



TOWN OF NORTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MUNICIPAL CENTER,
70 EAST MAIN STREET, NORTON, MA 02766
Telephone: (508) 285-0210 Fax: (508) 285-0279

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**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2019**

I. Call to Order by Chairman

The March 7, 2019 meeting of the Norton Board of Selectmen was held in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room and was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mr. Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Chairman. Member(s) present: Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell, Mr. Robert S. Salvo, Sr., Ms. Mary Steele and Mr. Michael Flaherty. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

II. Licenses and Permits

Vote to Modify the Address on Class II License Issued to Edward F. Breault d/b/a Edd's Auto Repair, 32 King Phillip Road to Include "16 Samoset Street Rear" and Change Middle Initial to "A".

MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to modify the address on the Class II License Issued to Edward F. Breault d/b/a Edd's Auto Repair, 32 King Phillip Road to Include "16 Samoset Street Rear" and Change Middle Initial to "A". Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. Announcements

Mr. Salvo announced that there is an event being held by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (District Council of Attleboro): Ending Poverty Through Systematic Change on Saturday, March 23rd at 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Ms. Steele announced that 17th Annual "It Takes a Community Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game" Norton Police vs. Norton Teachers will be held on Friday, March 8th at 7:00 P.M. at the Norton High School. Proceeds will directly benefit Norton families struggling with difficult financial situations.

Mr. Kimball announced the Norton Center Village Plan being held on Wednesday, March 13th from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Yelle Elementary School cafeteria located at 64 West Main Street, Norton MA. You will hear about the new vision plans for the Norton Village from your ideas and what you see for the future in the area. Discussion topics include traffic, better pedestrian and bicycle transit, and public transit. For more information, contact the Director of Planning, Paul DiGiuseppe at (508) 285-0279.

IV. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

- a. Introduction of Kelsey P. Bisio, a Permanent Full-Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic for the Norton Fire Department.

Ms. Bisio has her Fire Fighter 1 and 2 Certification and already has experience as a fire fighter in Lakeville. She attended Anna Maria College where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Paramedic Science and a Bachelor's in Fire Science. Ms. Bisio explained that she then moved on to obtain her Masters in Public Administration from Anna Maria College as well. She added that she is still attending academy classes in Stow even though she has already received her Fire Fighter 1 and 2 Certification.

- b. Appointment of Shawn R. Simmons as a Full-Time Deputy Fire Chief to the Norton Fire Department.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to appoint Shawn R. Simmons as Full-Time Deputy Fire Chief for the Norton Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

V.

Business

A. New Business

i. Public Hearing for MAIND LL, LLC c/o Condylne, LLC for T-Mobile for an Aboveground Storage of Diesel Fuel License

Corey Lounsbury, the Project Manager for T-Mobile, explained that the aboveground storage licenses, which are for generators, are for the expansion and already existing generators. The expansion is due to the company growth, the upcoming 5G technology, and design changes. He further explained that they need these for the backup power just in case they lose power. Mr. Lounsbury added that this is the main site for the New England area and where all 911 services come out of.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to close the Aboveground Store License Hearing at 7:17 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve the application for an Aboveground Storage of Diesel Fuel License for MAIND LL, LLC c/o Condylne, LLC for T-Mobile. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

ii. NextGrid to Discuss a Low Income Community Shared Solar Program

Mr. Yunits explained that NextGrid has filed an application with the Planning Board to construct a solar facility off of Plain Street. Mr. Haskell Werlin from NextGrid explained that there is a new program called the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target [or SMART] Program, which was launched November 26th of last year. He explained that this a block program, which means that each block gets less incentive and in National Grid territory as Norton is, Norton is in block seven of eight blocks. Mr. Werlin explained that there are also what they call adders that give more discounts, like rooftop solar panels that get an extra two cents adder and

carports that get an extra six cents added. There is also community shared solar, such as ground-mounted solar where 50% of its energy output is allocated to low income customers in the form of electricity or bill credits. Mr. Werlin explained that in this case, it is a 2.4 mega watt system and it will generate an additional \$36,000 each year for 20 years. He explained that it is a tariff that would generate \$72,000 of which \$36,000 would go directly to the municipal accounts for the Town to offset the Town's municipal bills and the other half will be somewhere between 150 to 200 low-income residents that will amount to on average somewhere around \$200 to \$250 per year. Mr. Werlin stated that the idea is to have the Town support this and give some credibility to the program.

