



TOWN OF NORTON
SELECT BOARD
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Select Board
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2021

I. **Call to Order by Chair**

The April 15, 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 6:02 P.M., by Mr. John Conway, Chair. Member(s) present: Ms. Renee Deley, Mr. Michael Toole, and Ms. Megan Artz. Ms. Christine Deveau arrived during the executive session at 6:12 P.M. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

II. **Executive Session.**

1. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.
2. To discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. Town Manager, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2).

DECLARATION BY THE CHAIR:

I declare, under General Laws Chapter 30A, §21(a)(3) and §21(a)(2), that the purpose of the executive session will be to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining and negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. Town Manager, because a discussion of the strategies in open session could compromise the purpose of the executive session and with the Board to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley at 6:06 P.M. for the Board to go into executive session under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) and §21(a)(2) for the purposes and reasons declared by the Chair and with the Board to return to open session thereafter. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

III. **Public Comment**

The Board returned from the executive session at 7:51 P.M. At this time, all Select Board members were present.

Ms. Deley explained that one of the things the Board has talked about is their long meetings. She stated that one of the ways towns have dealt with this is to open the meeting to public comment to allow people to speak to the agenda items. At this time, Ms. Deley asked those in attendance if there was anyone who wanted to speak.

Mr. Brandon Noble stated that he wanted to acknowledge and thank everyone for their ongoing efforts, especially the Norton Police Department, who has put up a solar-powered radar speeding sign. He stated that he can see all of the efforts being put in and thanked Ms. Deley for contacting Mr. Matthew Wells, the School Business Manager, who observed the traffic issues. Mr. Noble thanked everyone genuinely again for the efforts being made and commented that it will be a long road, but he appreciated what has been done thus far.

IV. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

1. Appointment of Jared Ferrara as Foreman to the Highway Department.

Mr. Yunits stated that Mr. Ferrara has been with the department for a number of years and this position became open because of a retirement. The Town Manager informed the Board that he is experienced in construction and very knowledgeable.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to approve the appointment of Jared Ferrara as Foreman to the Highway Department. Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Appointment of Melissa J. McGuinness to the Full-Time Clerical (A Group) Position in the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Department.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the appointment of Melissa J. McGuinness to the Full-Time Clerical (A Group) Position in the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Department. Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Resignation of Rob Kerr from the Recreation Commission.

4. Resignation of Christine Deveau from the Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Deley mentioned that there are two alternate seats available for the Economic Development Commission (EDC) if anyone was interested.

5. Appointment of Select Board Representative to the Capital Improvements Committee.

Mr. Yunits stated that they meet four or five times before town meeting to review and approve any expenditures for capital improvements. He advised that the Capital Improvements Committee already made their decisions for this year, but they need to have one more meeting before town meeting because one cost came in cheaper than previously anticipated, so they need to ratify that amount. Mr. Yunits advised that they meet on Mondays at 6:00 P.M. when there is a meeting scheduled.

Ms. Artz asked if it was just regarding the budget for capital improvements. Mr. Yunits explained that Department Heads present to the committee and the Capital Improvements Committee makes decisions on what the Town can afford for capital projects.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to nominate Christine Deveau to the Capital Improvements Committee. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

V. Licenses and Permits

1. Vote to Approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Nicholas Rasher for a Private Event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M on June 27, 2021.

Ms. Deley asked that the COVID-19 protocols be addressed and Mr. Yunits said he would speak with the Board of Health Agent about this.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Nicholas Rasher for a private event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M on June 27, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Deley noted that approximately 86 people were anticipated to attend this event.

2. Vote to Approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Jenn Howard for a Private Event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. on June 12, 2021.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Jenn Howard for a private event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. on June 12, 2021 Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes. Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Deley noted that approximately 50 people were anticipated to attend this event.

3. Vote to Approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Samantha Wolk for a Private Event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. on May 30, 2021.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Samantha Wolk for a private event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. on May 30, 2021 Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Deley noted that 60 people were anticipated to attend this event.

4. Vote to Approve the One-Day All Alcohol License to Stephen A. Donaghey for a Private Event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on July 10, 2021.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the One-Day All Alcohol License to Stephen A. Donaghey for a private event at the Everett Leonard Park from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on July 10, 2021 Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms.

Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Deley noted that 90 people were anticipated to attend this event.

5. Vote to Approve the One-Day All Alcohol License to Felicia Doble for a Private Event at the Everett Leonard Park from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on May 29, 2021.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the One-Day All Alcohol License to Felicia Doble for a private event at the Everett Leonard Park from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on May 29, 2021 Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Deley noted that 60 people were anticipated to attend this event.

VI. Announcements

1. 2021 World Autism Awareness Day & World Autism Month Proclamation.

Mr. Toole read the proclamation noting that the Bristol County Commissioners proclaimed April 2021 as World Autism Month and April 2, 2021 as World Autism Awareness Day in Bristol County Massachusetts to create a kinder, more inclusive world for people with autism spectrum disorder.

Mr. Conway recognized Police Chief Brian Clark for the article in the Sun Chronicle with the Norton Police Department collaborating with the Community Counseling of Bristol County to implement the co-responder model.

2. Edith Read Mother Nature Sculpture.

Mr. Toole read the e-mail from the Conservation Agent, Ms. Jennifer Carlino stating that the Mother Nature sculpture will begin Monday April 19, 2021. She stated that she and Mr. David Cavannah, who is carving the sculpture, will be at the property in front of the sculpture on Earth Day, April 22, 2021 at noon and everyone is welcome to visit. The Smokey the Bear was installed last fall with two generous donations from B & B Landscaping and Anonymous allowed for them to install both sculptures.

3. Greater Attleboro Area Council for Children: Savers Clothing Drive.

Mr. Toole advised that the drop-off center is located at 135 County Street, Attleboro, MA and provided the following collection dates and times: Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. April 10 & 24th; May 8th & 22nd; and June 5th. They accept clothing, shoes, bedding/towels, and accessories. Mr. Conway noted that they are doing it contactless. Ms. Deley said she participated this past weekend and it was great. Mr. Toole advised that if anyone who wanted to participate and has questions to contact (508) 641-2777.

VII. Business

A. New Business

1. Discuss and/or Vote to Approve the Norton Police Association and Norton Police Superior Officers Association Contracts.

Mr. Yunits stated that they agreed to a 2% increase, increase in educational assistance, training and establishing in Norton police Superior Officers Association grades for Detectives and the Resource Officer.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the Norton Police Association and Norton Police Superior Officers Association contracts. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Vote to Accept the Town Manager's Composite Performance Evaluation as Reviewed and Delivered on April 8, 2021.

Mr. Conway asked if Mr. Yunits would like his self-evaluation included with their evaluation, which Mr. Yunits confirmed he would.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to accept the Town Manager's composite performance evaluation as reviewed and delivered on April 8, 2021 with the addition of the self-review provided to the Board today. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Deley asked to address the Board's goals at their May 13, 2021 meeting and to have this section during the performance evaluation portion.

3. Discussion on South Worcester Street Traffic Vis-à-Vis Home Market Foods.

Police Chief Brian Clark stated that they continue to be down at Home Market Foods every day. He noted that a solar-speed sign was installed and social media conversations asked what this was, so Chief Clark provided an explanation on that. He informed the Board that there was a concern that was brought up about opening the Woodward gate and Chief Clark advised the resident that at this time this isn't a point of concern or anything they are considering at this time. Mr. Toole expressed his appreciation for Chief Clark and the Norton Police Department for taking care of this. Chief Clark mentioned that they really got Spirit Delivery's attention and this is a great step forward to resolving these issues.

Mr. Toole expressed that he would like Mr. Yunits to come up with a procedure for the Select Board to be able to adjust speed limits. Mr. Yunits confirmed that he would work on this and stated that this is something that would have to be on the October Town Meeting where the Town would have to adopt the Massachusetts General Law that would allow for the Select Board to lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. Mr. Toole asked Chief Clark if he thought this was a smart move. Chief Clark replied that he believes it is and that they should consider having an article for this on the October Town Meeting warrant.

Ms. Deveau expressed a concern about a comment made at a previous meeting that the drivers joke about not being licensed and asked if the Norton Police Department could check this. Chief Clark advised the Board that they cannot do anything at this time because they don't know who the employees are; however, if there was a traffic stop made for a violation and they saw they did not have a license they would be arrested.

