



TOWN OF NORTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MUNICIPAL CENTER,
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**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019**

I. Call to Order by Chairman

The November 5, 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. Michael Flaherty, Vice-Chairman. Member(s) present: Mr. John Conway and Ms. Renee Deley. Also in attendance: Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

II. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

a. Appointment of Roger Harden as Plumbing and Gas Inspector.

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to appoint Roger Harden as Plumbing and Gas Inspector. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

b. Resignation of Kevin O'Neil from the Permanent Building Committee.

Mr. Yunits stated that anyone that is interested in serving on the Permanent Building Committee to please submit a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager mentioned that the Selectmen have a joint meeting with the School Committee on December 5, 2019 and this position has to be voted on by both the Selectmen and the School Committee.

c. Appointment of Water Treatment Plant Employees:

Primary Treatment Operator – Derek Sirtoli
Secondary Treatment Operator – Brian Caldwell
Secondary Treatment Operator – Christopher Perry

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to appoint Derek Sirtoli as the Primary Treatment Plant Operator. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to appoint Brian Caldwell as the Secondary Treatment Plant Operator. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to appoint Christopher Perry as the Secondary Treatment Plant Operator. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Water/Sewer Superintendent, Frank Fournier, III, gave an update on the new water treatment plant to the Selectmen. Mr. Fournier explained that the Primary Treatment

Plant Operator is going to be the lead technician at the plant. DEP requires a minimum of 35 hours per week (first shift) to be on hand and provide any necessary training and explanations for the Second Treatment Plant Operator. The Second Treatment Plant Operator will cover second shift, weekends, and any other shifts that the Primary Treatment Plant Operator is not on hand/available. Mr. Fournier explained that the State mandates at least three operators, so now with a Primary Operator and two Secondary Operator they meet the minimum state mandate.

III. Licenses and Permits

1. Request of Norton Recreation Commission for authorization to close Library Square from approximately 4:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. for the Festival of Lights to be held on the Town Common from approximately 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on December 8, 2019.

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to close Library Square from approximately 4:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. for the Festival of Lights to be held on the Town Common from approximately 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on December 8, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

IV. Announcements

1. Mr. Conway announced that Monday, November 11, 2019 is the Norton Veterans' Council Veterans' Day Parade, which will assemble at the Henri A. Yelle School parking lot, 64 West Main Street, at 9:30 A.M. In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Henri A. Yelle gymnasium. The parade will proceed east on Main Street to the stone monument on the corner of Pine Street and East Main Street for a brief ceremony. Upon completion, the procession will reform and proceed west to the Town Common for continued Veterans' Day ceremonies to include guest speaker past National Commander of the American Legion, John P. Comer and conclude with a brief ceremony at the Master Sergeant Trent Memorial. Upon completion of all events, formation will reform and return to the Henri A. Yelle Elementary School where refreshments will be available in the cafeteria.

2. Mr. Flaherty announced that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Tax Classification Hearing in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 7:15 P.M. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Norton Municipal Center, 70 East Main Street.

V. Business

A. New Business

i. Blue Star Industrial Park, Leonard Street – Discussion on Road Work and Road Closures.

Mike Valenti, a representative of GVC Construction, Inc., who is working with Condyne on the Blue Star Industrial Park, came before the Selectmen to give an update. He stated that they would be doing all of the off-site roadwork and utility construction as part of the development. Mr. Valenti advised that Leonard Street would require partial street closures and detours in order to do the utility work and eventually the road work. He added that as part of the project there will be improvements from East Main Street to 54 Leonard Street (equaling approximately 3,000 feet. As part of this, there are utility crossings for water/sewer drainage. In order to complete these crossings, Mr. Valenti advised that they will be required to shut down Leonard Street, which he explained would pose a problem mainly to Fire and Emergency vehicles along with schools. Part of the meeting Mr. Valenti's company had on

October 28, 2019 was how to accommodate students up to 54 Leonard Street, which he explained in further detail to the Selectmen and Town Manager. Mr. Valenti mentioned that he had already had discussions with Matthew Wells, the School Business Administrator, about the turnaround that has already been constructed for the buses picking up and dropping off students so they could have their Transportation Department look and make sure it is acceptable, which they determined it was. Mr. Valenti advised the Selectmen that when they do work that requires closure on a weekend that they will give 24 hours-notice.

Mr. Valenti moved on to discuss the force main on East Main Street (specifically from house numbered 142) from Leonard Street. He mentioned that there is a new 6-inch water main going down the west-bound lane of traffic across the two bridges through the Mass DOT area into Leonard Street down to a pump station that they will be building on Leonard, which will handle the sewer flows coming out of the site. Mr. Valenti stated that there is a “pinch point” between 142 and 195 East Main Street and suggested as the detour, having the traffic limited to west-bound coming into Norton and divert east-bound traffic down Pine Street and Plain Street and come up South Washington Street. The second phase would divert down South Washington Street and onto Plain Street, down Burt Street, and then back onto East Main Street. Mr. Valenti emphasized that the reasoning for the closure of one lane of traffic flow is for safety reasons and emergency vehicles being able to get through. The second reason is for the school buses being able to safely and timely get through to pick-up and drop-off students.