Mr. Bramwell asked Mr. Werlin if he knew what qualifies as "low-income", which he answered he didn't know what the income levels are, but it would be a R2 rate pair. Mr. Yunits asked what NextGrid is looking for from the Board of Selectmen at this time. Mr. Werlin replied that NextGrid will be looking for a letter of support and endorsement of the program's credibility.

Mr. Yunits asked that the Board of Selectmen support him as far as working with NextGrid to develop the parameters and things of that nature in order for this to happen. Mr. Kimball agreed and suggested that Mr. Yunits work with the company on this.

Mr. Ken Knopf came before the Board of Selectmen and asked if this was the 1.2 kw solar farm that is being proposed to be built behind the school on Plain Street, which Mr. Kimball answered was correct. Mr. Knopf tried getting into the particulars of the project, but Mr. Kimball explained that they are in the very early stages of this and that in two weeks there will be a meeting where the company will come in and explain their proposal. Mr. Knopf explained that he just wanted to make sure that the townspeople are being represented in regards to health and safety. Mr. Knopf added that on residents National Grid bills, starting in January there is a charge for the solar incentive program that is behind the SMART plan, so in essence the taxpayers are paying for the SMART plan.

iii. Updates on Payroll Software

Mr. Yunits reminded the Board of Selectmen that the last time they spoke about this he had mentioned that they were going to run a test where the payroll from the Police Department would come over automatically to the Treasurer's office. This was done last week and it was successful. Mr. Kimball clarified with the Mr. Yunits that the Town is then looking into using the same payroll system as the Police Department [including the schools], which Mr. Yunits stated was correct [if the schools would want to go that direction]. Mr. Kimball stated that in the future this will save the Town a lot of money, which is the purpose behind the whole program.

Ms. Steele asked Mr. Yunits if he had met with Dr. Baeta to go over this, which he stated he had. Mr. Yunits added that the School Department uses Harper's as well.

Ms. Steele asked if the decision has already been made to use Harper's for the Town Hall. Mr. Yunits answered that this was correct. Ms. Steele asked how the program worked and if it required the use of a computer to log in to which Mr. Yunits replied that employees can use their computer or smart phone to log in. Ms. Steele asked if someone did not have access to a computer what they would do. Mr. Yunits explained that they would have to come into the office to put in their time for payroll.

Ms. Steele looked for more clarification from the rest of the Selectmen and Town Manager about how they were going to get a handle on clocking in and out since there appears to be no oversight still. She explained that she thought part of the reason for looking into payroll software/time clocks was for oversight and that people would be swiping something to track time. Mr. Yunits explained that this is not for every day use, but for a weekly timesheet for payroll. He further explained that time clocks would have to be negotiated with the unions when their contracts are up. Mr. Bramwell stated that he thought part of this was for geographical reasons and convenience. He made the example of the police doing details not being in the police station to punch in and out. Mr. Yunits explained that everything has to go to the department head and the department head would still have to approve it.

Ms. Steele asked if they could have a representative from the payroll company they are looking at come in and explain how the software works. She added that although the Town has 99% good employees, there is still that 1% that take advantage and don't abide by the rules. Mr. Yunits replied that the Town tried implementing time clocks before and the unions filed a grievance and won the grievance. Mr. Salvo added that he knows the Town has a lot of employees that work 37.5 hours a week and that with time clocks there could be a big problem. The Town could end up facing labor law issues with people working over 37.5 hours. He then posed the question of what, if any, legal repercussions the Town may face by implementing time clocks emphasizing that they may cause more harm than good. Mr. Kimball concluded the conversation stating that this is really more about management and enforcing that people work their set hours.

iv. Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School Budget Presentation. Mr. Mark Morris, the School Business Administrator and School Committee Representative for Norton, came before the Selectmen and Town Manager to do the presentation of Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School's budget. He stated that the budget for FY20 is just a proposal at this time. The total budget for FY2020 is \$28,589,574; \$26,660,198 is for foundation budget. Transportation is \$1,567,651 less \$1,019,088 in transportation aid totaling \$548,563. Mr. Morris explained that the number of total enrollments increased by 22 students, 4 of which are from Norton. The FY20 district aid for Norton is \$1,172,402 (an increase of \$125,106). He added that overall the enrollment from Norton has decreased.

