



TOWN OF NORTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
70 EAST MAIN STREET
MUNICIPAL CENTER, NORTON, MASS. 02766
TELEPHONE (508) 285-0210

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
FEBRUARY 17, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The February 17, 2011, Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Mr. Kimball.

A. Roll Call: Chairman, Mr. Robert Kimball; Vice-Chair, Mrs. Mary Steele; Messrs. Bradford Bramwell, Clerk; Timothy Giblin; and Robert Salvo were present. Mr. James Purcell, Acting-Town Manager, was not present.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to enter into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. for purpose to conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel, and to return to Open Session at conclusion of Executive Session. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Open Session resumed at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

A. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended February 5, 2011, Warrant #47, dated February 10, 2011, in the amount of \$1,034,406.06

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended February 5, 2011, Warrant #47, dated February 10, 2011, in the amount of \$1,034,406.06. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Approve bills Warrant #48, dated February 10, 2011, in the amount of \$644,157.94

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #48, dated February 10, 2011, in the amount of \$644,157.94. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

C. Approve bills Warrant #49, dated February 17, 2011, in the amount of \$158,284.71

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #49, dated February 17, 2011, in the amount of \$158,284.71. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

D. Minutes – No minutes were reviewed/approved.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Selectmen welcomed the new incoming Town Manager, Michael Yunits, to Town. Mr. Yunits has a lot of experience and will commence employment for the Town on March 10, 2011.

Mr. Yunits said this was a great opportunity, and he was looking forward to meeting everyone and working for the Town of Norton.
.....

The 9th Annual Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game to be held on March 4, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. At Norton High School.
.....

A memo from Town Clerk, dated February 16, 2011, regarding Notice to Norton Residents to be advised that requests for Pesticide Spraying Exclusions must be filed with the TownClerk by March 1, 2011.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M. - Congressman Barney Frank

It was noted Congressman Frank had to reschedule his appearance at this evening's Board of Selectmen's meeting.

2. Jacqueline Boudreau, Treasurer/Collector Re: Vote to accept the bid for the 1998 and 2000 refund and sign the notes for the loan

Amount of \$211,701 in savings and paying off Middle School loan.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to accept bid from Colbi Capital Markets for years 2011-2021 with rates ranging from 4%. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

3. 7:30 P.M. - Joint Meeting with School Committee, Superintendent of Schools, and Finance Committee to discuss finances/budget

Spreadsheet was distributed to Board "Control Sheet F12 Operating Revenues and Expenditures". Sheet was reviewed. Mr. Purcell spoke of figures of \$26,506,994 based on property tax levy and new property tax growth. A revenue decrease of \$259,000. Grateful to Hicks Fund trustees. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Giblin referenced Charter School tuition reimbursement decrease. He said he and the Board are not against Charter Schools, the issue is the way the formula is calculated that does not make sense.

Mr. Kimball said assessment from charter schools comes directly from cherry sheet. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Purcell said it is a fact that charter schools are underrepresented in the special education area.

It was noted that Standard & Poor remarked on Town's low debt.

Regarding health insurance; no working rates yet. Average increase is 6.5 to 8% in last four to five years.

Mr. Kimball suggested that school/Town to go with extension of last year's contract including health insurance and go for 0% increase for one year for contracts. It would cost Town legal funds and fact that a clearer picture would occur in 2013-2015. Trying to renegotiate contract for School Committee and Board of Selectmen. He suggested to ask the unions for a one-year extension for contract and it was his personal opinion if one union does not agree to it, it probably will not happen. It must be unanimous. Discussion ensued.

All Board members appeared to agree with Mr. Kimball's recommendation.

Mr. Kimball said School Committee should consider same option and asking a letter be sent to request this as discussed above.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to authorize Town Manager to send a letter to School Committee regarding discussion above regarding contracts. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mrs. Beth McManus, member of School Committee wanted to clarify this means freezing of everything (steps, raises, etc.).

Mr. Kimball said he would need to get clarification regarding that.

Mr. Helmreich of Finance Committee referenced state loss of stimulus funds and Town not having to deal with that a year from now. Economy may be better in one year. Other advantage is state etc., will adjust to loss of stimulus.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Authorize Town Manager to send a letter to Town's unions regarding above discussion regarding contracts. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Purcell departed Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:09 p.m.

.....

Mr. Bramwell referenced Water Dept. line item of \$70,000 and asked for clarification from Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners regarding this.

