



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

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

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2022 MAR -7 AM 11:52

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2022

I. **Call to Order by Chair**

The February 2, 2022 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 7:04 P.M., by Mr. Michael Toole, Vice-Chair. Member(s) present: Ms. Renee Deley and Ms. Christine Deveau. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager. Mr. John Conway arrived at 7:06 P.M.

II. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

III. **Minutes**

MOTION was made by Ms. Deveau to approve the Minutes of January 19, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Ms. Deveau – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; and Mr. Toole – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Conway arrived after the above vote was taken at 7:06 P.M.

IV. **Appointments/Resignations/Retirements**

Resignation of Dan Doyle from the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Conway announced the vacancy and advised that anyone that is interested can contact Mr. Yunits at myunits@nortonmaus.com.

IV. **Licenses and Permits**

1. Vote to Approve the Transfer of the Common Victualler License from KMPZ Inc. d/b/a Honey Dew Donuts to Honey Dew Operations, Inc. d/b/a Honey Dew Donuts to be Utilized at 61 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766.

Mr. Yunits advised that the transfer of this license would be postponed to a future meeting.

2. Vote to Approve the Transfer of the Common Victualler, Entertainment (Live Entertainment/Dancing), and Sunday Entertainment Licenses from Home Plate Norton, LLC to Goat City Pub Inc. d/b/a Goat City Pub to be Utilized at 184 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766.

Attorney Matthew Porter stated that he represents the new owner, Goat City Pub Inc., and Ms. Breanne Silvi, who is the 100% owner. He explained that Home Plate Norton at 184 West Main Street was selling the business to his client and that there would be no anticipated changes to the interior or infrastructure, but there would be a slight change in the hours from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. Attorney Porter informed the Board that Ms. Silvi is TIPS and ServSafe certified and staff will be required to be as well.

Ms. Breanne Silvi stated that she is honored to have this opportunity. She explained that the concept behind the name is wanting to open a business in New England and represents all of what she loves about New England. She mentioned that the décor will represent great athletes, musicians, and movies of the local communities.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to approve the transfer of the Common Victualler, Entertainment (Live Entertainment/Dancing), and Sunday Entertainment licenses from Home Plate Norton, LLC to Goat City Pub Inc. d/b/a Goat City Pub to be utilized at 184 West Main Street from the hours of 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Deveau – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

V. Announcements

1. NHS Swim and Dive Cookie Kit Fundraiser.

Sweet Stuff Bake Shop is partnering with the Norton High School Swim & Dive Team to offer their Decorate-It-Yourself Cookie Kits. Contact Sweet Stuff Bake Shop or contact your favorite NHS Swim & Dive Team member. Pre-ordered Cookie Kits will be available for pick up at Sweet Stuff Bake Shop on February 10th from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. 25% of sales goes to NHS Swim & Dive Team. Price: \$20/kit. Each DIY cookie kit contains 4 freshly baked sugar cookies, 1 frosting bag, and 2 sprinkles options (contents may vary).

2. Norton SEPAC Valentine's Basket Fundraiser.

Friends of Norton SEPAC is offering Valentine's Day baskets. Please help this growing organization. Norton SEPAC helps support families of Special Education students, puts on events for children in Norton, and awards the teachers and staff the Heart of Gold Award. Each basket comes with 2 milk chocolate and 2 white chocolate dipped pretzel rods, Rice Krispy Treats, Oreos, assorted fun sized candy and a mini-Valentine mylar balloon. Only \$25 each. The order deadline is February 6th and the drop off is February 13th. Please specify the drop off address when you Venmo.

VI. Business

A. New Business

1. 7:15 P.M. - Public hearing on the application for a transfer of the Common Victualler License to Expose, Keep for Sale, and to Sell All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages To Be Drunk On The Premises, at 184 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766, from Home Plate Norton LLC, Manager: Robert E. Anderson, to Goat City Pub Inc. d/b/a Goat City Pub, Manager: Ms. Breanne M. Silvi, same address.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to open the public hearing at 7:15 P.M. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Deveau – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Attorney Porter gave a brief overview that this is the transfer of the liquor license from Home Plate Norton, LLC to Goat City Pub Inc. He assured the Board that Ms. Silvi would be at the establishment at least 40-50 hours per week to oversee operations, is TIPS certified, and ServSafe certified. He mentioned that she is the 100% owner of the company.

Mr. Conway acknowledged Rob and Natalie Anderson, owners of Home Plate, for everything they have done for the community including the fundraisers and contributing to what makes Norton special. He mentioned that his family has especially loved going there on Tuesdays.

Mr. Toole asked Ms. Silvi what her experience is with the restaurant business. She said she worked in an ice cream shop in New Hampshire as a teenager and since then has worked as a waitress in several establishments in several states/towns, managed fine dining, bartending, GM-ing pizzerias and sports bars, etc.