Mr. Yunits asked if there are any capital projects coming up. Mr. Morris stated that there is nothing in the works now except maybe an arts program, but that is at the very beginning of the process. Mr. Salvo asked if they have the masonry program anymore, which Mr. Morris answered they do not. Mr. Morris explained that Southeastern's programs are based off of what the job needs are and added that they have 140 students in co-op programs. Mr. Morris stated that the welding program has shown great growth so they are expanding that program and the electrical, carpentry, and the legal programs have also grown.

Mr. Kimball emphasized the importance of these programs, especially for high school seniors that don't want to go on to further education, and graduates being able to get jobs in the trades. Mr. Morris explained that the RSTI program is something Southeastern Regional has for these situations. Mr. Feeley described the emotional graduation ceremonies for Southeastern, such as the nursing programs, and that the graduating class is about 400 students.

Mr. Morris announced that on April 9th they will have the "Taste of STI" and Phantom Gourmet will be there for their culinary program. Mr. Kimball and Mr. Bramwell mentioned that both of their wives graduated from the nursing program there at Southeastern Regional. Mr. Kimball added that his daughter graduated from there as well. Mr. Bramwell stated that he went to one of the culinary events for Southeastern and compared to weddings where Johnson and Whales prepared the meals, Southeastern blew Johnson and Whales out of the water.

v. Vote to Open the Special Town Meeting

Mr. Yunits stated that the recommendation would be to open the Special Town Meeting today (March 7, 2019) and on March 8th all departments, boards, and committees would be notified of the deadline for submission of articles and the Special Town Meeting date. The ad will then go to the newspaper on March 8th and be published on March 12th. Mr. Yunits informed everyone that the Warrant will close on March 19, 2019 at 4:00 P.M. A copy of the Warrant will then be forwarded to the Finance Committee Chair, Moderator, and the Town Clerk. The Special Town Meeting Warrant will be posted on April 26, 2019 and the Special Town Meeting Warrant will then be posted with recommendations for the Special Town Meeting on May 1, 2019. The Special Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. with the Annual Town Meeting at the Norton High School.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to open the Warrant for the May 2019 Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

C. **Town Manager's Report**

1. *Update on Elm Street Remediation Work*

Mr. Yunits explained that the coffer dam has been taken down and stabilized. Also, the State DEP is moving forward with asbestos abatement in the small shed near the smokestack, and that the EPA is removing the smokestack and the underground storage tanks in April.

2. *Update on Economic Development Incentive Program for Home Market Foods*

Mr. Yunits explained that when a company has a TIF, companies are required to provide reports to the state every year on how they are doing and if they are meeting their goals. He mentioned that Home Market Foods hired twenty-two employees to work at the site in Norton. There were twelve new hires in 2018, and one of those full-time workers is a Norton resident.

3. *Update on Economic Development Incentive Program for Waste Management.*

Waste Management hired thirty-seven employees in 2018 and five of those employees are Norton residents.

4. *Update on Grant from SRPEDD.*

Mr. Yunits stated that Paul DiGiuseppe, the Planning and Economic Development Director, has been working with SRPEDD. He explained that they want to look at doing a new master plan for the Town. SRPEDD has agreed to award \$20,000 to Norton towards that work. They will be scheduling a kick-off meeting sometime in mid-March for that work.

5. *Update on Best Practices for Community Compact Program – Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Best Practices.*

Mr. Yunits explained that he received a letter from Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito stating that they are excited to continue to partner with Norton as [Norton] implements its chosen best practice, "*Best Practice #1: Energy and Environment: Sustainable Development and Land Protection – Complete a Master or Open Space & Recreation Plan to guide land conservation & development decisions including zoning & land acquisition.*" The next step is the Commonwealth will provide the Town with a Community Compact grant that will help support a new Master Plan.