Ms. Deley stated that the School Business Manager, Mr. Matthew Wells, went to the intersection of Gaffney Farm Drive and South Worcester to observe the bus stop location between 7:30 A.M. and 7:50 A.M. and he noted that he didn't observe any speeding. Mr. Wells reported that a resident did approach him stating that the yellow trucks that park overnight are the ones speeding in the morning between 5:30 A.M. and 7:30 A.M. and returning again 2:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Ms. Deley further stated that Mr. Wells said he didn't observe anything, but that was probably because an officer was there. Mr. Wells indicated to Ms. Deley that the school is looking into changing the bus stop from being on the side where Home Market Foods is located.

Mr. Yunits informed the Board that he would check with the Assessor to see how many vehicles are registered there with Norton if they are parking there overnight. Mr. Toole asked that the Fire Department be asked about Spirit as well because they have had issues with them. Mr. Toole said one of the problems is on Mr. Dan Anderson's property. He stated that the property next to Home Market Foods the drivers are leaving through the front gate and asked that boulders or something are put there so they can't come out to make sure everyone is held responsible.

Mr. Dan Anderson, Manager of Home Market Foods, conveyed to the Board that they have funds to put a gate between their property and Thermo King, so that will be done in Q3 or Q4. Fire Chief Shawn Simmons advised that a couple of years ago Spirit Delivery was a challenge to work with due to failed inspections resulting in citations that accrued to \$1,500.

4. Review and/or Vote on Annual and Special Town Meeting Articles and FY22 Budget.

Mr. Yunits stated the Select Board has another joint meeting with the Finance Committee on Wednesday, April 21st. Mr. Conway advised that two Select Board members may be travelling and not available to meet on that date. Ms. Deley asked if there were any items that are no action that can be cleared/addressed at this meeting. Mr. Yunits answered that the Board could vote on Articles 20 and 21.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to remove Articles 20 (OPEB) and 21 (Stabilization) from the warrant of the Annual Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Conway, Ms. Artz, and Ms. Deveau confirmed their availability for the April 21st joint meeting with the Finance Committee. Ms. Deley and Mr. Toole advised that they will be traveling and not in attendance.

Mr. Toole briefly stepped away at 8:49 P.M.

Mr. Yunits gave an overview of the articles that have been approved by the Select Board and Finance Committee so far. Ms. Deley referred to a previous town meeting warrant list and noted that two articles were removed. Mr. Yunits explained that those who requested the articles be placed on the warrant told him that they didn't need them anymore, so they were taken off. Ms. Deley questioned if that was the correct protocol and to make sure that town counsel is asked if this is proper procedure, which Mr. Yunits confirmed he would do.

In reference to Article 13 (Reserved: Land Swap Between Town and Waste Management), Ms. Deley asked why this exact location on Commerce Way was being picked because this is a prime industrial area, which they have seen over the past 6 months is highly sought out. Mr. Yunits said they are limited because people also don't want an animal shelter in a residential area, so they would like to keep it in an industrial area within town. Ms. Deley asked that they look into alternative properties, more so commercially zoned than industrial, and referred to a list of available land the EDC has discussed and is available on the Town's website [on the Planning and Economic Development page] and Mr. Yunits said he would do so and get back to them.

In regard to Article 19 (Petition of Lucile Drane to Amend Norton Zoning By-Law, Article III-Zoning Map and Districts and the Zoning Map: Changing from Residential Eighty (R-80) Zoning District to Commercial (C) on an Area of Land Along White Street, East Main Street and Newland Streets Containing the Following Parcels of Land as Shown on Norton Assessor's Map: Map 5, Parcel 33, and Map 5, Parcel 33-01), Mr. Conway acknowledged Mr. Toole's concern from a previous meeting about spot-zoning and asked if they heard any updates yet. Mr. Yunits said he had not, but he did see the letter to town counsel that the Director of Planning and Economic Development, Mr. Paul DiGiuseppe, sent. Ms. Deley said she believed spot-zoning happened in the past and Mr. DiGiuseppe has been diligent about addressing that. Ms. Deley expressed a concern about other areas as far as spot-zones throughout town.

