



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  
NOVEMBER 3, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The November 3 2016 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Giblin, Chairman, at 7:00 P.M., held in the First Floor Conference Room.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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It was noted Mr. Bernie Marshall, Water & Sewer Superintendent, was present, regarding an announcement.

Mr. Marshall said the Town has a protocol in which they need to adhere to per DEP. It was brought to their attention, per samples taken on Tuesday morning, and were called Wednesday afternoon, that Well #3 on Newland Street had a count of one coliform and one E. coli bacteria, therefore, two different indicators that bacteria was present in the raw water.

Mr. Marshall said at no time was there any emergency to citizens in the community; the well is out of service. He wanted to reiterate this is not an emergency and pertains to Well #3 on Newland

Street only. It was a raw water defect and was taken off line and will be advertised in newspaper tomorrow. It is under control and they did have their tanks sampled and their distribution center and there was no detection in the distribution system and none in their tanks. There is no need to boil water. He said he does need to notify residents. He referenced the raw water from aquifer; it is an aquifer they draw from (Canoe River) and water generated from ground, 32 feet down; it comes up and pumps have sucked it in from the aquifer. He referenced a lime-based product which is used and assists in the process.

Mr. Giblin asked what the next steps would be?

Mr. Marshall said currently DEP has piracy over this.

Mr. Marshall said his contact number was 285-0282 or the website: nortonma.org for any questions or water issues, etc.

Mr. Marshall said they have suspended their flushing operation and he made the decision. Water is tested monthly (20 system samples at least per month). Discussion ensued.

Mr. Giblin asked who would test residents' water if they wanted it tested?

Mr. Marshall responded there is a company in Middleboro, Analytical Balances; a service to sample and test. Residents can contact him for the contact information.

Mr. Marshall stated they were waiting on DEP for next steps.

Mr. Giblin asked Mr. Marshall for an update on Reservoir Street area project.

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Mr. Marshall responded it is an old and small pipe, "a bad apple", and his engineer went out and conducted a preliminary survey and is planning to replace pipe, however there is a potential development planned on Route 140/Reservoir Street and it has come to a halt to hopefully have developer assist with this.

Mr. Giblin had concerns with timeframe for that to happen and also with winter approaching.

Mr. Marshall said it is a heavy price tag of at least \$1 million and there is no money in budget currently.

Mr. Salvo asked if he could do in-house and use desal funds? Chapter 90 money was discussed as a possible use to remedy this problem.

Mr. Marshall responded desal money is scarce at this time; it was used for the archeological project and it is too large scale of a project to do.

## II. LICENSES AND PERMITS

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Norton Veterans' Day Parade will be held November 11, 2016, including participation by the Norton High School band. Gary Cameron will be the Parade Marshall who is a Vietnam Veteran. Step-off is from the H. A. Yelle School and at closing of Parade, refreshments will be served at the H. A. Yelle School.

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Southeastern Regional School District is holding their Annual Open House on Saturday, November 19, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. and is open to the public.

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Personal Best Karate Charity is offering any veteran or senior who could benefit from a cooked Thanksgiving meal delivered to them on Thanksgiving Day to please call the Norton Senior Center at 508-285-0235.

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There is one day left for early voting for the Presidential Election: November 4, 2016, from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. The actual Presidential Election is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

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Mr. Salvo read aloud correspondence from Mr. Yunits to all departments, dated November 2, 2016, regarding no evening office hours on Thursday, November 10, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. due to the holiday (Veterans' Day) the following day.

Mr. Kimball stated he had a problem with this and asked why they would be closing on a day before a holiday? The Town Manager was not present this evening to ask this question; and maybe there is a good reason for it.

Mr. Giblin agreed with Mr. Kimball and said possibly there is a good reason for this.

Mr. Bramwell said he believed it was contractual; the employees of the Town should receive an eight hour holiday; three hours of it is coming from Thursday to go toward Friday. He cannot guarantee that is the answer, but that would be his logic.

Mr. Kimball and Mr. Giblin both understood that logic if that is the reason for it.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the Town Hall closing at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, November 10, 2016, if it was due to a contractual agreement; and, Further, if not in contractual agreement, he would be opposed to closing at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, November 10, 2016. Second by Mr. Salvo.**

**Discussion: Mr. Kimball said he did believe Mr. Bramwell was correct.**

**Vote: Not In Favor of Motion: Mr. Bramwell. In Favor of Motion: Mr. Salvo, Mr. Kimball, and Mr. Giblin (3:1). MOTION CARRIES.**

#### **IV. BUSINESS**

##### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

###### **1. 7:15 P.M. - FY2017 Tax Classification Hearing**

Mr. Kimball read aloud Hearing Notice.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball that the Board of Selectmen will make a decision as to whether or not to shift residential tax burden from a residential class to commercial, industrial, personal property, and said Hearing to be held on November 3, 2016 at 7:15 P.M. at the Municipal Center in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room, 70 East Main Street, Norton, MA, and the public is cordially invited to attend and discussion will be regarding residential, open space, commercial, industrial, and personal property taxes and to establish whether or not to have a single factor or shift burden between residential and commercial. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Ms. Denise Ellis, the Assessor for the Town of Norton was present. She said the decision needed to be made as to whether it would be a split tax rate or a unified one. Tax rate is decreasing to \$15.37 because the value is going up. \$324,000 is average value of a single family home in Town. The amount of taxes will increase (average tax rate for a \$324,000 single-family home is \$4,983 per year; it is an increase of approximately \$200 compared to last year).

