated April 1, 2010, in the amount of \$546,209-48. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Approve Minutes – February 11, 2010

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated February 11, 2010, as written. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4/3/10 – A rabies clinic from 10-12 noon to be held at Norton Fire Dept. Dog licensing at Town Clerk's office also available.

Pancake Breakfast at VFW on 4/9/10 from 8-11 a.m.

Blood Drive - American Red Cross at Roche Bros on 4/21/10 from 2-7 p.m.

Norton High School Golf and Football Fundraiser on 7/26/10 at Norton Country Club.
.....

Cyber Bullying and Cyber Safety Parent Night to be held on 4/13/10 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Dr. Elizabeth England will be speaker.
Hazardous Household Waste Day to be held May 8, 2010 from 9-1 p.m. Call Board of Health with questions at 285-0263.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M. – John Freeman Re: May 10, 2010 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article #19

Documentation was distributed to Board of selectmen re: taxation.

Mr. Purcell said this was a petitioned Article duly certified that came in a form (change form or suggested motions).

Mr. Freeman spoke of a new paragraph 1-replace original paragraph 6; new paragraph to replace current paragraph 6.

Mr. Purcell said it was a composition of Article itself; if clarification it is done by motion.

Mr. Freeman said that is how it is going to be “moved” from original scope of article.

Mr. Freeman said Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is doing this; unfunded pension liabilities. Why can't this tax be implemented and lower real estate tax of citizens?

A fair thing to do and can apply to any institution of higher learning in Norton (whole or partially).

\$49,440 – comprehensive fee; 1% equals and laid out in law how received, etc. It is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of \$1M for Town. Discussion ensued.

Wheaton College (\$150M that is tax-exempt) and way it is set up, not having them pay their fair share.

Discussion ensued on police, fire snow removal, etc.

Over \$76M business is Wheaton and Town budget just under \$50M.

4/01/10 Bd. Of Selectmen Minutes-Page 3

Mr. Freeman said Wheaton is paying about same as average houses.

Commercial company runs bookstore and post office is on Wheaton land; taxation discussed.

Mr. Freeman said he would ask Board of Selectmen to consider it.

Mr. Freeman said paragraph 5 he believed funds used for property tax relief. Some people not totally adverse to this (some people concerned gobbled up by larger departments in town vs. smaller departments).

Mr. Kimball asked why not a different approach used? He said Mr. Freeman is asking Board of Selectmen; why not a pilot program to try it? It would be no different than petition Mr. Freeman is bringing to them now.

Mr. Freeman asked members to read about tax in Pittsburg.

Mr. Kimball said he had a lot of info (\$160M total value of Wheaton). \$10,131,000 taxable property.

Mr. Kimball said secondary school definition used; "secondary" between ages of 10 to 16.

Terminology concern discussed.

Mr. Freeman said post-secondary means "after". 1550 students; \$20M arts expansion at Wheaton going on, etc. He said students of Wheaton also ride GATRA buses Town subsidized although Wheaton pays a flat fee also.

Mr. Purcell stated \$19,500 each June Wheaton pays. Wheaton pays about 40%.

Mr. Purcell said on backside of cherry sheet transit charges are noted; usually \$35,000-\$53,000 in which Wheaton pays 40% of Town assessment.

Mr. Freeman said Wheaton rides for free.

Mr. Purcell said they ride free from the college basically.

Mr. Freeman said Town Meeting urging Board of Selectmen and any other boards to use their best efforts.

Mr. Kimball asked does this mean using all legal means?

Mr. Freeman said "all means" could be declared illegal.

"Using a Home Rule Petition" was discussed.

Mr. Kimball said so it begins with Town Meeting then to Attorney General and determination if legal or not. Could ask states reps for help.

Mr. Giblin asked about Town's legal means and what cost to Town?

Mr. Purcell responded he honestly did not know; it depended upon level of effort required.

Mr. Freeman referenced a rep from Spencer; she filed a bill to make "colleges"/ non-profit people paying taxes. He is not the only one thinking along these lines. It is necessary to think outside the box and lower peoples' real estate taxes.

Mr. Kimball said under Prop 2 ½ it is not allowed to raise taxes.

Mr. Freeman said tax does not have to be taxed to levy limit. It is not a real estate tax.

Mr. Giblin said it does say "tax" in Mr. Freeman's article.

Mr. Freeman said "fee" is a better term possibly.

Mr. Freeman spoke of some Wheaton students partying and various parties and most recently at end of Freeman St./West Main St. near doctor's building (a wild party and underage drinking) which equals arrests and an impact to Town's tax dollars.

