



TOWN OF NORTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MUNICIPAL CENTER,
70 EAST MAIN STREET, NORTON, MA 02766

Telephone: (508) 285-0210 Fax: (508) 285-0297

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The February 11, 2016, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Bradford Bramwell, at 7:00 P.M., held in the First Floor Conference Room.

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

- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

- A. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended January 30, 2016, Warrant #47, dated February 4, 2016, in the amount of \$1,170,018.88

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended January 30, 2016, Warrant #47, dated February 4, 2016, in the amount of \$1,170,018.88. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Approve bills Warrant #48, dated February 4, 2016, in the amount of \$1,320,504.91

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Approve bills Warrant #48, dated February 4, 2016, in the amount of \$1,320,504.91. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Approve bills Warrant #49, dated February 11, 2016, in the amount of \$276,901.92

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Approve bills Warrant #49, dated February 11, 2016, in the amount of \$276,901.92. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Approve Minutes – October 29, 2015
 November 5, 2015
 November 12, 2015
 November 19, 2015

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated October 29, 2015, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated November 5, 2015, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated November 12, 2015, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated November 19, 2015, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. **LICENSES AND PERMITS**

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Offices will be closed Monday, February 15, 2016, in Observance of Presidents' Day
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The 14th Annual "It Takes A Community" Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game will be held Friday, March 11 at 7 P.M. at the Norton High School (Norton Police vs. Norton Teachers).

Tickets are \$8 each; no tickets will be sold at the door. For more info contact:

ittakesacomunity@comcast.net

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1.7:05 P.M. – CONTINUATION OF HEARING – Petition of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. requesting permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed on West Hodges Street

Mr. Kimball reopened Hearing.

Mr. Bramwell indicated he met with a representative from National Grid and there is no longer a problem with that particular pole.

There was no one from audience who wished to speak regarding this agenda item when asked by the Chairman.

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to approve Petition of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., requesting permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed on West Hodges Street. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Vote to adopt Domestic Violence Leave Policy

Mr. Yunits said this is a law which provides an employee allowance for 15 days to be taken for companies of 15 employees or more. An employee must exhaust paid leave first. It was noted specific documentation is required along with appropriate sign off(s) as well.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to adopt Domestic Violence Leave Policy. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits stated the Chief of Police is working with the District Attorneys Office to develop a risk assessment tool.

1.Vote to approve and sign Agreement with STG Consultant Services, LLC to manage the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Mr. Yunits said this company will work with block grant; this company came highly recommended and sets out the maximum amount they can charge the Town.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve and sign Agreement with STG Consultant Services, LLC to manage the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

1. Vote to approve Ballot Question regarding proposed Charter amendment to create an appointed Town Clerk

Mr. Yunits said the Attorney General approved the Article from the Town Meeting, so this is the next step. Town Counsel will review, but is out of town this week, so have not yet heard back. If Board is willing, they could vote to recommend this contingent on Town Counsel's review.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve Ballot Question regarding proposed Charter amendment to create an appointed Town Clerk, contingent upon Town Counsel's review/comments. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

If someone is elected for this position, the person is only in office until someone is appointed.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

. Review Draft of May 9, 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Yunits explained the Board had a list of Articles in their packets and Town Counsel also has some for review. Articles that would be different would be Article 7-Land Acquisition for Pheeney's Island; Article 8-Water & Sewer Department, and he is waiting on final figures; Article 9-Water & Sewer Department looking to use funds from their water surplus revenues for potential sources of new wells; Article 15-is a placeholder put on by the School Committee; Article 16-a bylaw amendment for Council on Aging; and Articles 17 and 18 deal with the salary plan. He said they are also looking at adding in custodian position in the plan just in case; possibly do something different than contracting out to clean the buildings.

Mr. Kimball said he did ask Town Counsel for an opinion regarding Article designed by School Committee. The Board of Selectmen probably should have sat down with School Committee to review process. It appears this is a possible Proposition 2 ½ override Article. A ballot question was discussed. The Town Moderator, Mr. Gouevia, is very concerned about this process. Mr. Kimball said the School Committee needs to be aware of process and believes they need to sit down and see what their intentions are. He said they don't have final numbers yet and feel it is premature. He understands putting a placeholder on warrant but, in his personal opinion, something this large, would be in everyone's best interests to sit down and discuss it first. It is a serious matter.

