



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

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2023 MAR 30 PM 3:30

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

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023

I. **Call to Order by Chair**

The March 2, 2023 meeting of the Norton Select Board was held at the Norton Media Center, 184 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766 as well as remotely (Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83225589285>; Phone: 646-558 8656; Webinar ID: 832 2558 9285), and was called to order at 7:03 P.M., by Mr. Kevin Snyder, Clerk. Member(s) present: Mr. Steven Hornsby and Mr. Alec Rich, III. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

Mr. Snyder, as acting Chair, welcomed Mr. Rich to the Select Board. Mr. Rich thanked Mr. Snyder for welcoming him and also thanked the townspeople for putting their trust in him. He also thanked the poll workers and the Town Clerk, Ms. Lucia Longhurst, for the hard work they put in for the special election.

II. **Appointments/Resignations/Retirements**

Resignation of Jennifer Werner from the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Snyder explained that Ms. Werner will be moving out of town, and in result, has resigned from the Recreation Commission. Mr. Yunits mentioned that there are at least four vacancies on the Recreation Commission, so if anyone is interested, they could use the help. Mr. Snyder added that for those interested, they can contact either Mr. Yunits or the Recreation Director.

III. **Minutes**

Approve Minutes, including but not limited to:

1. May 11, 2022;
2. February 9, 2023; and
3. February 9, 2023 (Executive Session).

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve the minutes of May 11, 2022 and February 9, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve February 9, 2023 (Executive Session) minutes. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

IV. **Licenses and Permits**

There were no licenses or permits to discuss.

V. **Announcements**

1. Town Moderator's Appointment of Paul J. Schleicher, Sr. to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Snyder advised that Paul J. Schleicher, Sr. has been appointed by the Town Moderator to the Finance Committee. Mr. Hornsby pointed out that against the Select Board's recommendation, the Town Moderator went ahead and made this appointment anyways. He stated that he has said in the past that if the Town Moderator were to make an appointment that he was going to refute it, but when looking at it, he didn't believe it was worth the Town's time and money to do so. He emphasized that this was the reason why he wasn't going to dispute this at this time.

2. Annual Town Election.

Mr. Snyder announced that the Annual Town Election is on Saturday, April 29, 2023. The polls will be open at the Norton Middle School from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. He stated that if you would like to vote by absentee ballot or by mail-in ballot, the best advice he would give is to contact Ms. Lucia Longhurst, Town Clerk, so she can walk you through the process. The deadline to pull papers to run for an elected position is March 9th at 5:00 P.M. He explained that papers need to be returned with signatures by March 24th at 5:00 P.M. Mr. Hornsby urged anyone that is interested in serving to pull papers because there are a number of positions open.

3. 7th Annual Comedy Fundraiser

Mr. Rich announced that the Fire Department is holding its 7th Annual Comedy Fundraiser at Clarion Hotel (old Holiday Inn) in Taunton. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and the show starts at 8:00 P.M.

VI. **Business**

A. **New Business**

1. **7:15 P.M.** - Public Hearing on the Application of NEHA CORP d/b/a Quick Stop, Manager: Ekta H. Patel for a Change of Category, from an Off-Premises Wine and Malt Beverages License to an Off-Premises All Alcoholic Beverages License at 250 East Main Street, Norton, Massachusetts.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to open the public hearing at 7:15 P.M.

Mr. Rich informed the acting Chair that he would be recusing himself from this matter. Due to a lack of a quorum, the Board had to continue this hearing until their next meeting.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to continue until March 16th.

The Board asked the applicant's counsel, Attorney Arthur Pearlman, if he would be available for the continued hearing for 7:15 P.M. on March 16th, which he confirmed he would be.

2. **7:45 P.M.** - Public Hearing on the Application for a Transfer of the Off-Premises Wines and Malt Beverages License, at 62 Mansfield Avenue, Norton, MA 02766, from Jay Laxmi Corp. d/b/a Mas Gas, Manager: Jack M. Patel, to SPGRS Corp. d/b/a Mas Gas, Manager: Sarika Patel, same address. The proposed licensee will also be requesting the approval of the Pledge of Inventory and Pledge of License.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby at 7:45 P.M. to open the public hearing on the application for a Transfer of the Off-Premises Wines and Malt Beverages License, at 62 Mansfield Avenue, Norton, MA 02766, from Jay Laxmi Corp. d/b/a Mas Gas, Manager: Jack M. Patel, to SPGRS Corp. d/b/a Mas Gas, Manager: Sarika Patel, same address. The proposed licensee will also be requesting the approval of the Pledge of Inventory and Pledge of License. Seconded by Mr. Rich.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to close the public hearing at 7:46 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Review and/or Vote to Approve the Grants of Easements Regarding 120 Mansfield Avenue, Norton, MA and 70 East Main Street, Norton, MA.

