

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 12, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The April 12, 2012, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Bramwell, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m., held in the First Floor Selectmen's Conference Room in the Municipal Center.

A. Roll Call: Mr. Bradford Bramwell, Chairman of Board of Selectmen; Mrs. Mary Steele, Vice-Chair; Mr. Timothy Giblin, Clerk; Mr. Robert Kimball; and Mr. Robert Salvo were present. Mr. Michael Yunits, Town Manager, was also present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

A. Approve bills Warrant #61, dated April 12, 2012, in the amount of \$114,879.97

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve bills Warrant #61, dated April 12, 2012, in the amount of \$114,879.97. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. Minutes – January 12, 2012
 January 26, 2012

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated January 12, 2012, as written. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated January 26, 2012, as written. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Offices will be closed Monday, April 16, 2012, in observance of Patriot's Day.
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Rabies Clinic to be held Saturday, April 14th from 10-12 noon, and also dog licensing office will be open.
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Police Honor Guard at Bruins game to fly flag. Congratulations to Honor Guard of Norton!
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V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:10 P.M. - Request of Kara J. Griffin, Executive Director, Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce,

for permission to have a Banner hung over Route 123, across from Town Hall, April 19-May 4, 2012, announcing the Chamber's 4th Annual Monte Carlo and Silent Auction Night, to be held May 3, 2012, 6:00-9:30 P.M., Showcase Live at Patriot's Place

Mr. Bramwell said it was fine with him as long as it did not conflict with Founder's Day banner, etc., which he believed it would not since Bill Lippincott is involved with both organizations.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to approve Request of Kara J. Griffin, Executive Director, Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce, for permission to have a Banner hung over Route 123, across from Town Hall, April 19-May 4, 2012, announcing the Chamber's 4th Annual Monte Carlo and Silent Auction Night, to be held May 3, 2012, 6:00-9:30 P.M., Showcase Live at Patriot's Place. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Vote Intention to Lay Out Johnson Drive

Mr. Yunits said there were some issues with Conservation Commission regarding this but most issues are fine now and appears to be no problems. He spoke to Town Planner and will be on next agenda.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Vote Intention to Lay Out Johnson Drive. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: All In Favor, except for Mr. Salvo voting "present".

3. Discussion concerning television coverage of Town Meetings

Mr. Bramwell stated last fall there was the subject of t.v. coverage of town meetings and Board of Selectmen was asked for their opinion.

Mr. Kimball said he still believed whenever there is a live meeting they should encourage it, however, he was not sure if able to do this live yet. People/residents at home may jump in their car and come down to town meeting if they see an issue they feel strongly about. He believed all boards/committees should be live, even ConCom, etc. Live option he felt was the best option.

Mr. Giblin said he felt anytime to post a live meeting is more beneficial to the townspeople. To have as many live opportunities as possible would be helpful.

Mr. Salvo said meetings that are not televised are a concern. People need to be directly informed and even to fill vacancies. Water Dept. just went live this year. He would like to have Cable personnel in to update Board of Selectmen on equipment issues, etc. and to try to enable all meetings to be live meetings.

Mrs. Steele agreed all meetings should be live.

Mr. Giblin said all cable connections should be connected now he would think.

Mr. Yunits said with new studio this will happen. There is no ability to do live from Middle School, however, he does not know the specific technicalities. It would be interesting to have Cable staff come in to discuss capabilities, etc.

Mr. Bramwell said it would help a lot of elderly people regarding live meetings and serve these people even if they cannot vote and would provide younger people with a good teaching tool. Mr. Bramwell stated the microphones in town hall are atrocious and not audible. The microphones hanging above do not work either. Consensus of Board appeared to be meetings should be televised live.

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Yunits stated he spoke to police chief regarding a person being struck in front of Wheaton College. More traffic enforcement in that area to be provided through a grant. Everything is being well marked with barrels, etc.

Mr. Salvo suggested to have a rep from Mass Highway in, including police chief as Town needs to get rid of some traffic near center. The traffic lights need to be synchronized and would solve some of the problem.

Mr. Giblin said last October he thought they were going to look at traffic light situation being synchronized.

Mr. Salvo said traffic needs to move quicker.

Mr. Bramwell said when they rebuilt some roadways, the turning lanes were not built large enough and at times there is a traffic back-up on East Main Street heading west. Intersection itself is poorly designed and need to extend left turning lane.