Ms. Deley asked from the October 28, 2019 meeting with representatives of the Fire Department, Police Department and School Department what the main concerns were that were brought up, which Mr. Valenti answered was the schools. Ms. Deley asked when phase one and two would be starting and Mr. Valenti answered this month (November). He further explained that they would be working through the winter until inclement weather stops them. Ms. Deley asked how long phase one would take and Mr. Valenti answered it would be about a month. Ms. Deley asked what hours they would be working. Mr. Valenti stated that they are proposing 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. during the winter and 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during the spring. Ms. Deley expressed concerns because those are the hours the school buses are operating and stated that she would be interested to hear how the schools felt about the work hours. Mr. Valenti explained that they focused more on how the buses were going to be able to get through, but they did not discuss in detail the traffic that will be caused by the L.G. Nourse Elementary School. Chief Brian Clark of the Police Department came before the Selectmen explaining that he did not have an issue with the plan presented, but admitted that this would be an inconvenience and cause more traffic by the L.G. Nourse. Chief Clark added that there is also going to need to be at least three police officers doing traffic detail. As part of the discussion, Mr. Conway suggested that an additional traffic detail officer be stationed at the elementary school. Ms. Deley suggested delaying the closing of the streets until 7:45 A.M., so a majority of the traffic would have already come through. Mr. Valenti stated that this is something they could look into as a solution, but working 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. shouldn't be an issue.

Ms. Deley asked the Town Manager to look into the school zone signs because she believes they are not timed appropriately. Chief Clark said that he will look into it. Mr. Conway mentioned that a resident of Burt Street voiced concerns about the increased traffic on their street along with the amount of tractor trailer trucks coming through and asked if there was anything further the Town could do for enforcement of speed, etc. Chief Clark replied that they have done the Burt Street detour from when they did the bridge construction located at

274 East Main Street and there weren't any issues, but stated that they could add this to the extra patrols. He suggested possibly two additional patrols at this location. Ms. Deley suggested having the tractor trailer trucks have a different detour route than the other vehicles in order to avoid the additional traffic, such as putting signs at Route 140 diverting this traffic to 495 as opposed to down Pine Street, Plain Street, and South Washington Street. She suggested putting some signage at the intersections of Route 140 and Route 123 to direct tractor trailer trucks towards I-495 as opposed to the suggested backroads detour (possibly down Bay Road). Mr. Valenti stated they would be placing VMS boards that construction is ahead and to seek alternate routes, so they could alter the message to have track trailers seek the alternate route as suggested by Ms. Deley (with the sign being at Route 140). Mr. Valenti suggested putting the other VMS at Burt Street to try and divert the traffic down Bay Road. Mr. Yunits supported this by referring to the construction working going on in Easton explaining that they are doing this and it seems to be working well.

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to support the road closures as amended tonight during the discussion. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits wanted to mention while the O'Neils were in attendance that the current fire alarm systems used are hard-wired, which he expressed that he hopes someday they replace with a radio receiver system. However, the buildings being put in at the Blue Star Business Park will be this radio receiver system. Mr. Conway mentioned that he had heard that a park was going to be put in where the driving range used to be on the property and asked if this is something Condyne was putting in or the Town. Tom O'Neil of Condyne answered that there is one part of the property near house numbered 54 that will have a small gravel parking area and a three foot wide walking path for access down to Canoe River and back, which was part of the agreement Condyne made with Conservation. Mr. O'Neil clarified that this will simply be open space not a park.

ii. Report of Police Chief and Fire Chief Regarding Overtime.

Mr. Yunits explained that the Fire Chief couldn't be in attendance due to the change of the day of the meeting from Thursday to Tuesday because he teaches a class, but Chief Simmons did provide a report. Chief Clark mentioned that he has already explained what he is going to explain tonight to the Finance Committee. He outlined what the overtime is used for. For example, 65% of the overtime used is to cover when officers are out (vacation, personal, sick leave, and holidays) to make sure three officers are on the roads and 15% is for compensation time or miscellaneous calls (military leave, community events, maintaining equipment, etc.). Chief Clark further explained that training is about 11% of overtime. He pointed out that one of the questions that was posed by Finance Committee members was if the Town were to hire more officers would overtime decrease, which Chief Clark confirmed, but emphasized that it is not 1:1. For instance, if an officer was hired it would cost \$70,000, but would save the Town \$31,000 in overtime costs. So, if the Town were to hire two new police officers it would cost about \$141,000, but the Town would save about \$81,000 in overtime costs. So, the overall increase in the budget would be about \$60,000. Chief Clark mentioned that since 2012 nine officers have left, so they are just starting to backfill these positions while also trying to add officers. He stated that he also looked at the budget from 1998 and in that budget overtime, which falls under the personal services account. Overtime accounted for 12% of the personal services account in 1998. In 2019, overtime also accounted for 12% of the personal

services account. Mr. Flaherty asked what the population increase has been since 1998. Chief Clark estimated about 7,000 people.

