

TOWN OF NORTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MUNICIPAL CENTER,
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 9, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The March 9, 2017 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. Robert S. Salvo, Jr., Clerk; Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell, and Mrs. Mary T. Steele were present. Mr. Michael Yunits, Town Manager, was also present.

Dr. Baeta and the School Committee were also present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. LICENSES AND PERMITS

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Giblin stated Mr. Lee Tarantino passed away earlier in the week. This was a tremendous loss to the community. Mr. Tarantino was a valuable member of this community as well as to his family and friends. He proudly served on the United States Coast Guard during the Vietnam War with an Honorable Discharge in 1970 and resided in Norton for 28 years. He also served on various committees for the Town of Norton, including the Finance Committee, Commercial Development Committee, Friends of Norton Senior Center, and was also a member of Scouting Troop 12. The Board's deepest sympathies were extended to his family and friends. Mr. Giblin offered a Moment of Silence in honor of Mr. Tarantino.

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Mr. Salvo referenced the Norton Energy Fund being established in 2011 for the purpose to respond to urgent community needs. There is a one-time annual allocation for residents not able to meet the rising heat and fuel costs and this fund helps over 30 families. The contact info is: Norton Energy Fund, P.O. Box 552, Norton, MA 02766 and there is a form available. Donations

can be made payable to the Norton Energy Fund.
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The Rabies Clinic will be held at the Norton Fire Department on April 1st from 10-11 a.m.; cost is \$13 per animal. Also dog licenses can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office which will also be open.
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Xfinity Center is hiring for various job openings such as in guest services, food and beverage positions, etc. A job fair will be held April 5 and April 6 from 4-7 p.m., and Saturday April 9 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 885 South Main Street, Mansfield, MA

IV. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M. HEARING – Petition on behalf of Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company to place one new jointly owned pole, (Pole 12925), on Hill Street, Norton, Massachusetts. The pole installation is necessary in order to allow for removal of a guy wire that is currently attached to a tree

It was noted guy wire is attached to a tree and was further explained.

Mr. Kimball said they should feel free to go back from ten foot buffer.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Petition on behalf of Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company to place one new jointly owned pole, (Pole 12925), on Hill Street, Norton, Massachusetts. The pole installation is necessary in order to allow for removal of a guy wire that is currently attached to a tree. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Joint Meeting with the Norton School Committee:
 - a. Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D. – Presentation of Education Program Plan Committee Recommendations
 - Discussion on FY18 Budget - Town Manager Presentation – Discussion and/or Vote - Override
 - Discussion and Vote to Appoint Member to Permanent Building Committee
 - Other

Mr. Savas opened the School Committee meeting at 7:10 P.M. and thanked the Board of Selectmen for having them this evening.

Dr. Baeta stated they were asked to take a look at the H. A. Yelle school to possibly turn over to Town as a town hall and/or even a senior center. He is not recommending that the H. A. Yelle school be given to Town as a purpose for something else.

Dr. Baeta noted there was some declining enrollment and stated Norton Middle School is a pod school and they don't have space to move fifth grade to the Middle School and change philosophy of school.

Dr. Baeta discussed moving special areas like special education, occupational therapy, etc., and try to have in-district programs where the savings is significant and is educationally and financially beneficial to taxpayers. He said these areas do take up space. In 2013, they had 60 students out of district, and now they are at 38. He said Project Early is being moved to J. C. Solmonese from the L. G. Nourse because of the need. In the general school system, they are up 18 students since Christmas.

Mr. Kimball stated they need additional space for Town Hall which is in bad shape; the carpeting is from 1979 and issues with air quality, etc. Also, they are running out of space at the Council on Aging. He appreciated the School Committee reviewing this.

Dr. Baeta stated they could look at this again in the future if enrollment is at a point where they can do so.

Mr. Bramwell thanked them for taking time to look into this.

FY18 Budget

Mr. Giblin explained this is not a debate this evening, but willing to listen to comments/questions, and each person will be allowed two or three minutes to speak.

Mr. Yunits stated he requested figures from all Town department heads and the health insurance modification agreed to is making proposal workable. He said he cannot promise all departments what they requested. Mr. Yunits said the figure was \$395,000 for new growth and local receipts to increase \$265,000. Over the last two years, ambulance fees raised money, and the school budget does not include full day kindergarten. The public library budget was discussed, as well as the Fire Department's budget. The Town budget does not include hiring of any new employees. Health insurance was also referenced. This was crafted for the service needs and asks for Board's approval. Mr. Yunits also referenced the estimated revenues and expenditures, as well as the school budget.