Ms. Deveau pointed out that Home Plate did a lot of fundraisers and community events and asked Ms. Silvi if she had similar plans, which she answered absolutely. Ms. Silvi stated that she understands the involvement and wants to continue on that path having little league teams come in, mom and dad to come in, Wheaton students, etc. Ms. Deveau asked when she expected to fully open as Goat City Pub. Attorney Porter answered that as soon as the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) approves it (usually been 4-6 weeks) the transition would occur.

Mr. Yunits asked if she was able to keep any of the employees of Home Plate and Ms. Silvi replied absolutely and said she wants to keep everyone that would like to stay.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to approve the transfer of the Common Victualler License to Expose, Keep for Sale, and to Sell All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages To Be Drunk On The Premises, at 184 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766, from Home Plate Norton LLC, Manager: Robert E. Anderson, to Goat City Pub Inc. d/b/a Goat City Pub, Manager: Ms. Breanne M. Silvi, same address. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Deveau – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to close the public hearing. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Deveau – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Review, Discussion, and/or Vote to Amend Exit 10, LLC's Host Community Agreement.

Ms. Deley advised that Exit 10, LLC asked to be put on the Board's next meeting's agenda to have more time to prepare.

B. **Old Business**

1. Discussion and/or Vote on the Establishment of Late Fees/Fines Relating to License Renewals.

Mr. Yunits explained that they discussed this at their last meeting and they were provided with a proposal for a late fee schedule in their packets where if they don't submit on time as outlined on the application, there would be a \$50 late fee and an additional \$50 if their renewal application is not submitted by December 31st.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole to accept the recommendation of instituting late fees and/or fines in accordance with the policy provided by the Town Manager. Seconded by Ms. Deveau. Vote: Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Deveau – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

C. **Town Manager's Report**

1. Report on Additional Retail Package All Alcohol License(s) Through Special Legislation.

Mr. Yunits stated that David Wluka reached out to him again about possibly obtaining additional Retail Package All Alcohol (RPAA) license(s) through special legislation and asked if the Select Board would be open to this. Ms. Deley said this is something the Economic Development Commission (EDC) considered and recommended in the past and would be in support of this with the changes in the language the EDC previously proposed. Mr. Conway clarified that this would be an article put on the warrant and presented by the Select Board, which Mr. Yunits stated was correct.

Mr. Toole expressed a concern that while they could use the additional license(s), especially on the Easton side of town, he wants to be considerate of Quick Stop where they have submitted a letter of interest for this type of license for years and doesn't want to hurt a business that has been good to the Town. Ms. Deley explained that the EDC was specific in changing the language of the proposed article at the time changing the language from a particular location to include from I-495 to the Easton line on Route 123, and that was to not to be inclusive of one specific location that isn't even built yet and to give opportunities to others. She further stated that the purpose of this is for economic development and to diversify these establishments in the Town. Ms. Deley agreed it is in the Select Board's best interest to put this on the warrant so that any discussions had with residents and concerns can be addressed and, if necessary, change the warrant language. She pointed out that while this would give the Town an additional license, they wouldn't necessarily have to issue the license to anyone. Ms. Deley proposed putting the discussion on the process of when/how to issue the available license on the next meeting's agenda. The Board agreed to put some language on the warrant for this.

2. Snow Storm Update.

Mr. Yunits thanked the Highway Department and the 5 members of the Water/Sewer Department who assisted with cleaning up from the snow storm. He pointed out the bad visibility and how they were out plowing at night no less. Mr. Yunits stated that they had limited resources (2 members of the Highway Department are in the National Guard) and are

down 4 contractors and they worked 28 hours straight during the snow storm. He also mentioned that the Chartley Fire Station being open during this storm was crucial. First, there was a fire they responded to at Attleboro line and then they had to report to a cardiac call and they saved time responding to that call coming from that location rather than the center of town.

Mr. Conway agreed that Mr. Keith Silver, Highway Superintendent, and his crew did an amazing job under crazy conditions. He also acknowledged the positive impact Chartley is already having being open.

3. Report on House 1 Governor's Proposed Budget.

Mr. Yunits explained that the first section is the receipts and last year it was \$16,517,646 and this year it is \$16,933,767 (have to take out the \$32,000 from total estimated receipts because those funds go directly to the Library, who is receiving \$3,688 less than last year). He stated that the School Choice amount will also be offset because that goes directly to the School Department (increase of \$204,122). The Town Manager advised that the Town has \$215,279 more this year than last year available for appropriation. He moved on to discuss the second part of cherry sheet, which is assessments and includes transportation. He pointed out that this year, assessments decreased (last year was \$1,434,040 and this year is \$1,340,245). Mr. Yunits concluded that the total positive of funds that can be used is \$302,589.

4. Grant Awarded to Council on Aging.

Mr. Yunits informed the Board that the Director of Human Services/Council on Aging, Beth Rossi's, hard work paid off again. He stated that they received an energy grant for \$6,000 from Bluestone Bank, which can use for fuel for residents.