Ms. Deley asked if they had thought about having a “flex position” where the officer would be filling in shifts when necessary. Chief Clark answered no and that this would have to be done contractually, which cannot be done at this time. Contractually there are only four shifts at this time and a flex shift would create a fifth. Chief Clark further stated that he is allowed to change an officer’s schedule for up to 45 days, but if he was changing the schedule every 45 days that would be an issue.

Mr. Yunits informed the Selectmen that the Fire Chief stated that if anyone had any questions regarding the information he provided to feel free to contact him. Ms. Deley asked to have the Fire Chief at the next meeting, which Mr. Yunits agreed to asking him

iii. Review of Cemetery Department Fee Schedule.

Mr. Yunits stated that the only changes to the fee schedule provided was the perpetual care, which increased from \$200 to \$250; opening of a grave increased from \$300 to \$400; and flat markers increased from \$100 to \$150; and bronze markers from \$100 to \$150. Mr. Yunits explained that the same engineering company that worked with the cemetery department on their rules also worked with them on comparing what fees they were charging to comparable communities and that was the recommendations they came up with.

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to support the amended cemetery department fee schedule. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Old Business

1. Update on Wreaths Across America.

Patricia Tarantino, Chairperson of Wreaths Across America, informed the Selectmen that they are only eighteen wreaths shy of their sales goal of 600 wreaths. Mr. Flaherty told Ms. Tarantino to put him down for the remaining eighteen wreaths. Ms. Tarantino thanked him for his generous donation. She added that Wreaths Across America is now on Norton Media Center and that the event is Saturday, December 14th at 12:00 P.M. at the common cemetery, which is across from St. Mary’s Church.

The following agenda items will be discussed at the next meeting due to time constrictions:

- Water Bodies Discussion
- Discussion on Inquiries into Marijuana Facilities; and
- Discussion and/or Revote on Remote Participation

C. Town Manager’s Report

V. Selectmen’s Report and Mail

Mr. Conway stated that Chartley Fire Station would be closing as of today due to staffing and overtime, but will be reconsidered for weather events. Mr. Yunits stated that this was correct and further explained that they are down four people at this time and one person has retired.

Mr. Conway also stated that a resident voiced concerns about dirt piles at the Reed and Barton property. There is one pile in the parking lot as well as on the site itself. He asked Mr. Yunits if he knew which was the clean pile, which Mr. Yunits stated he would look into. Mr. Yunits explained that when they are pulling the oil tanks out of the ground, they are taking the soil from there and putting it in the pile in the parking lot. The Town Manager informed the Selectmen that the other dirt pile could be the demo material, which is clean. Mr. Conway asked Mr. Yunits if DEP or EPA is responsible for moving that pile once they are finished. Mr. Yunits stated he was unsure, but would find out from the Building Commissioner. Mr. Conway asked if there was a timeline for when Buildings K and G were being taken down. Mr. Yunits answered that the contract is being reviewed now because they plan to do it before winter. Mr. Flaherty asked if there were any issues from the recent storm. The Town Manager answered the only thing was the fencing across the street. Mr. Conway asked if there will be any erosion controls at the site, which Mr. Yunits confirmed. The Town Manager advised the Selectmen that an emergency Order of Conditions was issued by Conservation at their last meeting.

VI. **Meeting Minutes**

VIII. **Warrants**

Report of Vice-Chairman, Michael Flaherty, that the following Payroll and Invoice Warrants he approved:

A. Payroll Warrant PR20-09, for the week ended October 19, 2019, Warrant dated October 24, 2019, in the amount of \$1,387,747.92.

B. Invoice Warrant AP20-17, dated October 24, 2019, in the amount of \$101,654.63.

C. Invoice Warrant AP20-18, dated October 31, 2019, in the amount of \$4,670,430.03.

Ms. Deley asked the Town Manager to follow-up on the topic of remote participation with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals specifically about obtaining signatures for the document provided. Mr. Yunits informed the Selectmen that the Board of Health opted out of remote participation since they only have a three-member board.

IX. **Other Business**

X. **Next Meeting's Agenda** – November 21, 2019


XI. **Executive Session**

XII. **Adjournment**

MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:13 P.M. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.


URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkGI8JiuQG4>

Respectfully Submitted by:

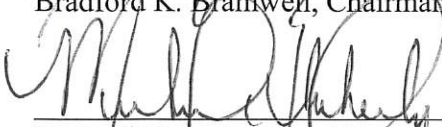


Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

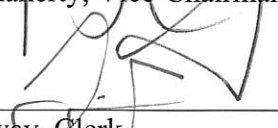
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2019**



Bradford K. Bramwell, Chairman



Michael Flaherty, Vice-Chairman



John Conway, Clerk



Mary T. Steele

Renee Deley

Minutes Approved by Board on: February 6, 2020