Mr. Kimball said with young people these things will occur. The campus of Wheaton is running out of space. They have their own security on campus and ambulance is paid for by insurance. Compared to Pittsburgh/Boston; Wheaton is contained to a certain extent.

Mr. Kimball asked what is purpose of article?

Mr. Freeman said these colleges should pay their fair share.

Mr. Giblin said it appears purpose of article is to raise additional funds to possibly reduce Town's real estate taxes.

Mr. Giblin said he appreciated Mr. Freeman coming in this evening for further information on this item.

Mr. Freeman said he hoped Board would consider this and see it may have some merit in some form.

2. 7:30 P.M. – Fire Chief Richard J. Gomes, Emergency Management Director, and Chief of Police Brian M. Clark Re: Update on Town of Norton State of Emergency

Chief Gomes discussed the flooding/rain storm recently encountered in Town and State of Emergency on Tuesday morning was declared.

Fire Chief Gomes spoke of Emergency Operation Center and Tuesday morning at 4:50 a.m. flooding yards/basements was noted. Wading River was flooding and at 5:45 a.m. Communications Center, per his request, called Town Manager and plan of EOC to meet at 8:30 a.m.

State of Emergency as an administrative matter and to get financial services possibly later. Chief Gomes further explained.

Chief Gomes said they needed to prioritize calls early in morning and could not help everyone and cannot use mutual aid because it was a widespread problem.

There were 357 calls just on Tuesday to Fire Dept. Water Dept. had 37 calls; and he could not speak for other depts.

Roche Bros made donations and it was appreciated.

Twelve streets were closed and more than 20 other streets/roads flooded. There was no contamination; but was an elevated risk; chlorinated levels increased so brown color in water.

Private wells-elevated risk of private wells. Water Dept. number is 285-0263 and can provide list of companies to assist if needed.

Tel. number for FEMA and small business interest loans :
800-621-3362 FEMA;
SBA-800-659-2955; and
TTY at SBA is 800-877-8339.

Mr. Giblin said a wonderful job was done by all including EOC; Highway Dept. and all involved depts. and helped minimize damage.

It was noted professional and calmness was noted in meeting room and no confusion which was ideal when emergency meeting took place.

Mr. Kimball said a good job was done and done with a calming effect. All Town depts. were making it happen and people in this Town were being taken care of.

4/01/10 Bd. Of Selectmen Minutes-Page 6

It was noted Fire Dept. has six pumps. Boy Scout Troop 12 sandbagged four locations and many others.

Police Chief Clark said they serviced 100 calls. At 7 a.m. he and Fire Chief spoke and were ahead of curve entire time and personnel in place. Electronic message boards; speed monitors; and website were all used.

Discussed was not getting message on cable was a "hiccup".

Chief Clark said personally he had no complaints; some residents were inconvenienced he was sure. There was no communication breakdown that he could see.

Mr. Kimball said the Town did a fantastic job. He suggested that in future: 1) make cable access part of emergency management team (especially with increased chlorine = brown colored water); 2) an emergency blast to alert people to watch cable station.

Mr. Giblin said if chiefs themselves could have computer/cable upload capability that would be beneficial.

Mr. Kimball referenced town water and if people need water they could go to one spot and get water hydrant, etc.

Road closings discussed – if shut down of Plain St. or Walker St., some additional signs would be beneficial "local use only"; and at end of Plain Street and "local residents only".

Mr. Giblin said this was something Mr. Silver, Highway Superintendent, raised.

Some people were driving around barricades; safety concerns; even driving over sandbags.

Police Chief said Fire Chief and Mr. Silver put sandbags on pallets and put away in case needed again.

Fire Chief said economy is not good and lots of damage took place; he suggested to take as much action as residents can. Health consequences for mold and mold growth and to dry out best they can; open up and dry out.

For FEMA some recommendations is to take pictures of damage; save receipts; document and rush and get dumpster, etc. For FEMA: 1) get notification number; and 2) someone from FEMA to come out.

FEMA will contact residents first; beware of scams and unscrupulous people doing work.

It was discussed fortunately Norton has resources; lots of other towns don't pump basements Mr. Salvo said.

The Board thanked Chief Clark and Chief Gomes for their efforts.

3. Building Inspector Bryan Butler Re: Update – Lodging Houses

It was noted Building Inspector could not make it this evening.

4. “Draft” Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Purcell said draft was in Board’s meeting packet.