Mr. DiGiuseppe responded that there is not a simple answer and commented that there is a number of issues: old zoning bylaws, hand-drawn maps with no parcels on it, etc. He advised that with the Master Plan update, they could be looking at rezoning parcels for particularly public spaces. He stated that he wants to make sure they are aligning zoning with public outcomes, promoting sewer growth, etc. He pointed out that the good thing about the zoning map is that there are large areas of same zoning. Mr. DiGiuseppe lastly stated that the property referred to in this article is an outlier.

Mr. Yunits gave an overview of the Special Town Meeting warrant article list.

Ms. Deley asked when Articles 14 (FY21 Capital Improvements Fund Appropriation) and 15 (FY21 Capital Improvements Plan Amendment) that were voted to be removed from the warrant by both the Finance Committee and the Select Board at their joint meeting on April 14th would come off of the warrant and Mr. Yunits answered that it would be done tomorrow. Ms. Deley mentioned that they thought that the Special Town Meeting was supposed to be a few articles and asked why some of the articles like Article 8 (Prior Year Bills) and Article 13 (FY21 Sewer Enterprise Operating Budget Supplements) were on this warrant. Mr. Yunits explained that they are expenses that would have to be paid out this fiscal year and the collective bargaining agreements the Board approved this evening are retroactive to this year,

so there are payments for this fiscal year. Ms. Deley thanked Mr. Yunits for the clarification and commented that this makes sense.

Mr. Toole referred to the possible venues for town meeting. Mr. Yunits said they had a meeting on Wednesday with the Town Moderator, Norton Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Town Clerk, the School Department, himself, Mr. Jason Benjamin (Director of Norton Media Center), and the Board of Health to discuss the current location and logistics. The Town Manager advised that he reached out to the contact at Xfinity Center, but he is out this week. Mr. Yunits stated that he would follow-up with the Board when he has more information. Mr. Toole asked Mr. Yunits to contact town counsel about if holding town meeting at the Xfinity is legally allowed since it is outside of the Town. Mr. Yunits said he already asked Attorney Lauren Goldberg about this and she said they could. Mr. Yunits said he would follow-up with Attorney Goldberg as to when this legislation was passed to allow them to hold town meeting outside of the Town.

Mr. Toole mentioned finding out if it was financially feasible in their budget as well. Mr. Yunits advised that the Town would use CARES Act funds to do so because they are moving the meeting there because of COVID-19. Mr. Conway asked if they had an idea as to how many people they expect to attend town meeting. Mr. Yunits reported that the Town Moderator estimated at least 1,000 people and he added that he was creating a video as to how town meeting will be conducted. Mr. Conway reported that GATRA is offering free rides to residents with disabilities and/or over 60 years old to get to town meeting.

Mr. Conway pointed out that the \$23.3 million cost estimated for the new Town Hall includes the demolition and repair of the exterior wall of the extended portion of the current Town Hall.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to recommend Article 1 (New Senior/Community Support Center; New Town Hall; and New Athletic Complex at Norton High School and the Henri A. Yelle Elementary School Projects) on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to recommend Article 15 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for Engineering, Design, and Construction Services to Install Direct Sewer Line Connections for the Henri A. Yelle Elementary School at the Norton High School. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to recommend Article 3 on the Special Town Meeting warrant for the Town Hall and Senior/Community Support Center Feasibility Study in the amount of \$1,500. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

5. Review and/or Vote on Zoning Articles

Mr. Yunits explained that to follow the proper procedure for the Zoning articles, a letter was prepared that will be forwarded to the Town Clerk stating that the Select Board referred three matters to the Planning Board for its non-binding report on April 1, 2021 and based upon the

April 6, 2021 recommendations of the Norton Planning Board, the Select Board voted to recommend the three articles.

Mr. Conway asked if public hearings had to be done on this. Mr. DiGiuseppe stated that there were two public hearings held by the Planning Board and the proper procedures have been followed on and the required votes taken.

