



TOWN OF NORTON  
SELECT BOARD  
MUNICIPAL CENTER  
70 EAST MAIN STREET  
NORTON, MA 02766

Telephone (508) 285-0210; Facsimile (508) 285-0297

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2021

NORTON TOWN CLERK

FEB 22 2021  
3:43 AM  
RECEIVED

I. Call to Order by Chair

The January 7, 2021 meeting of the Norton Select Board was held remotely (Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6391519600>; Phone: 646-558 8656; Meeting ID: 639 151 9600, and was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mr. John Conway, Chair. Member(s) present: Ms. Renee Deley, Mr. Michael Toole, Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell, and Ms. Megan Artz. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

II. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

1. Appointment of Christopher Fisher as a **Provisional** Full-Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic to the Norton Fire Department.

**MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to appoint Christopher Fisher as a Provisional Full-Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic to the Norton Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Mr. Bramwell – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

III. Licenses and Permits

1. 2021 License Renewals.

The 2021 License Renewals specified on the “2021 License Renewals” document presented to the Select Board at the January 7, 2021 Select Board meeting were all approved as written.

(CV):

Stone Restaurant Group, Inc.  
d/b/a AJ's Stone Oven Pizzeria  
288 East Main St.

CV (REVOTE)

Swamp Donkeys LLC  
113 Mansfield Avenue

CV

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve/renew the above 2021 licenses as specified on document, “2021 License Renewals”, Page 1 as presented to the Board on January 7, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Bramwell – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Conway took the time to share condolences with Ms. Artz who lost her father-in-law, Mr. Toole who lost his father, and Chief Clark who lost his mother.

#### IV. **Announcements**

##### 1. Norton Parks & Recreation: DJ Nate Visits.

For a \$10+ donation to Norton Parks & Recreation, DJ Nate will come to your house and play 5 or more songs of your choosing. Contact Sharon Rice at [RiceS@nortonmaus.com](mailto:RiceS@nortonmaus.com) or call (508) 285-0228.

2. Mr. Toole reported a message from Ms. Beth Rossi, Director of the Council on Aging/Human Services, that the grab-and-go meals will increase to four days a week, Tuesday through Friday, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Registration in advance is required. Please call (508) 285-0235 to do so.

Ms. Rossi also wanted the Board to remind everyone that Norton Human Services is available to help any town member who is struggling during the time of COVID-19 or with heat (can provide fuel assistance).

Lastly, Ms. Rossi wanted to remind residents that the AARP Senior Tax Program will start mid-February. Mr. Toole reported that it fills up quickly since space is limited, so please contact the Senior Center to book your appointment.

3. Mr. Toole stated that Ms. Estelle Flett, the Veterans' Agent, wanted to inform the Board that the Wreaths Across America event was very successful this year. All of the Norton veterans' graves were covered with a wreath and Ms. Flett wanted to thank everyone who donated and volunteered their time to make this successful. Mr. Toole relayed Ms. Flett's message that the Veterans' Office is always there to support veterans and their families. The Veterans' Office can be reached at (508) 285-0274.

4. Mr. Toole wanted to take the time to recognize the Town employees and the efforts they have been putting in. He emphasized that people don't understand or realize how stressful it is to offer the services and support especially during times of COVID-19. Mr. Toole took the time to recognize Ms. Estelle Flett, Veterans' Agent, Ms. Beth Rossi, Director of the Council on Aging/Human Services, and Ms. Sharon Rice, Director of Parks & Recreation for the work they have done to keep these programs going and trying to help residents.

#### V. **Business**

##### A. **New Business**

##### 1. Discussion on the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program at the Norton Fire Department.

Fire Chief, Shawn Simmons, informed the Select Board that Norton is one of the first towns to be part of this program, which they have been using a lot with COVID-19 patients. Chief Simmons acknowledged the EMS Director, Captain Michael Wilson, for the work he has done getting the MIH Program going.

Captain Wilson stated that this program has been going full speed the past couple years. He explained that basically the patient is discharged and then they would typically have to return in 30 days, which would result in the hospital getting fined and wouldn't be paid for by the insurance company for Medicare patients. In result, the drive behind the program was to start a program where the paramedics could go out and check on the patient and do any necessary follow-up work to avoid having the patient go back to the hospital. Captain Wilson advised that because of COVID-19, the licensing fee to sign-up was waived. He reported that Norton, Plainville, and Mansfield, who began participating in the program in June, are the municipalities in the area doing it. He further explained that the COVID-19 patients who are sent home to recover are monitored during the crucial time frame where they usually start to deteriorate (usually between days 5 and 7) to try and keep them stable and at home. Captain Wilson pointed out that because this is a free service, there is no funding for this program with the exception of the ambulance fee they can collect. He advised that paramedics do the in-person evaluation and the doctor does their assessment via Telehealth and may have the paramedics do more treatment such as nebulizer treatment, anti-nausea medication, provide oxygen, etc.

Mr. Toole asked how this fits into the normal schedule for the Fire Department and the staff. Captain Wilson stated that it has to be a non-transport vehicle that goes there and they put a text out to the 9 members who are trained to do this and it has to be a person that is off-duty that goes to this appointment. Mr. Toole asked if this program can be used to administer the vaccine to the vulnerable population that is afraid to leave their homes, which Captain Wilson confirmed. Mr. Toole then questioned if they have benchmarked a plan as far as who will be receiving the vaccine. Chief Simmons reported that the Fire Department will be getting their first round of vaccinations on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Chief said that himself, Ms. Donna Palmer (the Public Health Nurse), and Mr. Yunits have all spoken about a plan for administering the vaccine. Chief Simmons further stated that Ms. Palmer reported from a phone call that it was a regionalized plan to administer the vaccine. Mr. Toole urged Chief Simmons and Mr. Yunits to come up with a plan for rolling out the vaccine to the Town and have it ready. Mr. Yunits expressed a frustration with not hearing any plans from the State as far as regionalizing administering the vaccines.

Mr. Toole thanked Captain Wilson for taking the leadership role with this program. Captain Wilson said there is a certain license that he has been waiting to get since Halloween and had put in at least 15 voicemails and e-mails with no answer. He said he contacted the Town Manager and got him involved. Captain Wilson said it wasn't until after Mr. Yunits' involvement that the head of the State lab finally got involved and responded and then he had everything he was looking for within a half an hour. Captain Wilson also acknowledged Chief Simmons and stated that the Chief is always giving acknowledgments, yet he is there nights and weekends and deserves gratitude because he is right there with everyone just as much as they are.

Mr. Yunits acknowledged and thanked Representative Steven Howitt. The Town Manager said after he contacted him for his help, Representative Howitt called him right back and then called back two more times to follow-up and make sure they had everything they needed.

Ms. Deley thanked Chief Simmons and Captain Wilson for everything they have done and continue to do.

**B. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**C. Town Manager's Report**

1. Mr. Yunits stated that he wanted to get the Board thinking about what they want to discuss during the joint meeting with the School Committee. The Town Manager asked that the Board give him any ideas for topics and he would share them with the other committee members and the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Yunits listed a few topics of discussion that they were already thinking of having on the agenda, including Athletix Complex, Town Hall and Senior/Community Center, FEMA and Cares Act funding, and any concerns/general discussion about the FY22 budget.

**VI. Select Board's Report and Mail**

**1. Xfinity – Regional Sports Networks and Programming Changes.**

Mr. Yunits said that this letter just announced that subscribers wouldn't be losing Channel 5. He advised that the letter also refers to channels that haven't had any sports content and informs customers that Xfinity is in negotiations with those stations to get reimbursed for these channels and 100% of the money that gets reimbursed will go to the customers.

2. Mr. Toole advised that he they had the group meeting regarding traffic concerns/issues with Home Market Foods that included a representative of the company, neighbors, public safety, and the Town Manager and it went really well. Mr. Toole acknowledged Mr. Dan Anderson, the representative of Home Market Foods, commenting that he was very gracious, receptive, and open to finding solutions to those concerns.

Mr. Conway mentioned that in previous discussions they had asked to put up two "Autistic Children" signs on either side of the road in that area and asked Mr. Yunits to follow-up on having those placed, which Mr. Yunits confirmed he would do.

3. Ms. Deley informed the Board that Mr. Yunits and herself had a meeting with town counsel pertaining to the negotiations for a proposal for a delivery Host Community Agreement (HCA) for marijuana. Ms. Deley advised that they have questions for the applicant based on what was submitted. The applicant will meet with the Economic Development Commission (EDC) first and then come to the Select Board.

Ms. Deley mentioned that she has had a conversation with Mr. Alex DiPietro of Exit 10 LLC about hurdles the company has faced within their organization and will hopefully have an amended HCA agreement to the EDC soon.

**VII. Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2020 and December 17, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Mr. Bramwell – Yes; Ms. Deley – Abstain; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**



## VIII. Warrants

Report of Chair, John Conway, on the following Payroll and Invoice Warrants:

- A. Payroll Warrant PR21-14 for the week ended December 26, 2020, Warrant dated December 31, 2020, in the amount of \$1,454,268.82.
- B. Invoice Warrant AP21-26 dated December 24, 2020, in the amount of \$667,580.68.
- C. Invoice Warrant AP21-27 dated December 31, 2020, in the amount of \$986,599.57.
- D. Invoice Warrant AP21-28 dated January 7, 2021, in the amount of \$309,104.66.

## IX. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

X. Next Meeting's Agenda – January 14, 2021 – Joint meeting with the School Committee (and possibly the Finance Committee as well).

## XI. Executive Session

- 1. To consider the purchase of real property.
- 2. To discuss strategy with respect to collect bargaining

## XII. Adjournment

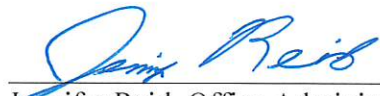
Declaration by the Chairperson, John Conway, was made as follows:

I declare, under General Laws Chapter 30A, §21(a)(3) and §21(a)(6), that the purpose of the executive session will be to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to consider the purchase of real property because a discussion of the strategy in open session could compromise the purpose of the executive session and with the Board to not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

**MOTION was made at 7:49 P.M. by Ms. Deley to have the Board go into executive session under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) §21(a)(6) for the purposes and reasons declared by the Chairperson and with the Board to not return to open session thereafter. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Bramwell – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

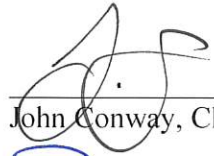
URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FptzdMLm8kA>

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2021**



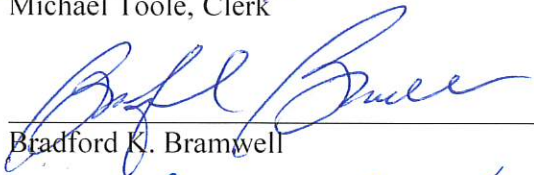
John Conway, Chair



Renee Deley, Vice-Chair



Michael Toole, Clerk



Bradford K. Bramwell



Megan Artz

Minutes Approved by Board on: February 18, 2021