Article 1 of Special Town Meeting- Unpaid Bills, less than \$2,000

Article 2-Newland Street force main/Norton Glen Agreement

Article 3-Hill Street easement

Article 4-Demand Fee increase

Article 5 – Rescind \$84,000 of Borrowing Authority

Article 6-Transfer of Article Balance

Article 7-Water Dept. Radio Upgrade

Article 8-IAFF contract

Article 9-Operating Budget amendment

Article 10-Street Acceptances-Arrowhead Village

Mr. Kimball referenced Arrowhead Village, Article 10, if this article accepted, Town will need to take care of future improvements, etc. Mr. Giblin said he did not support this article as well. Other problems going on down there.

Mr. Salvo said he has been on Board of Selectmen for six years and usually a layout and as-built plan provided and have not seen anything from that project. Someone needs to be liable for layout of project. He heard builder up and left. He cannot accept it and does not support it.

Mrs. Steele said she cannot support it either. Is it coming from Planning Board or a citizen?

Mr. Purcell said at time of receipt, Planning Board has not taken up matter.

Mr. Purcell said he thought Planning Boards have standing regarding zoning changes; if individual member of Planning Board can do so. Not sure if a valid petition yet and is a draft warrant.

Mr. Kimball said there was a need to be cautious about this petition. He will find money to challenge this legally.

Septic system there is in need of repairs and no money has been put aside. He said he will not support it and he will fight it if necessary. This is serious if this one project is allowed.

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Town Meeting Date

Mr. Purcell said he would ask Board of Selectmen to consider June 7; not May 10 as Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting date. They previously discussed that this may happen. Date was discussed. Mr. Purcell said it needs to beat 6/15/10.

Mr. Kimball suggested to postpone meeting of May 10 and reconvene on June 7, 2010.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to postpone Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting on 5/10/10 and reconvene on June 7, 2010 at Henri A. Yelle School at 7 p.m. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Health Insurance

Mr. Giblin said State is in financial problems due to health insurance and we as a Town and Mr. Purcell as a town manager have done a good job.

Mr. Purcell said the Board had two handouts: 1) a fact-sheet about Southeastern Health Group (health insurance joint purchase group).

Mr. Purcell referenced Town's numbers; Town is losing four members of the group so we'll be 13. There are 17 members now and Mr. Purcell explained array of plans, etc.

It meets on a year-round basis and full body meets 1-2x per year. There is a five-person Steering Committee and meets on a monthly basis. It has been a benefit to Town of Norton.

RFP goes out and healthcare companies bid. Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts, and Blue Cross; and Blue Cross won out on contract. Self-insured basis (self-funded basis). Question is: is Town better off way we are or not? Why are not some cities/towns joining? States group insurance program not joining. We have a better package (pricing-wise, etc.). Buying power/brain power and rate increase is 6%-more favorable than other public groups.

Mr. Purcell said the Board has a spreadsheet regarding this. Schools run according to school year (beginning September) and Mr. Purcell explained spreadsheet. Enrollment discussed. A number of things planned for Fiscal '11. Eligibility audit to be conducted and a model of town of Shirley being look at, and offered payments to get off town plan for long-timer enrollees (i.e., spouse gets paid about \$3K year

and he/she goes on spouse's plan instead especially if it's a comparable plan. PPO and HMO plans discussed.

Mandatory Medicare for 65+ and over.

Mr. Purcell discussed group benefit strategies. Huge benefits to belong to a group; his fiduciary responsibility is to Town of Norton and always looking at various things.

C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Kimball wished everyone a Happy Easter and holiday.
.....

Mr. Giblin said a few weeks ago a census was sent out; and he asked to ensure residents return it. Some scam censuses being sent out with social security being requested. Official census is a ten question census; no real personal info will be requested. Do not put license number or social security number on it as official census does not ask these questions.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

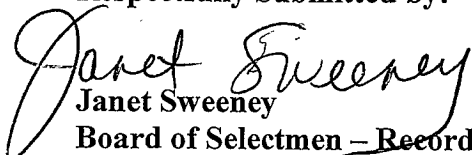
1. Request of Terry O'Reilly, Trinity Bar & Grill, 184 West Main Street, for change of hours on Sundays, from 12:00 Noon – 1:00 A.M., to 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 A.M., for the sale of alcohol with Sunday Brunch
3. Winner of the 350th Town of Norton Anniversary Logo Contest
4. Norton Board of Library Directors/Head Librarian Re: Five-Year Strategic Plan

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Second by Mrs. Steele.
Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by:


Janet Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary