



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

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

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2024

I. Call to Order by Chair

The February 29, 2024 meeting of the Norton Select Board was held at the Norton Housing Authority, Woodland Meadows Community Room, 120 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 7:02 P.M., by Mr. Steven Hornsby, Vice-Chair. Members present: Mr. Alec Rich, III, Ms. Megan Artz (remotely) and Ms. Denise Luciano. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

A Moment of Silence in Memory of Robert Medeiros and Ronald O'Reilly.

Mr. Hornsby recognized the great loss to the Town with the passing of Mr. Ronald O'Reilly and Mr. Robert Medeiros. Mr. Rich stated that Mr. O'Reilly was married to one of his cousins and recognized his passing as a loss to his family. Mr. Rich advised that Mr. O'Reilly was a member of the Permanent Building Committee, Norton Lions Club, and a 21-year member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Rich expressed that he was one of the nicest guys.

Mr. Rich also recognized Mr. Medeiros as one of the permanent fixtures of Norton. He emphasized that he was very well respected, a matter-of-fact and straight-to-the-point type of guy, who told it how it was and was very well-respected because of that. Mr. Rich stated that he was a member of the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and Permanent Building Committee. He lastly stated that Mr. Medeiros was just a "super all-around old-school guy" and expressed that he will be greatly missed.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Medeiros.

II. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

1. Appointment of Evan Willard as a Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-A in the Norton Fire Department.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to appoint Evan Willard as permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-A for the Town of Norton effective March 11, 2024, subject to your satisfactory completion of all required medical and agility testing. Your continued employment with the Town of Norton is contingent upon attainment of your Paramedic certification in accordance with the provisions of the MOA you entered into with the Town. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Appointment of Joshua DiCicco as a Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-B in the Norton Fire Department.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to appoint Joshua DiCicco as permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-B for the Town of Norton effective March 11, 2024, subject to your satisfactory completion of all required medical and agility testing. Your continued employment with the Town of Norton is contingent upon attainment of your Paramedic certification in accordance with the provisions of the MOA you entered into with the Town. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Appointment of Devin Hunter as a Permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-B in the Norton Fire Department.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to appoint Devin Hunter as permanent Full-Time Firefighter/EMT-B for the Town of Norton effective March 11, 2024, subject to your satisfactory completion of all required medical and agility testing. Your continued employment with the Town of Norton is contingent upon attainment of your Paramedic certification in accordance with the provisions of the MOA you entered into with the Town. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

4. Resignation of Aimee Kolf from the Founder's Day Committee.

Mr. Yunits stated that he just wanted to notify the Select Board that Ms. Kolf had to resign because of prior priorities and commitments.

5. Appointments of the Following Individuals to the Historical Commission:

- a) Stephen Amort
- b) Steven Lipkind
- c) Stephanie Brefini

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to appoint Stephen Amort and Steven Lipkind to the Historical Commission through June 30, 2026 and Stephanie Brefini through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Steven Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

6. Appointment of James Jardin to the Water and Sewer Commission.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to appoint James Jardin to the Water and Sewer Commission term effective April 28, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

III. Minutes

Approve Minutes, including but not limited to: February 15, 2024.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to approve the minutes from February 15, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

IV. Licenses and Permits

Discussion and/or Vote to Approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Mark Hesselbarth for a Private Event at Wheaton College in the Atrium of the Balfour-Hood Center from 7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to approve the One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License to Mark Hesselbarth for a private event at Wheaton College in the Atrium of the Balfour-Hood Center from 7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

V. Announcements

1. Meet John Adams Event.

Meet John Adams, second President of the United States. An entertaining and informative one-man show starring George Bake on Sun, April 21st at 2:00 P.M. in the Norton High School Auditorium. Admission is 420 for adults and \$10 for students. Discounts are available for parties of 5 or more. Call (508) 285-7070 for details. Send checks to Norton Historical Society, P.O. Box 1711, Norton, MA 02766.