Dr. Baeta referenced a budget increase to keep what they have and has both budgets include cutting and adding positions with a total amount of \$1,063,000 and referenced the contractual obligations. He said they were cutting two elementary positions due to class size. There is a 4.02% increase to their budget. He spoke of the Town's special education tuition and noted many students are aging out and others are returning to the district from out-of-district

placements. Their net special education tuition is \$239,000 and this is unheard of and he indicated his staff works hard to develop these in-house programs and it is also luck where some students are aging out.

\$993,000 was recommendation by Mr. Yunits for level service budget for School Department.

Mr. Yunits referenced the Fire Department figure of \$259,000. There were many requests to open Chartley Station and add four additional men with uniforms, etc., for Chartley and to renovate building. The Fire Department totalled \$520,896.

Mr. Yunits said the Police Department were looking to hire another School Resource Officer.

Mr. Yunits noted there was also no human resource person in Town Hall and there was a need to upgrade their policies and job descriptions. This would allow them \$40,000 to contract out or hire a part-time person, however, there is nowhere for them to sit in building as there is not enough room for a full-time person.

Mr. Yunits said there is also a request to add more hours for personnel to Council On Aging.

Mr. Giblin stated the Chartley Station potential reopening is a safety issue. He said the Town does not have a human resources person as well and he agreed with all the departments' needs noted on the Town's "Override" sheet.

Mr. Kimball stated the Town has been reducing over the years. The Chartley Fire Station is probably the most important thing the Town must address.

Mr. Giblin asked if there were any comments/questions regarding the municipal side?

An audience member, Mr. Ralph Stefanelli, asked if the Chartley Fire Station would be a money pit?

Mr. Yunits responded there have been some certain things already done to the Chartley Station. A lot of the work already performed was done by the firemen themselves.

Dr. Baeta recommended to keep the \$2,074,379 number in mind. He said the Town of Norton is one of two districts in the State who does not have free full day kindergarten. The School Choice program was also discussed. They are earmarking \$175,000, so \$145,242 would be the number. They would also like to bring back the Director of Guidance position, however, it would have a broader responsibility. He also did not feel Norton is sending enough students to college; they should be well into 90th percentiles. He referenced the Media Specialist position; this is being in classroom with students and teaching about research and love of reading. They would like to bring back five head administrative assistants to 12 month positions and keeping schools open in the summer. A Computer Science teacher at Norton High School in 2017 they

do not have and explained the importance of this position. The Town of Norton is stagnant in their scores and need further help in the classroom teaching the art of literacy and they have a broadening diverse group of learning in the system at this time and need someone embedded in the classroom. They would eliminate all transportation fees for all students (it is \$350 to ride bus and also pay to play fee for sports). It is \$125 per sport per season per student with no cap and increased yearly based on increase of the athletic budget.

Their override number is \$1,081,007. The actual school department budget is \$2,074,373.

Mr. Bramwell asked for an explanation of what administration positions are needed, etc.?

Dr. Baeta responded and explained the role of superintendents, and stated there is generally no one that does not have a business manager; possibly out in the Berkshires. A special education audit is coming in as well as other audits. The business manager was in place four years prior to his role as superintendent.

Some of the positions include a Supervisor of Facilities; Assistant Supervisor; Director of Instructional Technology and he brought back that position because of the changing of education. They have not increased the number of administrators recently. Also, to look at per pupil costs, it is 1.5%, which is a pretty effective number. There was a budget proposal from last year and they cut it. They have done some things to show they are listening and have been open to the public.

Ms. Kathleen Stern, School Committee member and substitute teacher in Norton for 13 years spoke of the importance of full day kindergarten, and said some people cannot afford the full day program.

Dr. Baeta said the Fire Department is importance because of the J. C. Solmonese and schools on that side of Town for safety reasons. Also, the Police Department is important to the schools for various reasons, including having the School Resource Officer. He said, on a personal note, his daughter spent the day in Norton, because as a parent he may send his child to this district. Therefore, as a parent, and the Town's superintendent, a lot of things good things are going on in the Town, but they need that lift.

Mr. Kimball referenced the School Resource Officer (SRO), this was one change where it was important to have this presence.

It was noted in the handout it appears it is one draft behind; numbers are slightly old. Level services to Town appeared incorrect and those distributed to audience appear to be inaccurate.

A member of audience, Mr. Peter Wiggins, said he believed in the school system and the need of learning and teaching of facts, etc.

