

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 11, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The April 11, 2013, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Giblin, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m., held in the First Floor Selectmen's Conference Room.

- A. ROLL CALL: Mr. Timothy Giblin, Chairman; Mr. Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Vice-Chair; Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell; Mr. Robert Salvo, Sr., Clerk; and Mrs. Mary T. Steele were present. Mr. Michael Yunits, Town Manager, was absent.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

- A. Approve bills Warrant #61, dated April 11, 2013, in the amount of \$95,546.57

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to Approve bills Warrant #61, dated April 11, 2013, in the amount of \$95,546.57. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Approve Minutes – December 20, 2012

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated December 20, 2012, as written. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: All In Favor of Motion, except for Mr. Salvo who voted present. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Habitat for Humanity applications are available for an affordable (\$130,000), 3-bedroom home to be built in Seekonk, MA. Application deadline is May 3, 2013. Applicant Information Workshops to be held on April 3 at 5:30 p.m. or April 20, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Seekonk Library, 410 Newman Street, Seekonk, MA

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Notice from Town Clerk's office: Annual Town Election and Primary is April 30, 2013 and open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 13 at 7 p.m. is the Annual Town Meeting at Norton Middle School.

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Absentee ballots are available for the April 30 Elections will be available beginning April 8, 2013.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and/or Vote Re: Next Step Living Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Giblin said the rep from NextStep Living was in before the Board previously and the changes were made.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to accept the Next Step Living Memorandum of Understanding, effective today, April 11, 2013. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Review and/or Vote on Spring May 13, 2013 Town Meeting Articles

The Warrant Articles were reviewed the Warrant Articles. The current version ends in Article 21 and some recommendations of Finance Committee are noted on document.

Article 2:

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to recommend Article 2. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 3:

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to recommend Article 3. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Articles 4, 5, and 6:

No Action taken on these Articles (they are not ready yet).

Article 7:

Board discussed to hold off on this Article. No Action taken.

New article 8: (old Article 8 was withdrawn)

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to recommend (new) Article 8. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 9:

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to recommend Article 9. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 10:

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to recommend Article 10. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 11:

Board discussed to hold off on this. No Action taken.

Article 12:

Board discussed to hold off on this. No Action taken.

Article 13:

Board discussed to hold off on this. No Action taken.

Article 14:

Board discussed to hold off on this. No Action taken.

Article 15:

Board discussed to hold off on this. No Action taken.

Article 17:

It was discussed the old Article regarding Bylaws Amendment/senior work program was withdrawn.

Article 16: (former Article 18)

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to recommend Article 16. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 17: (new Article 17) – By-Laws: Longevity Amendment:

Mr. Kimball and Mr. Giblin did not agree with this Article. Discussion ensued on Town Manager trying to bring non-union positions up to union position rates. Mr. Giblin said he did not agree with this concept.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to recommend Article 17 (for discussion purposes). Second by Mrs. Steele.

Discussion: Mr. Kimball said it was unfair to employees in town hall who are not union personnel. Mr. Bramwell said he understood this is only for a few people, but his belief is those people have individual contracts and their performance should be compensated as such. Mrs. Steele said it was basically paying someone just for longevity; she believed in monetary award based on reward vs. longevity.

Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: All members voted Not In Favor of Motion. MOTION DOES NOT CARRY.

Article 18:

Board discussed to hold off on this. No Action taken.

Article 19:

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to recommend Article 19. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 20:

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to recommend Article 20. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

3. 7:45 P.M. HEARING - Petition of National Grid for pole relocation, at the request of the Town of Norton and the Norton Gold Star Committee, for the Master Sgt. Gregory Trent Memorial Park, at 53 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766

Mr. Kimball requested this Petition on behalf of the Gold Star Committee, of which he is a member. Two extra poles are on property and a total of 12 lines. When water tank was taken down, no one made above requested. All the lines were taken down and actions were a bit too aggressive and two poles came down by mistake instead of one. There should be one pole and Committee decided to move a pole that was next to the driveway. To be powered up by CVS side and connection will not be going by/through any other property. It is a \$25.00 fee and Committee asking Board of Selectmen to consider waiving this since this is being done as a favor. Mr. Kimball commended National Grid/Verizon as they have been excellent in assisting Town. Respectfully asking Board of Selectmen to consider this easement.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve the Petition of National Grid for pole relocation, at the request of the Town of Norton and the Norton Gold Star Committee, for the Master Sgt. Gregory Trent Memorial Park, at 53 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: All In Favor of Motion, except for Mr. Kimball who voted "present". MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Kimball said the Veterans' Agent had tee shirt designed/produced in honor of Master Sgt. Trent and Bekah Sargent, a student from Norton High School designed the back of tee-shirt. They are \$10 and available at Town Hall. They are approaching \$40,000 in this fund. The Town of Norton has been very helpful with this effort, especially the highway dept. Sullivan Concrete (Kevin Sullivan of Walpole) set up forms and stampings to occur next week. They just opened up bids for actual landscaping. The lowest bid they received was \$18,000 for landscaping. Plants themselves are almost \$4,000 and trees are expensive. Park will have granite benches, plantings on both sides, and dedication planned to be on Memorial Day. Pat O'Toole built a nice display at Roche Bros. and they have wrapped their hands around this. The State Police called and they also want to help. May 5 is the bike/motorcycle ride and bbq at VFW following ride. Info can be found on Facebook/Google. Mr. Kimball said there are so many people to thank for their support with this.