Ms. Ellis provided an idea of tax rate; if a split tax rate, if the Town did conclude tax rate Residential to \$15.11 and Commercial to \$16.91 per thousand and she referenced graph in packet she distributed to Board.

Mr. Giblin asked if any member of the audience had any questions or comments?

There appeared to be no questions or comments from the audience.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Close the Public Hearing. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to adopt a Residential Factor of one (1) on taxation of all property at the same single rate.**

**Second by Mr. Salvo.**

**Discussion: Mr. Salvo said they are in the process of rezoning Route 140 and Leonard Street and he heard residents were concerned regarding a possible increase in their taxes due to possible zoning change. He wanted to advise their taxes would stay the same and would not increase. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES.**

2. 7:30 P.M. - Kathleen-Ebert Zawasky, President, Land Preservation Society of Norton, Inc. Re: Tricentennial Park

Ms. Ebert-Zawasky referenced the handout she distributed to Board of letter she sent to them several weeks ago to disengage the Land Preservation Society from the Park. It has been five years and it went by quickly; they need to reevaluate Land Preservation Society. This is actually park maintenance so will turn over to the Town and help figure out a plan and what department this would fall into. She is invested in it and would continue to do some things with Park. Many people have ideas; possibly even having a grid system where some families care for a small plot but needs to be coordinated. Some revitalization to be done and it was never the intention to be a formal park. Things need to be done and walkway is narrowing due to vegetation as maintenance needs to be done. They wanted to maintain a bird bath pool but hard to keep it going as it attracts too much attention. Also, children on bikes like to ride through and they had to discourage that. Creative transplanting would help and it is not too expensive; also the purchase of mulch would be needed. Some donations were received too. They have a balance of \$500 and thought of offering selling of bricks again. She would volunteer to do that if this works out.

Mr. Kimball indicated he was Chairman of the Committee of The Master Sgt. Trent Memorial Park/Goldstar Committee and believed some civic organization or others that would come forward and assist. He would hesitate to have Highway Department assist as they are burdened. He would like to work with Town Manager, possibly have some local businesses assist, or some type of committee be formed, or look into Parks and Recreation or Highway Department involved. He would like to see someone adopt it. He commented the Lions Club is helping with the Purcell Park.

Ms. Ebert-Zawasky said the Mansfield Bank next door was an option also to ask to assist. She would like to continue to be part of it.

Mr. Salvo asked if there were any annual bills?

M.s Ebert-Zawasky responded, no, there were no annual bills. There is a flag pole and a donation by Butch Rich of a supply of American flags, however, there is a problem with light at base not working, and did not want to put flag up because it was not lit.

Mr. Kimball said Cliff Archer, an electrician from Town, helped with the Trent Memorial Park and referenced a high intensity light which could shine down which they have used in a different location.

Mr. Giblin thanked Ms. Ebert-Zawasky and others involved for all their time and effort. It is a wonderful park for residents.

Ms. Ebert-Zawasky said Ruth Gould and Frances Shirley both said this is where the park should be located, and she thought this was the best location as well.

3. Holiday Hours - Town Hall will close at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, November 10, 2016, due to the Veterans' Day Holiday, Friday, November 11, 2016

Please see above; this was discussed under "Announcements".

## **B. OLD BUSINESS**

## **C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

## **D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS**

1. Retirement from Firefighter John F. Morrissey III, from the Norton Fire Department, effective December 4, 2016

Resignation letter, dated October 20, 2016, was read aloud.

2. Retirement of Robert A. Jordan, Fire and Explosion Investigator, from the Norton Fire Rescue Department, effective December 29, 2016

Resignation letter, dated October 20, 2016, was read aloud.

Mr. Giblin congratulated both of these Fire Department employees and thanked them for their years of service to the Town and he will ask Mr. Yunits to send them a thank you letter.

Mr. Salvo congratulated both on these gentlemen on their retirement and said he enjoyed working with both of them and they taught him many things.

Mr. Kimball said these are two senior Fire Department employees and with that type of experience it is a loss.

Mr. Giblin said he was certain the younger Fire Department personnel will miss their camaraderie, but also the experience these two gentlemen brought to the department.

Mr. Bramwell said he highly respected both of these men.