6. Discuss and/or Vote on Annual Town Report Availability and Distribution.

Ms. Deley advised that in accordance with the Town's bylaw, Town Report has to be completed 14 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting. She stated that the bylaw does not address distribution or availability. Ms. Deley asked that the Board consider having the Town Report be distributed electronically this year to the residents to meet the deadline and to follow with hard copies when they are available. Ms. Deley asked for a reduction in printing of the town reports to save money. Mr. Toole agreed that this was a good idea and saw a lot of towns doing this now because of COVID-19.

MOTION was made by Deley to support and approve that the Annual Town Report be available electronically in accordance to the Town's bylaws and that distribution of hard copies be reduced based upon the review of the Town Manager. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Conway asked Ms. Deley how the dedication for the Annual Town Report was coming along. Ms. Deley answered that Ms. Michelle Brown, Assistant to the Town Manager, should have it tonight.

7. Discussion on Water Dispenser Provisions to Support Residents with Potential Contamination and/or Other Water quality Issues.

Mr. Toole stated that he reached out to Simpson Springs and they were not able to meet the demand needed for the water machine. Ms. Deley emphasized the need to provide clean water to residents with potential contamination. Mr. Toole posed the question of getting the Water Department to cover the cost of putting this in because it is their responsibility to provide clean water. Mr. Yunits said he would have to look into and get back to them. Mr. Yunits and Mr. Toole agreed to work together on this issue.

8. Discussion on Reservoir Signage.

Mr. Conway said this is in regard to the new bylaws that were passed and the signs at Juniper Beach. Mr. Conway mentioned one sign at Juniper Beach was too high to be legible and Mr. Yunits said he would look into. Mr. Yunits said he wanted to work with the Conservation Agent, Ms. Jennifer Carlino, on some of the signs, such as the cleaning of the boats. Mr. Conway asked to start promoting the car-top access at the town-owned property and to have the person that rents the house there to stop chasing people away saying they can't park there when they can. Ms. Deley asked Mr. Yunits to check with Ms. Carlino about what they found out from their study (of South Lakeview Road).

9. Discussion of Trent Memorial Location and Expectations.

Mr. Conway stated that Mr. Robert Kimball reported in an e-mail that the contractor for the West Main Street work left a lot of rusty construction material at this location that really detracts from the purpose of memorial. Mr. Yunits stated that he went down there and they did move almost everything at this point and he thinks the contractor understands now. Mr. Yunits said he spoke with Steve Pedersen, the engineer, and they were moving everything away today. Mr. Conway asked if this area could get a privacy fence because the back of that lot is nothing special to look at. Mr. Yunits said that lot is one of the lots they are looking at for parking and to possibly add fencing. Mr. Conway suggested getting the Boy Scouts involved and Mr. Toole said he can pitch that idea to them.

Ms. Deley clarified that this is Water/Sewer property, which Mr. Yunits confirmed. Mr. Conway asked if at some point in the future to have this land transferred into the Town's name at town meeting, which Mr. Yunits said he would talk to Mr. DiGiuseppe about.

10. Discuss and/or Vote Emergency Authorizations.

Mr. Yunits explained that this was created just in case anything were to happen during COVID-19. Ms. Deley suggested updating the Emergency Authorization to list Mr. Conway as the second designee.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley that the Board supports the update to the Emergency Authorizations, if necessary, in which Mr. Yunits would designate the Town Account, James Puello, to sign Payroll Time Sheets, Payroll Warrants, Purchase Orders, and general expense bills and all other matters the authorization would be for Jack Conway, Chairman of the Select Board, to exercise the powers and perform the duties of Town Manager if an unplanned absence should occur. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

11. Discuss and/or Vote Public Meetings_Temporary Protocols COVID-19.

Ms. Deley mentioned that the protocols are outdated and that she thinks that the Board should have a discussion on this topic to make some changes. She pointed out that in the protocols the Board put in place at the start of the pandemic, it states in the policy that meetings are to be held virtually to conduct necessary business, but since then there have been adjustments made for meetings. Ms. Deley suggested that the language be tweaked to read something along the lines that any type of business by public bodies or the boards can be held virtually; then, if the Board wants to consider protocols at which point, they would allow in-person meeting. She reminded the Board that because of the Governor's Emergency Order, boards and/or committees still do not have to have a quorum in person, but pointed out that they don't know if that will change for the long-term. Ms. Deley emphasized that she wants the Board to start considering what happens when things go back to normal.