4. Discussion Re: Veterans Services District

The question is: should the Town of Norton remain in the district or get their own veterans agent? Some disagreement of this with the Finance Committee (FinCom). Cost comparison document was reviewed. FinCom thinks salary should be at \$45,000, but Mr. Yunits believes it should be closer to \$50,000. It was noted FinCom based it on a single plan (for health insurance purposes).

Mr. Salvo said what bothers him is a shared agent and has been hearing complaints from veterans. He feels strongly Norton needs their own veterans' agent, and he is supporting this idea. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Giblin said there are three VSO's covering four towns which are some of the complaints. The current ones are very good. When the third VSO is hired Mr. Giblin said there will be a dramatic difference in coverage. He understands and hears what Mr. Salvo is saying but the VSO's are trying to keep up, and he sees more continuity in the veterans' office.

Mrs. Steele said this is the first year of it running so there is a learning curve. In past, Norton was not able to keep up with the work even with their own veterans' agent. She did not think this regionalization has had enough time to work. The numbers are very similar either way no matter how it is looked at.

Mr. Kimball said he has known many veterans agents who have worked for Norton, and some are better than others. He has not heard many complaints. He commended the current veterans' agent, Mr. Michael Johns, and all he does, and believes the services the Town is receiving today are the best he has seen. The veterans' office is always open and in the past that has not always happened. He would like to see this regionalization progress for another year and take another look at it. He agreed it looks to be about the same amount of money no matter which way they decide. Norton has more people that have needs; actually double of what Mansfield has.

Mr. Giblin agreed with Mr. Kimball. There are 44 veterans that are being serviced and he believed there are more out there that they are trying to reach out to Keith Hobson is the other agent who is working just as hard as Michael Johns. It has only been a year. Mr. Giblin said he has not been hearing a lot of complaints, and would like to hear about complaints brought to Mr. Salvo's attention, brought to himself, and or Michael Johns. Discussion ensued.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to continue the services of the Crossroads Veterans Services District. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Letter was referenced from Mr. Yunits to Stephen K. Withers, Jr., Esquire, regarding Daggett Crandall Home regarding intent to exercise and appraised at \$125,000. Town is interested in this land and it appears to be a suitable spot for additional cemetery space.

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A request was received from Barry Nectow, Director of Operations and Finance for the Norton Public Schools, seeking to include an Article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant relative to insurance proceeds over \$25,000 to repair damage to the gymnasium floor for H.A. Yelle School. The deadline has passed but Town Counsel has opined. Question is: does Board want to wait until fall or take up at spring Town Meeting? It is not to exceed \$46,000 for repair and replacement of gym floor due to burst steam pipe under the floor. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Salvo thought this matter went to Town Meeting last year. Mrs. Steele believed it was another issue, and possibly they can get clarification on it. Mr. Giblin said they can put it on next week's meeting agenda.

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Mr. Giblin stated that April 27 is Norton Annual Cleanup Day and anyone interested in more info can go to: "Norton cleanup" website or call town hall. Close to 300 people volunteered last year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

APRIL 11, 2013

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT W. KIMBALL, Jr., VICE-CHAIR

ROBERT S. SALVO, SR., CLERK

MARY T. STEELE

BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL

Dated: _____

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at April 11, 2013, Board of Selectmen Meeting

- . Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes dated December 20, 2013

- . Town of Norton Annual Town Meeting Warrant – May 13, 2013. (Also included document detailing Articles/Finance Committee Action-Vote/ Board of Selectmen Action-Vote)

- . Town of Norton and Next Step Living Memorandum of Understanding

- . Veteran Services Cost Comparison (District vs. VSO) document

- . New England Easement Information Form (National Grid) Work Request: Pole Relocation Form

- . Letter dated April 5, 2013 from Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager, addressed to Stephen K. Withers, Jr., Esquire, Coogan, Smith, McGahan, Lorincz, Jacobi & Shanley, LLP Re: Notice of Intent to Exercise-Daggett-Crandall-Newcomb Home, Inc., Town of Norton Assessor's Map 5, Parcel 5, Chapter 61A Intended Conversion