Mr. Yunits said he offered March 3 and March 10 as a possible joint meeting date, and Superintendent Baeta is checking to see if it would work.

Mr. Bramwell said he heard this was a possible Proposition 2 ½ override Article. Mr. Bramwell said he communicated the general government side has needs also. It is unfortunate the School Committee took first step and wanted the placeholder.

Mr. Kimball said he felt they were starting off “on the wrong foot” in his opinion. He would like to keep an open mind as much as he can; this Board of Selectmen is not involved in that initial action/decision.

Mr. Bramwell said a general discussion of budgets generally take place at Board of Selectmen’s meetings and he believed they could have put placeholder on without being too specific, and a this is a long way away from putting a specific price-tag on it.

Mr. Giblin stated communication is key, and it is difficult when the Board of Selectmen is not aware of the specifics, but would like to obtain more info, etc.

Mr. Kimball said the school population is decreasing; not increasing, and the smaller class sizes are ideal. There has been no dialog and need info to decide if Board of Selectmen can support it.

Mr. Salvo acknowledged the School Department has been very conservative over the last several years with hiring, etc. It would be beneficial to sit down with the School Committee and possibly discuss needs of the Town as a whole for a general override (i.e., senior center/town hall, etc.). He did not feel this was presented properly.

. Update – Snow Account

Mr. Yunits indicated he spoke with Mr. Silver, Highway Superintendent, on snow and ice account/deficit. He commended Mr. Silver and his staff, as well as the police and fire departments, for helping with the recent storm, including, but not limited to, tree clearing from streets, down wires; and fire/ambulance runs.

He said National Grid was not prepared and the Community Room was not opened until 3 P.M. that day. With the use of technology in this day and age, National Grid should be able to narrow down areas/times.

Mr. Yunits wanted to commend Drew Meyers also who worked very hard with Emergency Management for the warming center set up.

Mr. Salvo said it appeared National Grid was inundated, but the burden should not be put on the Town’s Communications Dept. It seemed that all residents were told restoration of power would be at 9 P.M. the following day. This is a concern, especially with children and the elderly without heat, electricity, etc. The technology today should be better.

Mr. Kimball noted a transformer blew in front of his house; one of the three transformers in front of his house does not currently work.

. Update – Meeting with Medical Marijuana Company

It was noted in October 2013, the Town voted a bylaw for marijuana dispensaries. One company is interested in the Commerce Center in Norton for this type of operation. Mr. Yunits said he and Beth Wierling, the Town's Director of Planning & Economic Development, met with a company last week (a dispensary company). There would need to be three phases to go through. They wanted to know if the Board of Selectmen would be opposed to such a facility or not opposed to them exploring it.

Mr. Kimball responded he would listen to their proposal. In a recent Sun Chronicle newspaper article, there were various towns listed regarding these dispensaries (North Attleboro, Brockton, and Taunton). He said the first question would be is there really a need for them in Norton?

Mr. Yunits said he asked Ms. Wierling to try to obtain a copy of the mitigation agreement from the town of Franklin who had a distribution facility that went into that town. The marijuana grows in greenhouses and then it gets shipped out.

Mrs. Steele said it is important that a facility like this would need to be located far away from schools, but will it have an affect on this Town? She asked if it would be a dispensary?

Mr. Yunits responded it would be a dispensary or distribution facility.

Mr. Giblin said concerns were being raised by some Board members. Mr. Giblin said it would be important to know how it would be controlled; do police control it? He agreed with Mrs. Steele, it would change some portions of the town. There are a lot of questions, especially with the epidemic in the local communities of opioid addiction.

Mr. Bramwell said the Board should have the company come in before the Board. Personally, he preferred them to go elsewhere.

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Mr. Yunits said site plans were reviewed by Planning Board this past Tuesday evening, and it went well for Alnylam Pharmaceutical, and they signed a purchase and sale agreement and there was also an article in The Boston Globe tonight regarding this. Also, New England Ice Cream had a good hearing also, and they just need to adjust screening and discuss with abutters/neighbors what type of screening would be desired. Planning Board also asked both Alnylam Pharmaceuticals and New England Ice Cream to work with Town's engineers.