Mr. Yunits noted the total would be \$1,081,070 for both the general government and School.

It was asked what percentage of an increase in taxes does this represent?

Mr. Yunits stated for a \$2,000,000 override, it would be 90 cents on the tax rate; therefore it would be approximately \$360 per year on a \$400,000 home.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to vote to submit the following ballot question for the purpose of considering the following question "Shall the Town of Norton be allowed to assess an additional \$2,168,774 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the school and general govmt operating budgets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 as follows: \$1,081,070 for Norton Public Schools and \$1,087,767 for general government. Second Mrs. Steele.

Mr. Kimball recommended for specificity to add to motion what ballot this is going on.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT was made by Mr. Kimball to allow this to be on the next Annual Town Election.

Discussion: Mr. Bramwell said he just saw the numbers for the first time this evening and hoped they would have had some time to digest it, etc. It was his preference to have a week to digest this and then vote on this.

Mr. Giblin stated he did not mind waiting until next Thursday to vote on this.

Mr. Savas referenced two things: 1) this is not a vote to pass it, it is a vote to put on ballot for people to decide; and 2) the deadline is not that far away and also snow is forecasted for next week, and urged them to vote this evening on it.

Mr. Kimball stated if they did vote on this tonight, are they allowed to amend the amount? It appears they still have until March 20. If they could amend or change before the 20th, then they should be ok.

Mr. Bramwell stated he would like to rescind his objection. They can always rescind vote or reconsider next week. If felt more comfortable to him now.

Mr. Kimball asked if the budget provided to him was a draft?

Mr. Yunits replied it is a draft until Finance Committee votes on it, etc.

Mr. Kimball asked if someone wanted to look at it, are they able to do so?

Mr. Yunits responded, yes, they are able to obtain a copy from him tomorrow.

Dr. Baeta indicated the school budget is ready and on website.

Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Discussion and Vote to Appoint Member to Permanent Building Committee:

Mr. Kevin O'Neil was interested in being a member on the Permanent Building Committee and asked if a joint vote was needed?

Mr. Savas stated the School Committee had not known who was interested in this position; now he is aware it is Mr. O'Neil and he has no objections at all.

Mr. O'Neil stated he has a degree in industrial engineering; and was on Building Committee for four years previously, and further discussed his experience and education.

Mr. Stefanelli said they would not have had high school completed if it was not for Mr. O'Neil and his crew who did a great job.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Kevin O'Neil as a member of the Permanent Building Committee for a one year term. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits said this Committee also needs an attorney from Town to serve as a member.

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The School Committee Meeting was Adjourned by Mr. Savas at 8:37 P.M. Second by Mrs. Cohen. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Paul Vesel, Director, Business Development – North Eastern USA Re:
RTE: LED Street Light Conversion Study

It was noted Mr. Vesel was not present this evening. Mr. Kimball asked to have him to try attend the next meeting.

4. Andrea Downey, Executive Director, Norton Housing Authority – Update
on Norton Housing Authority Sewer Project

Ms. Downey explained their septic needed to be done and will need a new septic system or one of three options; she noted their engineer was present also.

Mr. Salvo said they are having a real issue with their septic. They tried to tie it to Middle School but there was not an option to do that. The next step being wastewater treatment plant. A perk

test needed to be done and Mr. Salvo further explained. At this point, they have about \$1,000,000 to do infrastructure.

Mr. Kimball believed the best route for sewerage in Town was down West Main Street; going via Fillmore Drive would be the best way.

Ms. Downey noted they have a timeline and not sure what school's timeline is. She said sinks are not draining and toilets are not flushing, etc.

Mr. Yunits described Option 1; \$2,696,000.

Engineer was present and noted this is a rough estimate. The Housing Authority has a little over \$1,000,000 budgeted for this. To get their sewerage pumped up to East Main Street will cost money.

Mr. Yunits asked why wouldn't Water & Sewer put main in on West Main Street?

Engineer responded they would.

Ms. Downey stated DHCD was also involved.

Mr. Kimball said there was no water facility on their property in which he was opposed. They have \$1,000,000 and there are businesses and retail along that roadway, and they are going to pay for it too. He suggested to take that \$1,000,000 and add to it to make it work.

Mr. Salvo stated they need to talk to Water & Sewer about doing a betterment.

Mr. Stefanelli asked why they were turned down before?

Mr. Salvo responded they were not turned down; and he noted there was information from DEP, etc.

Mr. Salvo stated they need to get together with Water & Sewer.

Mr. Giblin stated it appeared they agree Option 1 is probably the best way to go.