Ms. Artz agreed that they do have to get back to some sense of normalcy. Mr. Toole pointed out that the Town is still in the "yellow" risk category and is on the warning level. He agreed that they do have to get back to a sense of normalcy, but also be cautious. Mr. Toole suggested possibly using the Town's risk color as standard when updating the protocols. Ms. Deley

mentioned that one thing the School Committee did was that they did not allow in-person public access, but the School Committee members met in person, which is allowed as long as there is a way for the public to participate in the meeting.

Ms. Deveau said she wasn't for going with the risk map because those are posted weekly; so, they could have a meeting one week, and then find out the next week that one of the guests has it and Norton was in the green and then is in the yellow because the Board and attendees were infected. Ms. Deveau stated that she was more comfortable having the Board in-person and not the public and to practice social distancing amongst Board members.

Ms. Deley suggested sending their recommendations to the Board of Health Agent for his consideration and/or to receive guidance. Ms. Deley suggested participant limits. Mr. Conway pointed out that the Zoom meetings have higher attendance and participation. Ms. Deley added that when they start moving towards in-person meetings, they could meet at the Norton Media Center and have it on cable and via Zoom to make meeting participation more accessible.

B. Old Business

1. Discussion and/or Vote on Special Legislation for All Alcohol Package Store Licenses.

Mr. Yunits gave an overview to Ms. Deveau to get her up to speed. Ms. Deley mentioned that it came to the Select Board first, then it was referred to the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Ms. Deley stated that one of the things that was recommended to the Board was because of the lengthy process to obtain special legislation license, it would be advantageous to go for more than one. Mr. Yunits added that this was suggested by Senator Feeney's office. Ms. Deley said the EDC was given the task of looking into areas in town that would be advantageous. Ms. Deley advised that there were three locations posed by the EDC, who also voted in favor of obtaining two additional licenses, as follows:

- East of I-495 on East Main Street to the Easton line;
- Route 140 from Route 123 heading towards Taunton;
- North and South Worcester Street heading down West Main Street to the Attleboro line.

Mr. Conway clarified that Mr. Toole has recused himself from these discussions and any votes taken because he has expressed an interest in a business venture. Ms. Artz told Ms. Deveau that she personally is not in favor of this because she doesn't feel like they need it, the timing with a pandemic, and there is a lot already going on in the town. Ms. Deley expressed that she is for it because she is looking at it from an economic development perspective and obtaining additional licenses could generate revenue streams. Mr. Conway stated that he seems to fall somewhere in the middle. Mr. Conway expressed that he is concerned with adding additional licenses and losing existing licensees that are all small businesses. Mr. Conway advised that he would be more comfortable with one additional license through special legislation and having it go in the Blue Star Business Park.

Mr. Yunits showed subsection (d) and the Board stated that this section almost contradicts itself. Mr. Conway said they should add language in that paragraph to grant an extension if needed. Ms. Deley asked if the question about the transfer of the license was addressed and Mr. Yunits said it was in section (b). Ms. Deley said if section (d) refers to one year, there

should be more time allowed in (b). Mr. Yunits pointed out the risk of doing so because if the licensee has an issue and can't operate anymore, then you are going to have a vacant storefront. Ms. Deley wanted the language changed from "issuance of license" to "opening of operation." Ms. Artz said she has heard comments where businesses leave town because of the feel that the Town doesn't do anything to support them, so she was a hard no. Ms. Deley informed the Board that the EDC established the goal of developing relationships with current business owners. Ms. Deley said there are businesses that would like to apply for this license.