Mr. Yunits explained that for both of the projects (the new Town Hall and Senior/Community Support Center), the electric company has to put poles on the properties to bring the wires in. He stated that by signing these two agreements, the Board would be granting an easement to the phone company to be able to bring those poles in and put them on the properties. Mr. Rich brought to the Board's attention a typo the Town Manager had disclosed. Mr. Yunits stated that he will have the company change the first page to change the address reference from "170 Mansfield Avenue" to "120 Mansfield Avenue."

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve with that correction. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

4. Other Business: Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance.

B. Old Business

Review and/or Approve Lucky Green Ladies HCA Amendment 1.

Mr. Snyder stated that they have continued this several times and are going to have to continue this again.

C. Town Manager's Report

1. National Opioid Settlement: CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

Mr. Yunits reported that the Town of Norton signed on to the National Opioid Settlement with CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. He advised that the Town would be receiving \$112,783.84 from Walmart, \$199,164.62 from CVS, and \$216,570.67 from Walgreens. He explained that with the previous lawsuit with the manufacturers, the Town has received \$200,000 to date. Mr. Yunits informed the Board that for those funds, they will have an article on the October Town Meeting warrant when it becomes certified as free cash. The Town Manager explained that he and the Town Accountant were on the phone with the Department of Revenue and they are not budging. Mr. Yunits informed the Board that the Town can only spend the money on opioid related things, but they still won't let municipalities set up an account; instead, the Town has to have an article on the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting once free cash is certified to appropriate money from free cash to an article to be used for opioid purposes and put the money in there.

2. Building Projects Update.

Mr. Yunits requested that Select Board members reserve the date of Friday, April 28th at 11:00 A.M. for the groundbreaking ceremony at 120 Mansfield Avenue for the new Senior Center. He advised that the contractors are already setting up there and put all protections out for the wetlands and is getting ready to do demolition.

3. Budget Update.

The Town Manager informed the Board that the state aid net increase was \$98,956 with the Governor's proposal.

Mr. Yunits went over the cherry sheets with the Board and pointed out that for FY23, the Town's total receipts were listed as \$17,171,709 and this year is \$17,421,200. The estimated charges for state and county are \$1,983,503 and this year is \$2,022,125. He stated that then you have to take out School Choice Receiving Tuition (this goes directly to the School Department) and Public Libraries (this goes directly to the Library). Last year, the School Choice Receiving Tuition was \$1,223,668 and this year it is \$1,329,474. For the Library, last year it was \$40,451 and this year it is \$46,558.

4. Health Insurance Rate Increase FY24.

Mr. Yunits advised that fortunately for the Town, the health insurance increase for FY24 is 1%.

5. Capital Improvements Committee Update.

Mr. Yunits advised that the Capital Improvements Committee had their first meeting this week. He explained to the Board that rather than have the Capital Improvements Committee meet before the Finance Committee meetings like they have done in the past, they decided to have one night where everyone came in to present their Capital plans and then go before the Finance Committee. He mentioned that the Finance Committee's first meeting is Monday night, which will be virtual, and it will be at that meeting where they decide if they will continue to hold virtual meetings or move to in-person meetings. Mr. Yunits pointed out that the COVID-19 Order allowing virtual meetings expires April 1st and he hasn't heard anything as far as extending or not extending. Mr. Yunits mentioned that they had one liquor licensee come in today, but they have notified all restaurants that have liquor licenses with temporary outdoor dining, which is also set to expire April 1st, that if they wish to continue having this additional outdoor dining to file an Alteration of Premises.

6. Town-Wide Cleanup Day.

Mr. Yunits informed the Board that he spoke with Mr. Keith Silver, Highway Superintendent, and Joanne D'Onofrio (Highway Department's Office Administrator) about a town-wide cleanup day and unfortunately, they are looking at April 29th, but that is election day. So, rather than do that, they are looking to have it in May (possibly May 5th).

