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Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes February 8, 2018

I. 7:00 P.M. Call to Order

The February 8, 2018 meeting of the Norton Board of Selectmen was held in the Board of Selectman's Meeting Room and was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mr. Bob Kimball, Chairman. Member(s) present: Mr. Brad Bramwell, Mr. Bob Salvo, Ms. Mary Steele and Mr. Mike Flaherty. Also in attendance: Mr. Mike Yunits, Town Manager

II. Announcement

- A. Mr. Bramwell stated the town offices will be closed Monday, February 19, 2018 in observance of President's day.

III. Business

A. New Business

- i. Ms. Emily Archer, Dispatcher, came before the Board and received an "Award of Excellence" for going above and beyond her call of duty on January 4, 2018 by plowing snow for an elderly resident after hours.
- ii. Mr. Yunits distributed the draft purchase and sale agreement to purchase a property located at 79 N. Worcester Street containing 46.25 acres, known as Camp Edith Read. There is no action needed. Mr. Yunits is awaiting any changes from the current owner. The purchase price was \$481,500. The Girl Scouts will establish a "Go Fund me" page for any additional renovations the property needs.
- iii. Mr. Patrick Mahoney, Patrolman, came before the Board. The Board and members of the Police Department recognized his retirement after 35 years with the Town.

B. Old Business

- i. Lauren F. Goldberg, Esq., KP Law, came before the Board. She describes the action KP Law is taking regarding the national litigation to hold national opioid distributors accountable for one of the biggest crises of the US. She stated physicians were misled and the distributors were able to target areas that were socially and economically at risk. Drug related incidences are up and more and more resources are being used to prevent and treat these incidences. KP law has joined with a group that is working with a national firm that specializes in mass tort litigation. These attorneys are shaping the way these cases are being brought and represented in Ohio. KP Law is locally coordinating counsel for this group. The fee agreement has already been negotiated to benefit the cities and towns.

Ms. Goldberg has provided a proposal that includes a fee agreement. This provides 25% of an award to go to the attorney group. She stated the goal is to give the bulk of awarded money to cities and towns to cover expenses related to the opioid crisis and also to create a fund for the future for educational purposes. If this proposal is signed, it would then be sent to the national group so they can prepare a complaint. This complaint would lay out different theories of liabilities. It would get filed in Ohio and if liability is established, the damages phase of this would begin. A Plaintiff Settlement Committee and Defendant Committee has already been established. Mr. Kimball stated this does not cost the town anything and looking to the future, a lot of education is needed to minimize future expenses.

Mr. Flaherty asked if the town would be able to collect on the settlement that the attorney general may receive if they file a lawsuit to which Ms. Goldberg stated it was too early to tell. The town is not precluded from withdrawing if they chose to. Mr. Bramwell questioned how wholesale distributors can be blamed for this crisis. Ms. Goldberg responded that the reasoning behind this is because the distributors were involved in a scheme that could target advertising and users who would otherwise not use opioids. They believe there was intentional fraud that was intended to addict people and to allow the large pharmaceuticals to target people. The companies include large companies, Fortune 100 companies mostly. Chief X came before the Board. He stated if the current trends remain, there will be three times as many overdoses as last year. The Town of Norton was 26 per capita for overdoses last year.

Ms. Goldberg stated there are about twenty towns that have gotten involved in MA. The more communities that join, the more of a message it sends. Mr. Yunits stated the government is not in support of this movement and this lawsuit is a good starting point to take a stand.

MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to authorize the Chairman to sign an Engagement to Represent the Town of Norton, MA civil suit against those legally responsible for the wrongful distribution of prescription opiates and damages caused thereby at 7:54 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: unanimous MOTION CARRIES

- ii. Nicole Cuneo, Recreation Director, gave an activities update. Mr. Robert Kerr, Ms. Sonia Tsilis and Ms. Tiffany Green were also in attendance. She explained the Committee's mission, upcoming planned events and scheduled initiatives to increase engagement and participation, including a newsletter, new program offerings and more frequent events.
- iii. Designation of Animal Control Officer and Assistant Animal Control Officer.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to appoint Brian Plante as Animal Control Officer at 8:26 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to appoint Brandee Jackson as Assistant Animal Control Officer at 8:27 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

C. Town Manager's Report

- i. Cherry Street Update – Mr. Yunits distributed “*FY2018-FY2019 Cherry Sheet Comparison*” and explained the various items. There was a decrease in local aid year over year of \$119,004 due to an increase of tuition of \$267,229. The Board requested the enrollment information versus the tuition amount information. Mr. Yunits also distributed the “*FY2019 Local Aid Assessments*” and reviewed.
- ii. Town wide Cleanup Day – this will set for April 21, 2018. The Town will reach out to Wheaton College and youth groups for volunteering opportunities.
- iii. Update – Building Commissioner Position has been advertised. The salary range is \$64,590-\$79,590.
- iv. Discussion – Possible Special Town Meeting may be scheduled to discuss the Water Treatment Plant. More monetary funds are needed to complete this project and a special town meeting may be called to get residents input. The earliest meeting would be Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to call for a special Town Meeting on April 11, 2018 at 8:54 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the purchase of Camp Edith Read at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

D. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

- i. Request of Adam P. Loomis for Constable appointment – the Board agreed to have this applicant come before the Board and give notice there is a position open.
- ii. Request of Robert Kimball for appointment to the Cemetery Commission
MOTION was made by Ms. Steele to appoint Robert Kimball for appointment to the Cemetery Commission at 9:05 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES
- iii. Appointment of Permanent Full-time Fire Fighter/Paramedic Samuel R. Nelson in Norton Fire Department.

Motion was made by Mr. Flaherty to appoint Samuel R. Nelson as a Full-time Fire Fighter/Paramedic for the Town of Norton Fire Department at 9:08 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

IV. Selectmen's Report and Mail

There is a Youth and Addiction Prevention Strategies Seminar scheduled for March 29,

2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Attleboro High School.

V. Warrants and Minutes

MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the bi-weekly payroll warrant PR16, for the period ended January 27, 2018, dated February 1, 2018, in the amount of \$1,293,220.43 at 9:11 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve invoice warrant AP31, dated February 1, 2018, in the amount of \$1,250,437.63 at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve invoice warrant AP32, dated February 8, 2018, in the amount of \$359,623.33 at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

VI. Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2018 and January 25, 2018 meetings, as written. Seconded by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous MOTION CARRIES

VII. Next Meeting's agenda –

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2018. Cathy Bailey basketball game will be discussed.

VIII. Other Business-

Mr. Flaherty stated he would like to note the efforts of the Police and Fire Departments for their recent efforts in two major incidents in the town.

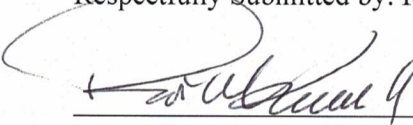
IX. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

X. Adjournment

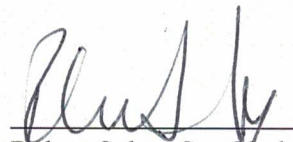
MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully Submitted by: Kayleigh Correia, Recording Secretary



Robert Kimball, Jr., Chairman

Bradford Bramwell, Vice-Chairman



Robert Salvo, Sr., Clerk



Mary Steele

Michael Flaherty

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

February 22, 2018