

Finance Committee Joint Meeting with Select Board

October 18, 2021

7:00PM

Meeting held via remote participation

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Meeting Called to order at 7:00pm

Attendance: Aimee Sawyer, Paula Daniels, Kevin Snyder, Joe Parker, Stephen Evans, Yelena Gordon, Zach Tsilis, William Rotondi, Bonnie Yezukevich

Absent: Michael Fiore

Updates:

Two additional liquor licenses

- Discuss Article 12. This article has to do with filing special legislation for two additional liquor licenses for Norton
- The select board did discuss Article 12 at their last meeting
- Aimee was able to attend the selectboard meeting where these two additional licenses were discussed
- The selectboard voted on the two additional liquor licenses. Two votes to not recommend the two additional liquor licenses and one vote was an abstention
- The selectboards biggest concern with this particular article is that it specifically calls out Blue Star as the location for one of the new licenses
- It does not just give a general area that would be acceptable for a new liquor store
- The selectboard fears that because the article is so specific as to where one of the licenses will be used, Blue Star Industrial Park, that it makes it anti-competitive because the petitioner already has a lease agreement pending the approval of this article
- The selectboard would be supportive of the article for the two additional liquor licenses if the language was broader and if it went through a competitive process
- The selectboard encouraged the petitioner to amend the article on town meeting floor, but because it is a petition article there is no mechanism for us to amend it throughout the course of this process
- Discussion on where the wording of the article in question originated from
- Discussion on additional concerns regarding how specific the wording was about the location of the potential liquor store if the article was approved
- Discussion on whether or not to move this article, and any town resident that is registered to vote has the ability to move this article at town meeting and amend the language for the petitioner

- Discussion on how the liquor licenses are tied to marijuana licenses and the concern that if the article passes granting two more liquor licenses there will be additional licenses for a marijuana establishment
- If these two additional licenses were granted Norton would be up to 3 available marijuana licenses
- Discussion on how to properly handle this article during the town meeting since it is not completely ready to be moved

Bonnie – I move that we recommend article 12

Seconded

Vote: Yes – 0 No – 9

Motion Fails

- Discussion on upcoming meetings, where they will be located, when they will be, and what will be covered

Bonnie – I move that we adjourn at 7:24pm

Seconded

Vote: Yes – 9 No – 0

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Rachel Medas, FinCom Secretary

Minutes Approved by Committee on:

6/6/2022

Signature:

Aimee Sawyer
Aimee Sawyer, Finance Committee Chair