Mr. Kimball said this was a good point and it is a good plan to send a letter to them to ask not to be charged fees, and to also ask this question and rationale behind it.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Bramwell to sign letter on behalf of Board of Selectmen and work with Michelle Brown on it; it is a Town project.

4. 8:00 P.M. - Norton High School Building Committee Re: Update on the Feasibility Study/Schematic Design. Presentation by the Architect (JCJ) and Project Manager (Pinck)

Mr. Kevin O'Neil, Chairperson for High School Building Committee, was present along with Margaret Wood of Pinck, and Greg Smalley of JCJ (Architect) and provided description and then schematic design.

Mr. Smalley provided a fairly brief presentation and description given of floor plan, etc. It was noted this high school was built in the early 1970's.

Code compliance necessary and steps needed to take for compliance.

Mr. Kimball said he learned the high school does not have a sprinkler system.

Mr. Smalley said it is expensive to install sprinklers and all other newer heating needed, also.

Mr. Smalley said Option 2.2 really gets them to where they want to be and addressed all of the needs of the program. Options were: Options 1, 2.1, 2.2, and 3.

A temporary classroom costs between \$75,000-\$100,000 per year.

Mr. Kimball said everyone did a great job and said town counsel stated there should be three separate articles.

It was noted Town Moderator, Mr. Gouveia, is concerned that about 3,000 people may attend this meeting.

Mr. Kimball said they could do ballot first vs. town meeting first. Discussion ensued.

Mr. O'Neil said ballot vote could occur before or after; ballot vote on Saturday would be ideal and maybe within a week of the town meeting.

Mr. Helmreich of Finance Committee, spoke of a possibility of being defeated at ballot but approved at town meeting. Ballot requires a majority vote. In past opponents have decided not to go to town meeting. A 2/3 vote at town meeting is needed.

Mr. Helmreich recommended town meeting on Monday and ballot on Saturday, he said this was just his personal opinion.

Mr. Kimball stated Saturday is a good idea for ballot and absentee ballots are readily available also.

Town Meeting to be June 6, 2011 and hold June 8, 2011 for a second night if needed and need to decide on a plan. Possibly funding for audio/video for various rooms.

Mrs. Steele agreed with Mr. Helmreich; town meeting first to be held and vote afterward (ballot vote) on a Saturday.

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to hold Special Election on Saturday, 6/11/11, for purpose of High School Renovation Project. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. O'Neil said Option 2.2 School Building Committee recommended. It was noted website for Norton High School Building project is NHSBuildingProject.org and all documents are posted on it as well.

Mr. Giblin departed meeting at 8:15 p.m.

5. Set up Teams for Contract negotiations

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Resignation of James Perry, Republican member of the Board of Registrars, effective February 4, 2011

It was discussed that a thank you letter should be sent to Mr. Perry for his service to Town.

It was noted a letter from Chairman of the Norton Republican Town Committee, Michael Smith, stated in the letter the vote of this Committee was unanimous in nominating Mrs. Dottie Freeman to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the current term.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to appoint Dottie Freeman as the Republican member of the Board of Registrars, for the remainder of term. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Kimball said he may not be attending the next meeting, so he briefly reviewed employment agreement with incoming Town Manager, Mr. Yunits. It is a March 10, 2011 start date with a salary of \$125,000; \$400 year subscriptions, etc. Sick leave and vacation are three weeks; and a Charter evaluation.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

1. 7:05 P.M. - Eagle Scouts
2. Request of Leroy Crossman, Commander, Disabled American Veterans, Cpl. William F. Reardon, Chapter 57, Taunton, MA, to conduct a Forget-Me-Not Drive on July 30 & 31, 2011, at Roche Bros. Supermarket, Mansfield Avenue, Norton

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 6:00 P.M. - To conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet Sweeney
Board of Selectmen-Recording Secretary

Documents Reviewed/Distributed at February 17, 2011 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- . Document from Town Clerk, Danielle Sicard, dated February 16, 2011, regarding Pesticide Spraying Exclusions-Notice to Norton Residents

- . Spreadsheet “Control Sheet F12 Operating Revenues and Expenditures”

- . Plans/Schematic Design for Norton High School—Options 1, 2.1, 2.2, and 3 shown

- . Letter dated February 17, 2011 from Michael J. Smith, Jr., Chairman of the Norton Republican Town Committee regarding Status of Republican Nominee for the Board of Registrars

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Chairman

Mary T. Steele, Vice-Chairman

Bradford K. Bramwell, Clerk

Timothy R. Giblin

Robert S. Salvo, Sr.

Date Approved:_____