Mr. Kimball commended Planning Board regarding this and noted the Planning Board had good questions for these companies. He believed things will work out and it was a good meeting overall.

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Appointment of Interim Town Clerk Janet A. Linehan

Mr. Yunits said Ms. Linehan is doing a great job already with helping out the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Kimball noted Ms. Linehan held this capacity previously as an interim Town Clerk, and did a wonderful job for the Town of Norton. She was also a former Town Clerk in the town of Easton. She is already involved, qualified and coming out of semi-retirement.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Janet A. Linehan, as Interim Town Clerk, effective January 28, 2016. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Appointment of David Sullivan as a Special Police Officer

It was noted by Chief of Police Clark that Mr. Sullivan possesses a Bachelor's Degree and was a full-time employee as an ambulance EMT and worked at the Police Department of Regis College. This capacity has the same duties as a full-time officer and would attend academy part-time, which Mr. Sullivan has already completed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to appoint David Sullivan as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Norton, effective February 7, 2016. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Giblin inquired about the status of contacting Representative Howitt regarding the center of Town lighting issue.

Mr. Yunits responded that a letter was sent to Representative Howitt. Mr. Yunits did see him earlier that day, but Representative Howitt did not mention it. He wanted to commend Representative Howitt as he is a great asset to the Town of Norton; he calls a couple of times a week to check on things, etc.

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Mr. Kimball said there is a request for \$38,000 to repave COA (Council on Aging) area. Need to check with the School Department financial officer to see if there is a small parcel of land to put building behind area. Would need to put this under a capital expenditure.

Mr. Kimball referenced letter from Town Moderator, William Gouveia, regarding a upcoming well-attended Town Meeting in May, considering the potential Proposition 2 ½ override Article. He was concerned of space limitations, logistics and costs. The last time it cost the Town \$10,000 and would anticipate a similar cost moving forward.

Mr. Bramwell said at the last Selectmen's meeting, the Board voted on mosquito control/budget but did not declare a person to sign documents(s) on behalf of the Town.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Mr. Yunits to sign documents on behalf of Town land for mosquito control. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.
Mr. Giblin asked if Bristol Mosquito Control could come in to a Board of Selectmen meeting at some point.

Mr. Yunits responded they are coordinating dates for them to come in.

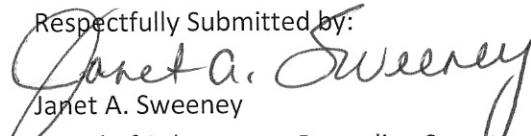
VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to Adjourn at 8:15 P.M. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

Documents Presented at February 11, 2016, Board of Selectmen Meeting

. Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting dated October 29, 2015, November 5, 2015, November 12, 2015, and November 19, 2015

. Correspondence dated February 9, 2016, addressed to Michael Yunits, Town Manager, from Beth Stewart, National Grid, re: National Grid Pole – 37 W. Hodges Street, Norton, MA

. Hearing Notice, dated January 7, 2016, re: a public hearing being held January 28, 2016, 7:15 P.M., in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Norton Municipal Center, relative to a Petition from National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. requesting permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be palced on West Hodges Street-Pole #3215-50, 3216-50, 3218-50, 3221-50, 3226-50-CONTINUED TO 2/11/16 at 7:05 P.M.

. Letter dated February 8, 2016, addressed to Norton Board of Selectmen, from William A. Gouveia, Town Moderator, re: May 2016 Town Meeting and planning logistics

. Memorandum to the Board of Selectmen, dated January 28, 2016, from Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager, Re: Notice of Appointment of Interim Town Clerk – Janet A. Linehan, effective date of January 28, 2016

. Memorandum to the Board of Selectmen, dated February 1, 2016, from Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager, Re: Notice of Appointment of Special Police Officer – David Sullivan, effective date of February 7, 2016

. Agreement By and Between Town of Norton And STG Consultant Services, LLC

. Town of Norton Domestic Violence Leave Policy

. Spring Annual Town Meeting – May 9, 2016 Articles

. Town of Norton Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, Monday, May 9, 2016, Bristol, SS. (draft dated 02/03/16)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, CHAIRMAN



TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, VICE-CHAIR



ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., CLERK



ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.



MARY T. STEELE

Dated: _____

3/31/16