Mr. Yunits also mentioned that his office also received a call from a resident about the Council on Aging wanting to recognize the hard work specifically of Ms. Cathy Varnum, but also wanted to acknowledge everyone that works there. He said everyone has been fantastic and emphasized how extremely helpful, kind, and caring that whole group has been with helping him.

5. Finance Committee Appointment.

Mr. Yunits advised that Mr. Kevin Bugaj was recently appointed to the Finance Committee by the Town Moderator.

6. Nomination Papers.

The Town Manager advised those interested in running for a board/committee/commission can pick up nomination papers at the Town Clerk's Office until 5:00 P.M. on March 10th and must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by Monday, March 14th 5:00 P.M. Mr. Yunits listed off that the Planning Board has 3 vacancies (and no one has pulled papers yet) and the Board of Assessors has 2 open seats (and no one has pulled papers yet).

Mr. Conway asked Mr. Yunits to speak to what both of those positions would entail. Mr. Yunits explained that the Planning Board meets to review applications for special permits and

site plans. He expressed that they have a good board right now and have a staff that is very helpful. He added that they also work on any rezoning they may want to propose for the Town and is an important board for the development for the Town when projects are being built to oversee them and also to look to the future of the Town and how zoning should be developed.

Mr. Yunits explained that for the Board of Assessors, they get to work with Ms. Denise Ellis, Director of Assessing, and they meet once a month, generally, their meetings are only 1-1.5 hours long. Ms. Ellis explained that they are responsible for deciding all the bills, senior exemptions, any real estate abatements, any new things they want to bring to the Town like bringing in new exemptions (such as the one coming up for veterans), and determining the tax rate. She advised that it is all State regulated, so the Board has to follow those regulations.

VII. Select Board's Report and Mail

1. Mr. Toole mentioned that he did a few things in regard to Department of Public Works (DPW) article. He advised that he met with the Water/Sewer Commission to go over concerns, including why they would move from being elected to appointed positions, and spoke with the Director of Public Works in Mansfield to get an understanding of what that transition looked like. Mr. Toole stated that right now he is also working on a quick overview with updates that he would like to present at their next meeting about what surrounding towns' structures look like for their DPWs. He mentioned that he also reached out to members of the previous Charter Commission to go over some of their previous meeting discussions on this topic. Mr. Toole expressed that at their next meeting, he is hoping to discuss again the wording of the proposed article and have a PowerPoint presentation, which he will have to the Board ahead of the meeting for their review. Mr. Toole said he will also be speaking with employees of both the Highway Department and Water/Sewer Department to go over any concerns they may have.

Mr. Toole informed the Board that he had a citizen contact him about supplemental insurance and spoke with Ms. Cathy Varnum at the Council on Aging about this and expressed that she is highly knowledgeable, and to Mr. Yunits' point, they are great over there.

IX. Warrants

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

A. Payroll Warrant PR22-16 for the week ended January 22, 2022, Warrant dated January 27, 2022, in the amount of \$1,562,334.25.

B. Invoice Warrant AP22-31 dated January 27, 2022, in the amount of \$1,813,105.13.

C. Invoice Warrant AP22-32 dated February 3, 2022, in the amount of \$443,832.10.

X. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

XI. Next Meeting's Agenda – Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Mr. Conway asked for an update to be provided through Mr. Yunits about COVID-19.

XII. Executive Session.

1. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation, i.e., Bella Music, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3).
2. To discuss litigation with respect to the property located at 20 Commerce Way, Norton, MA 02766 where discussion in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigation position and the chair so declares, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3).

XIII. Adjournment.

DECLARATION BY THE CHAIR:

I declare, under General Laws Chapter 30A, §21(a)(3), that the purposes of the executive session will be to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, i.e., Bella Music, and to discuss litigation with respect to the property located at 20 Commerce Way, Norton, MA 02766 because a discussion of the strategies in open session could compromise the purposes of the executive session and with the Board to not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

MOTION was made by Mr. Toole at 7:54 P.M. for the Board to go into executive session under G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) for the purposes and reasons declared by the Chair and with the Board to not return to open session thereafter. Seconded by Ms. Deley. Vote: Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Deveau – Yes; Mr. Toole – Yes; and Mr. Conway – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77SABHMqEAQ>

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

John Conway, Chair

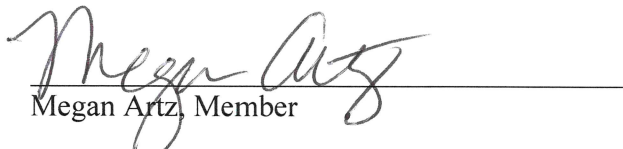


Michael Toole, Vice-Chair



Christine Deveau, Clerk

Renee Deley, Member



Megan Artz, Member

Minutes Approved by Board on: March 2, 2022