## **V. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL**

Mr. Salvo read a letter, dated October 25, 2016, from Mass DOT (Department of Transportation) which was received and addressed to Mr. Giblin regarding "Salting at Commuter Rail - Highway/Railway Crossings" where road salt on fresh melting snow can cause a short circuit of tracks and gates lowering/warning bells ringing. It causes highway backups and was asking them to instruct town crews to try to minimize this.

Mr. Salvo said it is very hard to not salt area because vehicles will still travel through it, but he understood these concerns.

Mr. Giblin asked if this was something new? He believed they can ask Highway Department to stop 50' before and after a railroad crossing. They will try to do the best they can, but cannot guarantee it.

Mr. Salvo said residents should inform the Town to let them know if this happens.

Mr. Bramwell said it was an impressive Halloween Parade! The Boston Police Bagpipe band played, and they spotted a Marine on parade route and played a Marine hymn. Ribeiro Enterprises always has a different theme and idea each year and the parade onlookers enjoy seeing them and he wanted to recognize them.

It was noted the parade has been going strong for 24 years and commended Sheri Cohen and her staff for their effort and assistance. Every year it seems to get larger and larger and more improved.

Mr. Giblin added Wheaton College was also involved with the Parade, as well as area banks, state representatives, and the senator.

Mr. Kimball said on Saturday, November 5, at 12 noon at VFW on Summer Street, the Circle of Flags Dedication will be held and everyone is invited to attend.

A reminder - the Norton Veterans Day Parade will be held on Friday, November 11; come out and support past and present veterans!

Mr. Kimball said the Gold Star Committee is selling LED bendable desk lamps for \$5.00 each to raise funds for The Master Sgt. Trent Memorial. Also, they will be sold outside of Roche Bros. They are available in multiple colors such as black, white, yellow, green, blue, pink, and orange. The actual lamp was shown by Mr. Kimball.

Mr. Salvo referenced the sidewalk at 274 East Main Street and said it is almost completed and they are doing a phenomenal job with it!

## **VI. WARRANTS AND MINUTES**

A. Approve Bills Warrant #27, dated November 3, 2016, in the amount of \$398,353.33  
**MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to Approve Bills Warrant #27, dated November 3, 2016, in the amount of \$398,353.33. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**



B. Approve Minutes - August 25, 2016

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes, dated August 25, 2016, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

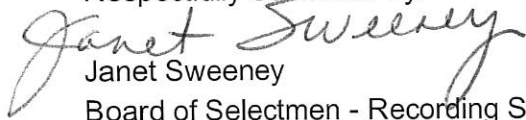
1. Application of Mac & Walt's, Inc., Kimberly M. J. Canova, Manager for a Common Victualler All Alcoholic License to Expose, Keep for Sale, and to Sell All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages To Be Drunk On the Premises at 363 Old Colony Road, Norton, MA 02766

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Sweeney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janet Sweeney

Board of Selectmen - Recording Secretary



**Documents Presented at November 3, 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- Informational Packet: "FY2017 Classification Hearing", November 3, 2016, Selectmen's Hearing Room, 7:15 P.M. - Prepared by: Board of Assessors: Carolann McCarron, Chairperson, Theresa Kelly, Judy Lavigne, Denise Ellis, Director of Assessing
- Letter, dated September 29, 2016 and November 3, 2016, from Kathleen Ebert-Zawasky, President, Land Preservation Society of Norton, addressed to Board of Selectmen, RE: Planning for the Tricentennial Park Upkeep
- Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes - August 25, 2016
- Memorandum, dated November 2, 2016, from Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager, addressed to All Departments (copy to Board of Selectmen), Re: Evening Office Hours - Thursday, November 10, 2016
- Letter, dated October 20, 2016, addressed to Fire Chief Paul Schleicher, from Norton Firefighter John F. Morrissey III, Re: Retirement effective December 4, 2016
- Letter, dated October 20, 2016, addressed to Fire Chief Paul Schleicher, from Robert A. Jordan, Fire and Explosion Investigator, Norton Fire Department, Re: Retirement effective December 29, 2016
- Letter, dated October 25, 2016, from Mass DOT (Brian Shortsleeve, Chief Administrator and Acting General Manager), addressed to Timothy Giblin, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Norton, Re: Salting at Commuter Rail "Highway/Railway" Crossings

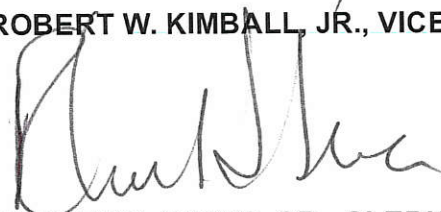
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
NOVEMBER 3, 2016**




**TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CHAIRMAN**



**ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., VICE-CHAIR**



**ROBERT S. SALVO, SR., CLERK**



**BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL**



**MARY T. STEELE**

Dated: 11/12/17