

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 3, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The April 3, 2014, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Kimball, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m., held in the First Floor Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

- A. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended March 29, 2014, Warrant #59, dated April 3, 2014, in the amount of \$1,093,370.34

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended March 29, 2014, Warrant #59, dated April 3, 2014, in the amount of \$1,093,370.34. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Approve bills Warrant #60, dated April 3, 2014, in the amount of \$494,952.29

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #60, dated April 3, 2014, in the amount of \$494,952.29. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Approve Minutes – December 19, 2013

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting dated December 19, 2013, as written. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hydrant flushing program: Mr. Marshall stated this flushing program will begin Sunday, April 6, and will last for about ten weeks involving about 100 hydrants in Town (days of the weeks will be Sunday through Thursday from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.). For questions call 285-0280 which is the Water Department number. This is being advertised in Town on the Town website and cable channel. Residents can use “Red Be Gone” if needed to take stains out of clothes.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Marshall to leave some “Red Be Gone” at Town Hall in case residents request it. He also asked Mr. Marshall to keep the Board of Selectmen updated each week, etc.

V. BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M.– Joint Meeting with Norton School Committee Re: Financial and Budgetary Updates

Present from School Committee: Superintendent Baeta, Mr. Nectow; Mr. Mackie, Mr. Savas; Mrs. Desmond; and Ms. Werner.

Mr. Baeta said School Committee voted 5:0 for full day kindergarten and it was based upon Mr. Baeta’s practice and not that of the Town. Barry Nectow scrubbed the

budget. The big picture is to take a look at vision of where Town wants to be and where they want to go. A working budget was worked on from 8.5% to under 6%. New position for Director of Technology is being proposed and a new program planned. There is \$604,000 in contractual services and special education was discussed. 52 students are sent out of district. There are currently two pending cases where the students may leave to out of district placements or other forms of financial obligations to the school district. Transportation was also discussed. It was noted it will cost about \$405,000 to make Middle School wireless. He said he and Mr. Yunits discussed the school's technology technician to assist with Town Hall, and maybe that cost can be cut down a bit.

The chemical spill that occurred earlier today was handled efficiently and housing was provided for the New Testament students/staff, and the Town provided bussing. A firefighter took a minibus to pick-up some students who were waiting at a bus stop. Prior administration has been cut and it is a concern. There are various mandates that must be met. It is at the point now where communities like Norton are getting less funding. He suggested getting five or ten very smart people together and put together a formula that makes sense and people can understand regarding Charter School costs. Norton is seen in the formula as a community that can pay more. Need to go through numbers for programming and staff. Per pupil expenditure in Norton still toward bottom but not that low. Compared to Easton, Mansfield, and North Attleboro, Norton is at middle to end of the pack for classroom, and #1 for healthcare costs and insurance. There is a \$1,080,000 difference that Foxboro puts into the classroom which is a serious issue and impacts Town employees, etc. Southeastern Regional runs as its own municipality and their per pupil cost on healthcare is less than the Town of Norton. He said he and Mr. Yunits talk regularly, and he trusts that Mr. Yunits will continue to work on the budget as he has indicated.

Mr. Yunits explained what happened to the former Sysco site (chemical spill) which Dr. Baeta previously referenced. At 8 a.m. there was an ammonia leak and no one was injured. But when ammonia hits air, it creates a cloud which was an issue, however, everyone worked well together, as well as all neighboring towns assisting Norton. The owners of this property were taken back about media involvement, however, there was the need to get the accurate story out. EPA was on-site and Clean Harbors involved because of some involvement with sewer drain.

Mr. Kimball thanked Dr. Baeta and School Committee/Department for their assistance. Both sides of government were able to work well together.

Mr. Yunits said Town and School Department, and Mr. Nectow does work well together. There are some things that are being worked on; their phones bills have been evaluated in past and saved thousands of dollars. Now there will be a company working with electric bills. Also, will be evaluating the gas bills and may team up with the city of Taunton for gas. An RFP is going out this week for landfill on Hill Street to put a solar facility on that property which will be revenue generating. Two TIFs are before the Town and will see some personal property and excise tax on Penske Trucking. Mr. Yunits has had to cut \$242,000 on what was requested on general government part of budget. He also had to review cuts on budgets of Police, Fire and Communications. Free cash was discussed. Important to do all that can be done for this year's budget but need to be cognizant to hold on to some of the free cash for the following year.

Superintendent Baeta said he was trying to become more of a revenue department. School Committee agreed with school choice, therefore, there are 80 slots which would be about \$400,000, and need to publicize it, etc. The other item is the full-day kindergarten and the issue in his view as the superintendent educationally and now the new assessments on kindergarten students. If they can maintain enrollment and count those full day students they will see a full figure increase in Ch 70 funding.