Mr. Yunits added that he received another letter from Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito congratulating the Town for choosing and finalizing the complete streets and safe routes to school best practices.

Mr. Yunits also wanted to announce that on March 20, 2019 the School Department is letting them use their auditorium for two public information sessions. At 6:00 P.M. there will be a presentation on the adoption of the Stretch

Code, which is on the Warrant for the Town Meeting. There will also be a presentation on the Town Hall/Community Center project at 7:00 P.M.

V. Selectmen's Report and Mail

Mr. Salvo asked if there is an opening for the Water/Sewer Commission and Mr. Yunits answered there is one position. Mr. Salvo emphasized that this is a very important position that needs to be filled.

Mr. Bramwell stated that over the course of the past week, several people have come to him about Camp Edith Read being locked. He added that this is a pet peeve of his where conservation land is always locked. He suggested maybe posting something somewhere about when they plan to let people utilize these things. Mr. Bramwell stated he doesn't understand it himself and that there is other conservation property that people can't access. He added that there have been days of nice weather where people have been interested in walking the trails, but haven't been able to.

Mr. Kimball stated that he has been talking with the Superintendent about big pieces of land being bought up and used for other purposes. Mr. Kimball asked if they could look into a program where when a certain number of acres is being sold off the Town could be made aware of it and possibly given first option of refusal. Mr. Yunits stated that nothing at this time exists and added they could look into it, but it is doubtful. Mr. Kimball then requested that the Town Manager ask town counsel if this is something that can be put into place, which Mr. Yunits answered he could.

Mr. Salvo also just wanted to take the time to thank the Highway Department and their crew for all of their hard work with the last unexpected snow storm. He added that they do not get enough credit for all of the work they do and emphasized that it is not an easy job.

VI. Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Ms. Steele to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2019 (Executive Session). Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: 3-2 [Mr. Bramwell and Mr. Flaherty Abstained]. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: 4-1 [Ms. Steele Abstained]. MOTION CARRIES.

VIII. Warrants

Report of Chairman Robert W. Kimball, Jr. on the following Payroll and Invoice Warrants:

- A. Approve Payroll Warrant PR19-18, for the week ended February 23, 2019, Warrant dated February 28, 2019, in the amount of \$1,363,171.24.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Payroll Warrant PR19-18, for the week ended February 23, 2019, Warrant dated February 28, 2019, in

the amount of \$1,363,171.24. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Approve Invoice Warrant AP19-35, dated February 28, 2019, in the amount of \$1,197,547.88.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Invoice Warrant AP19-35, dated February 28, 2019, in the amount of \$1,197,547.88. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

C. Approve Invoice Warrant AP19-36, dated March 7, 2019, in the amount of \$1,077,553.89.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Invoice Warrant AP19-36, dated March 7, 2019, in the amount of \$1,077,553.89. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

IX. **Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

X. **Next Meeting's Agenda**

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2019. Mr. Salvo mentioned that he is going to try and have Ashley Nichols from Flaky Crust come in to talk about her business, how they are doing, and what they sell. Mr. Kimball added possibly trying again to have the Interim Water/Sewer Superintendent come in.

XI. **Executive Session**

There was no need for an executive session.

XII. **Adjournment**

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:08 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

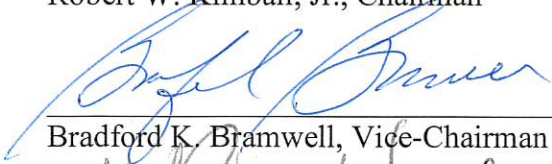
Respectfully Submitted by:



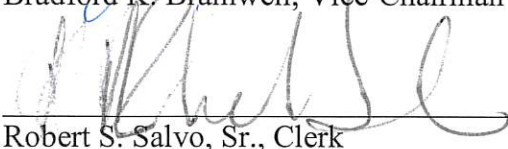
Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 7, 2019**

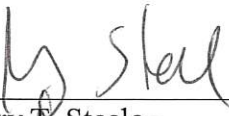
Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Chairman



Bradford K. Bramwell, Vice-Chairman



Robert S. Salvo, Sr., Clerk



Mary T. Steele



Michael Flaherty

Minutes Approved by Board on: 3/21/19