2. Affordable Housing Lottery at Norton Links (195 Mansfield Avenue).

Affordable Rent Amounts: Seven (7) Studios: \$1,656; Eight (8) 1 Bedrooms: \$1,892; Eight (8) 2 Bedrooms: \$2,128; Two (2) 3 Bedrooms: \$2,365. *Rents subject to change in future years. Rent includes utilities. Pets are permitted, subject to restrictions.* There are income limits and the public information session will be on April 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom. Mr. Rich noted that the application deadline is May 7, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. For more information, go to www.sebhousing.com.

VI. Business

A. New Business

1. Discussion and/or Vote on Mobile Exhibit for the Wreaths Across America Organization.

Ms. Pat Tarantino explained the mobile exhibit for the Wreaths Across America at a previous meeting and explained that she has now applied for it. She reminded the Select Board that they advised her to speak with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jennifer O'Neill, to get permission to have the mobile exhibit on their property, which she reported they were thrilled about. She stated that some of the buses will be pushed back and they are allowed to use their generator. Ms. Tarantino advised that Dr. O'Neill told her that she will circulate the information once they have it to all of the schools to inform the students and parents.

Mr. Hornsby expressed that he is all for doing this, but questioned if they need to know the date that it will be in town to vote on it and Mr. Yunits answered that they would and then it requires a Select Board vote.

2. Vote to Declare the Norton Police Department's 2012 Ford F-150 Silver/Gray (VIN: 1FTFX1EF3CFA60400) as Surplus.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to declare the Norton Police Department's 2012 Ford F-150 Silver/Gray (VIN: 1FTFX1EF3CFA60400) as surplus. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Steven Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Update from Deputy Fire Chief Michael Wilson Regarding NARCAN Kits.

Deputy Fire Chief Michael Wilson explained that there is a card in the kit on how to administer the NARCAN and phone numbers to contact for help. Ms. Luciano asked how long the NARCAN is good for and Deputy Chief Wilson answered that they are usually good for a couple of years.

4. Discussion on Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Yunits advised that town counsel has reviewed the warrant and at the next meeting the Water and Sewer Commission will be there to explain a couple of their articles. He mentioned that Article 19 (Street Acceptance and Easements – Leonard Street Extension) they are requesting to send it to the Planning Board for its non-binding recommendation for Leonard Street North.

5. Vote to Refer the Proposed Layout of Leonard Street North as a public way and the Layout Plan to the Planning Board for its Non-Binding Recommendations.

Mr. Yunits explained that Leonard Street North is where Yale Appliance is located and there is space there for another building, which is under construction now. Mr. Rich asked if this was the curve in the road that goes left, which Mr. Yunits confirmed. Mr. Yunits stated that the Planning Board has asked the Water, Sewer, and Highway Departments to review the layout and plan to make sure it is built in accordance.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to refer the proposed layout of Leonard Street North as a public way and the Layout Plan to the Planning Board for its non-binding recommendations. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

6. Discussion and/or Vote to Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to Submit the Statement of Interest to Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Norton Middle School.

Mr. Yunits explained that he met with the Superintendent of Schools about replacing the roof at the Norton Middle School, which is the original roof from 1999. He advised that they are looking for the Select Board to authorize the Superintendent to submit a State of Interest to MSBA.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Statement of Interest to Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Norton Middle School. Seconded by Ms. Luciano. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr. Hornsby - Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Yunits came back to this agenda topic and explained that Mr. Rich had a statement that he needed to read and have the Select Board approve for the Statement of Interest for the MSBA. Mr. Rich read the following text into the record:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 29, 2024, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Select Board of Norton, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 2024 for the Norton Middle School located at 215 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the accelerated program to install a new roof; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Norton to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

B. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

C. Town Manager's Report

1. FY25 Budget Update.

Mr. Yunits advised that they are still working on the budget, but hopefully they have the numbers in by Monday. He stated that what they do have figured out is the revenue. The Town Manager explained that what he provided to the Select Board is if the Town's and the School Department's budgets increased by 4% and with that, the budget would be short \$719,941. He pointed out that what they are going to see initially will be higher than this because the budgets submitted show all of the additional requests of each department and then they will start working on what can be cut. Ms. Luciano stated that they need to see what they have for the budgets in order to figure out what level-services is for all of the departments, not just 4% across the Board, which Mr. Yunits agreed with. He stated that they will be getting all of the budgets in and then they will start reviewing and making the cuts.