Mr. Kimball said \$1.9M is taken off of the cherry sheet and the Town has no say in it. Regarding full day kindergarten, he encouraged Dr. Baeta and School Committee to look into it and they can see if it will work or not.

Ms. Werner referenced full day kindergarten; it is not just for one year, it is year after year. She felt it was unfair for parents in Norton and other communities in Massachusetts to not get a quality education especially where the children are not getting the same education as other towns.

Mr. Giblin said this was great information. He believed school choice and full day kindergarten would help students and parents in Town, but also helping increase Ch 70 money.

Superintendent Baeta said the first three people who chose school choice are employees of the schools in Norton which says positive things about Norton schools. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Savas said there needs to be a sacrifice to get over the finish line to “get on our own two feet”.

Mr. Kimball said they are also talking about cutting positions within the general government.

Mr. Yunits responded to Mr. Mackie’s question that health insurance costs increased 3% and Town is part of a consortium.

Superintendent Baeta reiterated the School Department and Town Hall are working together on a few items.

Mr. Kimball stated there were a number of mandates on the general government side also and he wanted to send a message to School Committee on these mandates especially on Ch 70 that the Board of Selectmen is here and if there is anything they can do to help, to please ask.

Mr. Bramwell said he would like more information on full day kindergarten. Superintendent Baeta will pdf info to Mr. Yunits.

Mr. Kimball said it would be ideal to have more of this collaboration between the Board of Selectmen and School Committee and hold these roundtables. Possibly the next meeting they can meet in the Fall either at Town Hall or in one of the Schools meeting rooms.

2. 7:30 P.M. – Ralph Stefanelli, Selectmen’s Representative to SRPEDD Re: Update and request for reappointment

Mr. Stefanelli said he was a resident of 12 James St., Norton, and was seeking approval for reappointment to SRPEDD. The 40B rules and regs cost approximately \$7,000 in SRPEDD budget not Town of Norton’s budget. Things are getting done.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to appoint Ralph Stefanelli as the SRPEDD Representative to SRPEDD and allow the Chairman to sign the authorization. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

The JTPG (Joint Transportation Planning Group) was referenced. Discussion on delegate - Keith Silver, Highway Superintendent, and the Town's alternate - Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to authorize the appointment as Keith Silver as the Town of Norton's JTPG Delegate, with Michael Yunits as the Alternate. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Stefanelli commended Mr. Yunits and the Superintendent of Schools and associated Board/Committee members for the open dialogue and hard work.

7:45 P.M. – Water Bodies Committee Re: RFP Update

Mr. Leonard, Co-chair of Norton Water Bodies, was present and stated they were sent a copy of RFP by Mr. Yunits. Proposals need to be received by the 9th and it is that time of year again where ice is gone. This will be the real key to get this management plan going; to start some treatment. He indicated they were working with Bout Scouts with a planned kiosk to be put up at Lake Winnecunnet. A Norton Water Bodies Facebook page is being planned which is another communication vehicle. At their next scheduled meeting, Bill Napolitano of SRPEDD will be attending that meeting and there may be some potential grants that could be viable for the Town. He said hopefully they can get Mr. Stefanelli on board as their contact person. Mr. Leonard said North Attleboro is doing some funding for some of their ponds but they are mostly different plants they are dealing with. It was difficult getting to access to water at Juniper Beach; may need to grade that area as it is tough to get in and around there, and asked if possibly Mr. Silver/Highway Department may be able to assist.

Mr. Kimball responded Town Manager will look into that.

Mr. Leonard stated he was not aware the ammonia spill went into storm drains, etc., and there may be some negative impact from that possibly.

Mr. Kimball said whatever it takes to get anything fixed, it will get fixed.

Mr. Leonard asked residents/people to not feed the wild life (swans, birds, etc.). He said he was not sure if there is money in any budget for basic signage in that area; also the signs in Juniper Beach and other areas are well past their life span too.

Mr. Kimball thanked Mr. Leonard for this update.

Mr. Yunits said they need a rep from Board of Selectmen regarding RFP and Conservation to review proposals that come in.

Mr. Giblin responded he could assist.

Mr. Leonard said he observes many people without lifejackets in boats/canoes. He said between Labor Day through winter months up until Memorial Day water temperature is still very cold.

Mr. Leonard commented that as a side note and somewhat unrelated, he asked if anyone had an update of the Town of Norton Cleanup?

Mr. Yunits responded he had a contact, but has discovered this person was not going to be able to organize Cleanup.

Mr. Leonard suggested that a committee be formed just for the Cleanup, and it is also important for the Town's water bodies. He hoped someone would step forward to do this, as to see it not happen would really be a disservice.

Mrs. Steele said it was run by the Norton Task Force. However, she believed the parents running it have already had their children graduate from Norton High School last year. She said community service is ideal and project is something that should really stay with the schools. She was uncertain if the Norton Task Force has dissolved or still exists.