Mr. Bramwell said it appeared liberties were being taken as the other end of the table was not in favor of Option 1. They would like to see it go the route to Wheaton College. He did not like the idea of the way betterments have been charged to people.

Mrs. Steele stated this problem has to be taken care of and then all the people along this route will be forced to tie in.

Mrs. Steele said she would fully endorse a meeting with Water & Sewer and their two boards to come up with a solution.

Mr. Kimball said he would not want to see \$1,000,000 put in and have it meander through woods and have to redo this in future. He was concerned about abutters also, but he would want Town sewerage if he owned a business such as a donut shop, etc. At some point, it will need to be done anyhow.

Engineer stated Option 1 per Housing Authority, will need to pump it, no matter what. The school will need to pump to it as well. Plan is to take a force main and pump toward Wheaton College area. Inspection will be done soon and is under DEP; their hand will be forced to do something.

Mr. Stefanelli noted he was the Town's SRPEDD rep, and they were awarded money this year, and it is in Town's best interest to use this money.

Ms. Downey said if she were a property owner, she believed that would be a plus regarding compliance to Title V, and would be a positive for businesses on road.

Mr. Kimball said the next step is to contact the Water & Sewer Commissioners. There are many other projects going in too and may be able to tie into them.

Ms. Downey indicated the Water & Sewer Department are very pleased with the route down West Main street; they have had a couple of meetings with them.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. To discuss and or vote on DRAFT May 8, 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Yunits stated he asked his office assistant, Carol, to keep agenda light for next week so they could concentrate on Town Meeting Articles to try to get through as many of them as possible. In the meantime, if there are any questions, please let him know.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

● Update - Water bodies

Mr. Yunits stated Solitude and ESS are working through National Heritage to use tablets in Winnecunnet instead of other treatments, and expect to start treatments in April on ponds and they are getting ready to go.

Mr. Giblin said they do not want to lose another year. He asked if there was any possibility they could finalize this within the next couple of weeks? He agreed it seemed easier to use pellets.

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Mr. Yunits said all department heads met with Condyne today and discussed development and rezoning on Leonard Street and it was very informative. On March 21, the Planning Board has public hearings on all three zoning articles.

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

V. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mrs. Steele noted tomorrow evening is the "It Takes a Community" Annual basketball game at 7 P.M. at Norton High School and tickets are still available and all proceeds help families in Town who have a family member with a major illness or those who have had a family death. The game will be between the Norton Police and teachers.

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Mr. Giblin referenced the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, where a vote was taken but it failed and this was for aid to cities and towns, but House and Senate are not allowing it. He will reach out to Senator and State reps.

Mr. Yunits noted they have the Governor's budget, so now local aid is present.

VI. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

- A. Approve bills Warrant #54, dated March 9, 2017, in the amount of \$128,445.28

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to Approve bills Warrant #54, dated March 9, 2017, in the amount of \$128,445.28. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Approve Minutes – January 5, 2017
February 16, 2017

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes dated January 5, 2017 and February 16, 2017, as written. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Review of 2 ½ override; Street light representative and Town Warrant Articles review.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT

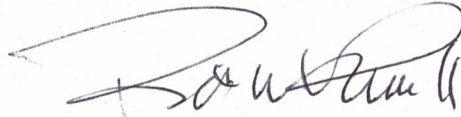
MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to Adjourn at 9:20 P.M. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

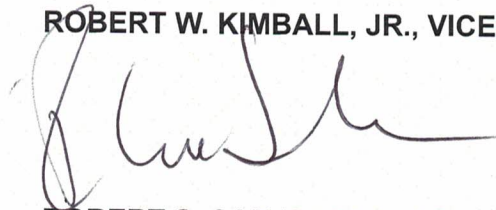
Janet Sweeney
Board of Selectmen - Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 9, 2017**

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CHAIRMAN



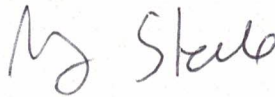
ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., VICE-CHAIR



ROBERT S. SALVO, SR., CLERK



BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL



MARY T. STEELE

Dated: 05/04/17

Documents Presented at Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 9, 2017

- Petition on behalf of Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company to place one new jointly owned pole, (Pole 12925), on Hill Street, Norton, Massachusetts. The pole installation is necessary in order to allow for removal of a guy wire that is currently attached to a tree
- FY18 Proposed Budget
- Presentation of Education Program Plan Committee Recommendations
- Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes dated January 5, 2017 and February 16, 2017