7. Congressman Auchincloss.

Mr. Yunits advised that they got notified today that any big projects the Town would like to seek funding for needs to be submitted by March 8th. He mentioned that the Water Department had a \$100 million water project they had as part of their Capital Plan, which they took off because it didn't work into the funding that they had available, so he mentioned this to the Water/Sewer Superintendent.

VII. Select Board's Report and Mail

1. Update from the Permanent Building Committee Meeting.

Mr. Snyder advised that he attended the Permanent Building Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago about the Town Hall project and the new Senior/Community Support Center. He stated that everything is moving forward and are working with the architects and project managers to look at some modifications to the plans, but everything is moving along fantastically. Mr. Yunits mentioned that all the sub-bids were received today and bids for the contractors for construction are due in the middle of March. So, they should know soon what the price is for the Town, and hopefully it comes in lower like the Senior Center project did. Mr. Hornsby thanked Mr. Snyder and Mr. Rich for attending the Permanent Building Committee meeting in his absence. He mentioned he was on his way to the hospital to have his baby and wanted to make sure someone from the Select Board was in attendance.

2. Update on Select Board Town Report and Dedication.

There was no update provided at this time because Michael Toole was not present.

3. Board of the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England - Falmouth Road Race

Mr. Hornsby advised that he is on the Board of the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England and they are looking for runners for the Falmouth Road Race. He stated that if anyone is a runner, this is a great charity. Those interested can contact him at Town Hall or through Facebook.

4. Hazardous Waste Day.

Mr. Rich advised that the Board of Health's Office is holding a Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, May 13th.

IX. Warrants

Mr. Snyder, Acting Chair, stated that he spoke with Ms. Artz earlier in the day and she stated that she had already signed the warrant. Mr. Hornsby, as the alternate designee, reported that the following Payroll and Invoice Warrants were approved:

A. Invoice Warrant AP23-33 dated February 16, 2023, in the amount of \$1,131,570.79.

B. Payroll Warrant PR23-17 for the week ended February 18, 2023, Warrant dated February 23, 2023, in the amount of \$1,633,745.00.

C. Invoice Warrant AP23-34 dated February 23, 2023, in the amount of \$1,054,003.51.

D. Invoice Warrant AP23-35 dated March 2, 2023, in the amount of \$384,978.38.

X. Other Business

Other Business: Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance.

There was no other business to discuss.

XI. **Next Meeting's Agenda** –

Tuesday, March 14, 2023: Joint meeting with the Finance Committee and School Committee to discuss the Trane Project.

Thursday, March 16, 2023:

Public Hearing of 2 Sons Auto Brokers, LLC to Determine Whether the Class 2 License for the Sale of Second-Hand Motor Vehicles Issued to 2 Sons Auto Brokers, LLC Should be Modified, Rescinded or Not Renewed.

Continuance of the Public Hearing on the Application of NEHA CORP d/b/a Quick Stop, Manager: Ekta H. Patel for a Change of Category, from an Off-Premises Wine and Malt Beverages License to an Off-Premises All Alcoholic Beverages License at 250 East Main Street, Norton, Massachusetts.

XII. **Executive Session.**

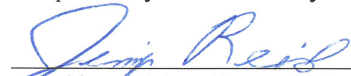
There was no executive session.

XIII. **Adjournment.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:46 P.M.
Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

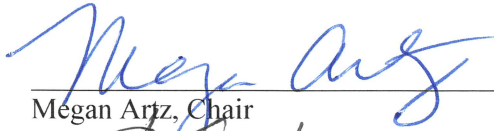
URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yjeT6lRhG4>

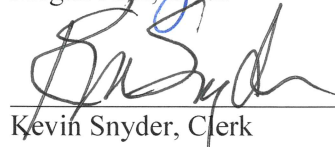
Respectfully Submitted by:

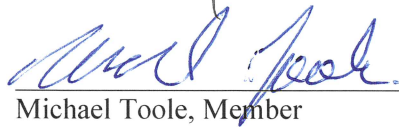


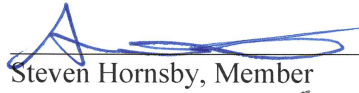
Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 2, 2023**


Megan Artz, Chair


Kevin Snyder, Clerk


Michael Toole, Member


Steven Hornsby, Member


Alec Rich, III, Member

Minutes Approved by Board on: March 16, 2023