Mr. Kimball recommended to have Town Manager send a letter or contact Superintendent Baeta regarding this, especially where community service is needed, etc.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and/or vote Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Yunits voted to recommend the Water & Sewer budget. Also, the Article #20 on Zoning Bylaw maps article is just to take out of Building Inspector's Office, but really all that should be moved to Town Clerk's Office.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to support Article 20. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits said Water & Sewer budget are now separate articles now. The first Article is the Water Budget - Article 14, and approved by Finance Committee (FinCom). Repairs were discussed and Mr. Yunits said some pump stations need work.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to support Article 14. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits said the next Article was the Sewer Enterprise FY15 total budget and explained FinCom voted with his recommendation to reduce \$20,000 to \$10,000, so there should not be need for \$20,000 for legal services.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to support Article 15. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits said if the Board has any questions regarding the budget, to please let him know.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

. FY15 Budget Update

Mr. Yunits said the FY15 Budget Update was already discussed earlier in meeting.

. Energy Procurement

Mr. Yunits said info of World Energy was in Board's packets. One of the members of FinCom brought this to his/Board's attention. The Town has companies coming in frequently to sell to Town at the best price, but this gives more info on prices, etc. Mr. Giblin said he is now saving 25-30% when he did this at his company. Discussion ensued.

.....

.Solar RFP Update

Mr. Yunits said hopefully there is more success this time than in the past. It appears Town has recently been contacted by legitimate companies which is beneficial. Several potential sites could be Valentine Tool, Fairley Lane, East Hodges Street, and South Shore Millwork.

Mr. Yunits will check with Mr. Gabriel, Town Planner, on public hearings regarding proposed solar sites. Discussion ensued.

.....

Congratulations to the Norton Police Department who received a grant of \$5,000 for an “underage drinking “ grant (stings, etc.).

.....

The Town lost their communications recently off the antennae, and appears to be from a tree behind Red Mill Village. Company who owned antennae sold all assets to another company and there was some payment issue, so National Grid shut electricity off and Charlene Fisk from Communications Department did contact National Grid and it got turned back on.

.....

Picture I.d.’s will be made for Town employees going out on properties so people will be aware they are Town of Norton employees.

.....

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Appointment – Request of Carol McLaughlin for appointment to the Council on Aging, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Yolanda Lague

The letter from Ms. McLaughlin states she would like to give back to her community.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to appoint Carol McLaughlin to the Council on Aging (to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Yolanda Lague). Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

The recent Open House at Norton High School went very well except for the fire alarm sounding during the ceremony. It was attended by many people.

Mrs. Steele thanked the Committee and Mr. Bramwell for his efforts, and it appeared to go smoothly.

Mr. Salvo apologized he was unable to attend the Open House on Saturday as he had several conflicts.

.....

Mr. Kimball stated the Gold Star Committee is still active. On May 17 in front of Yelle School on lawn, the School Committee is allowing Committee to have a town-wide yard sale. Possibly people can rent a space/table or make a donation; specific details will soon be ironed out. Profits from yard sale will be used for the First Annual Master Sgt. Gregory Trent Scholarship.

On May 16, there will be the Second Annual Motorcycle Run to raise funds for the Memorial Park itself.

.....

Mr. Kimball referenced a parcel of land on Young Avenue. Possibly Mr. Yunits can obtain more info on it. They can declare it surplus if so desired. This parcel is 10,000 square feet and prior to 1973, it was considered a grandfathered lot. It needs to go out to auction and person wanting to purchase it may not be able to obtain it. If Board of Selectmen wishes to sell it, the Board can make that decision. They can also put a restriction on it.

Mr. Yunits said if in common ownership, it could be grandfathered, but where it is separate, that may not be the case.

.....

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Sheri Cohen is scheduled to come before the Board of Selectmen to discuss Founder's Day.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell at 9:12 P.M., to enter into Executive Session for purpose to discuss collective bargaining and to conduct negotiations with non-union personnel. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

APRIL 3, 2014

ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., CHAIRMAN

MARY T. STEELE, VICE-CHAIR

BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, CLERK

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN

ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.

Dated: _____

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at April 4, 2014, Board of Selectmen Meeting

- . Draft December 19, 2013 Board of Selectmen Minutes

- . Request for Qualifications – Lake/Pond Management Action Plan, Town of Norton, MA

- . Town of Norton Warrant for the Special Town Meeting, May 12, 2014

- . “FY15 Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures (Rev date 4/3/14)” and “Free Cash Funding”

- . “Defining the Energy Opportunity for the Town of Norton – Norton Public Schools (May 7, 2014)” document by World Energy

- . Letter dated March 8, 2014, addressed to Board of Selectmen, from Carol McLaughlin regarding interest in the vacant seat on the Council of Aging