Ms. Deveau stated that one of her personal goals is to show support to local businesses for those who are already here, promote them, as well as work with new businesses to promote revenue. Mr. Conway posed the idea of moving this to the Fall Town Meeting.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to keep Article 11 (Special Legislation to Increase Liquor License Quota) on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Deveau – No; Ms. Artz – No; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION FAILS.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to remove Article 11 (Special Legislation to Increase the Liquor License Quota) for the Annual Town Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

C. Town Manager's Report

1. Grant Awarded to the Norton Fire-Rescue Department from the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.

Fire Chief Shawn Simmons informed the Board that the Norton Fire Department received a grant for just under \$15,000 and will be used to replace all of the flashlights in their department (these have to be certain level). Chief Simmons advised that about 485 one-hour air tanks will be replacing their half-hour air tanks. He emphasized that everything with grants helps reduce the capital items they put requests in for. Chief Simmons mentioned that they also have another grant they are submitting for in a couple weeks to replace more safety equipment and a couple of months from now they will be applying for a Fire Prevention Grant where they could receive another \$5,000 to \$7,000. Ms. Deley acknowledged that the one position they asked for to look into grants seems to be paying off and Chief Simmons agreed. Chief Simmons recognized Deputy Chief Jason Robbins and the great work he has done to obtain these grants.

Chief Simmons mentioned that at the end of month on April 30th from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. the Norton Fire Department will be doing some fire training if the Board wants to join. He advised that it will be at the old farmhouse near Leonard Street.

2. Town of Norton Designation as a Green Community in the Commonwealth.

Due to time, the Select Board agreed to discuss this at a later meeting.

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

There was no Select Board's report or mail to discuss.

IX. **Meeting Minutes**

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Toole. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to approve the minutes from the following meetings: February 18, 2021 (Open Session); February 18, 2021 (Executive Session); and February 25, 2021 (Open Session). Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; Ms. Deley – Abstain; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

X. **Warrants**

A. Payroll Warrant PR21-21 for the week ended April 3, 2021, Warrant dated April 8, 2021, in the amount of \$1,466,203.02.

B. Invoice Warrant AP21-41 dated April 8, 2021, in the amount of \$697,598.75.

C. Invoice Warrant AP21-42 dated April 15, 2021, in the amount of \$165,717.41.

XI. **Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

XII. **Next Meeting's Agenda** – April 21, 2021 – Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee.

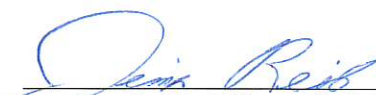
XIII. **Adjournment**

MOTION was made by Ms. Deley to adjourn at 11:26 P.M. Seconded by Ms. Artz. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; Mr. Toole – No; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

URL Link (Part 1): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjmg7j_Y8h0

URL Link (Part 2): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsRHDDmXxR0>

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 15, 2021**

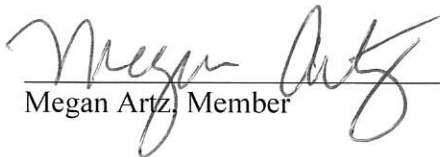
John Conway, Chair

Michael Toole, Vice-Chair



Christine Deveau, Clerk

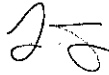
Renee Deley, Member



Megan Artz, Member

Minutes Approved by Board on: June 10, 2021

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 15, 2021**



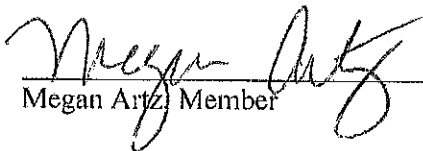
John Conway, Chair

Michael Toole, Vice-Chair



Christine Deveau, Clerk

Renee Deley, Member



Megan Artzi, Member

Minutes Approved by Board on: June 10, 2021

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|-------------------------|--|
| TITLE | Minutes |
| FILE NAME | 4.14.21 Minutes.pdf and 6 others |
| DOCUMENT ID | 339f0c3a7c538c4c50b85343884539862ef8810c |
| AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT | MM / DD / YYYY |
| STATUS | ● Out For Signature |

Document History



06 / 30 / 2021
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Sent for signature to John Conway (jconway@nortonmaus.com), Michael Toole (mtoole@nortonmaus.com) and Renee Deley (rdeley@nortonmaus.com) from jreid@nortonmaus.com
IP: 173.162.149.1



06 / 30 / 2021
14:39:55 UTC

Viewed by John Conway (jconway@nortonmaus.com)
IP: 76.119.206.231



06 / 30 / 2021
14:40:08 UTC

Signed by John Conway (jconway@nortonmaus.com)
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