2. MassMEP Meeting at CPS Technologies.

Mr. Yunits explained that MassMEP is an organization helping out small manufacturers of Massachusetts. He stated that they had an event that CPS Technologies attended. He informed the Board that CPS Technologies is a small company located on South Worcester Street that was involved in developing lightweight armor early on in Iraq. He pointed out that a lot of the vehicles were being blown up by IEDs, so they helped develop the lightweight armor to protect them. Mr. Yunits informed the Board that the company has developed another armor to go on navy ships because now there are small boats going out and attacking ships. He added that CPS Technologies also develops the armor on almost every satellite in the sky to protect them from heat coming from the sensors on the satellites. Mr. Yunits noted that they are a publicly traded company and they made it a point to mention how much they like being in Norton. He pointed out that CPS Technologies also helps the Wreaths Across America organization and the Cupboard of Kindness. Mr. Yunits mentioned how great the company is to the Norton Police Department as well.

Mr. Yunits informed the Board that while he was there, the State Senator told him that 5 months in a row their revenues have come in lower than anticipated, so the cuts they already made this fiscal year they are going to have to make more cuts to. Mr. Yunits stated that this is a scary thought, but the Senator also reported that they aren't hitting their benchmarks either. He noted that one thing he did hear this week is the State is saying they are going to begin is lodging tax reimbursements

to the towns that have hotels with rooms being taken up by the migrant population because these municipalities are not receiving the room tax as they typically would. Mr. Yunits informed the Board that the Town received \$21,402 less the first two quarters of this year compared to the first two quarters of FY23.

3. MBTA Housing Zone.

Mr. Yunits advised that the Town is working with SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District) on its Section 3A MBTA Housing Zone. He stated that they will be developing the plan and then working with the Planning Board and going to town meeting in October and then filing with the State once town meeting is over.

Mr. Yunits mentioned that he was a little upset when he saw that the Attorney General is taking the Norton Planning Board to court because the citizens voted to not do the MBTA housing because they are trying to say it is mandatory. Mr. Yunits expressed that he couldn't believe they would do that because for them to say it is mandatory is inaccurate because it is not; and rather, it simply means that the Town wouldn't be eligible to receive grants.

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

Mr. Hornsby stated that he is one of the founding members of the Norton Business Association (NBA) and they are finally going to hold a meet and greet on March 26th at Bog Iron Brewing from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. He explained that it is for any Norton-based businesses to learn what the NBA is all about and to hopefully join.

Mr. Hornsby reminded residents that there is the Senior Work-Off Program, which helps seniors with paying their taxes by volunteering, such as administrative work at the Town Hall. He stated that you have to be over 60 years old and pay real estate taxes in Norton. He noted that there is an income factor component to this program. Mr. Hornsby pointed out that one thing he didn't know that he just learned about is if you have an elderly neighbor that is having a problem paying their taxes, but are unable to volunteer, you can volunteer for them and that credit goes to the senior's taxes. Mr. Hornsby urged residents to see the Board of Assessors to learn more about this program.

IX. **Warrants**

Mr. Hornsby reported that the following Payroll and Invoice Warrants were approved:

- a. Invoice Warrant AP24-34 dated February 22, 2024.
- b. Payroll Warrant PR24-17 for the week ended February 17, 2024, Warrant dated February 22, 2024.
- c. Invoice Warrant AP24-35 dated February 29, 2024.

X. **Other Business**

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

XI. **Next Meeting's Agenda** – March 14, 2024.

XII. **Executive Session.**

There was no executive session scheduled for this evening.

XIII. **Adjournment.**

**MOTION was made by Ms. Luciano to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:50 P.M.
Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Artz – Yes; Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; and Mr.
Hornsby – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okj1fdUZ2H4>

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

Kevin Snyder, Chair




Steven Hornsby, Vice Chair



Alec Rich, III, Clerk

Megan Artz



Denise Luciano

Minutes Approved by Board on: March 14, 2024