Mr. Kimball said they need to look into a way to modify this so people are able to get more width in that location. Before Wheaton uses land in corner, it would be beneficial to get Mass Highway in and vehicles could take a left onto Taunton Avenue more easily. This is one area to explore.

Mr. Giblin said also the cable travels across the center traffic light and it is difficult to see second traffic light.

Mr. Yunits said it makes no sense both lights turn at same time.

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Mr. Kimball asked about the Sportsway Cafe recent issue.

Mr. Yunits said it is still under investigation by D.A. at this point.

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Mr. Yunits said Greater Attleboro Homes Consortium monies are available for people in Town to remodel their homes.

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Mr. Yunits stated State released figures and Norton's figure is \$563,336 and House voted yesterday by \$112,000 aid and hope to get more info soon.

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Mr. Yunits said MMA sent out info today and future is to exempt solar panels and wind farms from paying property tax. Will need to see what happens in Legislation.

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Mr. Yunits spoke of the new pension reform as of April 2012 from 55 to 60 years of age and employees eligible for full pension from 65 to 67. Discussion ensued.

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Mr. Yunits said at the last meeting the Board discussed salt on roadways and on April 4th Jennifer Carlino, conservation agent, sent letter to Mass DOT Program/(Snow and Ice).

Charter changes: Two Articles on water and sewer were not on mailing, and town clerk sent out last Friday so voters should have all up-to-date information.

Mr. Kimball referenced charter changes: water and sewer commission (increase from three to five members) and water superintendent to be appointed as well as town clerk. The water and sewer commissioners make it a major shake up as signs in Town state: "giving up your right to vote!" The Board has appointed to that Commission for years. Intentions are: 1) increase three to five members; 2) importance of accountability but town manager has no say at all (that dept. needs to be under direction of someone). It is not correct about giving up your right to vote. Mr. Kimball said he believes the people on this commission can do their job. However, he is hearing rumblings around Town. He recommended to let town manager help run this.

Mr. Giblin said he was a member of Town Charter Committee. They had water dept. in front of that committee and it came down to 1) accountability to town manager; and 2) almost everyone on that commission was appointed anyhow. A five member Commission, similar to Board of Selectmen, and means more volunteers would be available to be appointed. Campaign signs are expensive also when running for the Commission. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Steele said the Board of Selectmen feels confident in Water Commissioners the Town currently has. It is not about the three individual commissioners, it is about the future as these three commissioners won't be there forever. It is a large department with a lot of money and needs accountability.

The Town Clerk position is currently an elected position; so there is no setting of hours. If appointed by Mr. Yunits, town manager, can set hours; and no one knows what will happen in future and need to set some controls.

C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Discussion Re: Conservation Commission Appointment

Mr. Bramwell indicated at the last Board of Selectmen meeting they decided to put this decision off indefinitely and to bring matter up again. Since that time, there is more interest in ConCom from residents. Therefore, need to postpone the decision because of new people coming forward.

Mr. Kimball said as he was watching and reading about this in newspaper, and he wanted to retract comments he made. He wanted to publicly apologize to both candidates. He said perhaps he should have done more research and should not have generalized about people being "not open minded".

Mr. Kimball agreed it would be worthwhile to wait on this item. There are rumblings of a possible new opening on ConCom also.

Mr. Giblin said he made a statement last week that both candidates were well qualified, but they should listen to other candidate(s) to be fair.

Mr. Bramwell said he would recommend to put this off again for other interested parties to come forward. Discussion ensued.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Giblin said one business in Town, Bristol Coach and Limo, have been in Norton for over 15 years and he does not think their name was ever mentioned before. They transported a spina bifida patient free of charge to a Bruce Springsteen concert. This is another business in Town helping out and he thanked John and Libby Caccaccio, the owners of Bristol Coach and Limo.

Mr. Salvo said Mass Highway and 495 off ramp onto Route 123 and

Mr. Salvo referenced Mass Highway and Route 495 off ramp onto Route 123 and referenced trees and site view is not good so drivers cannot see well. Need to cut trees.

Mr. Kimball said trees are related to Canoe River, but agreed it is hazardous.

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Turtle Crossing Hearing to be held on April 30, 2012. Mr. Kimball said he attended recent ConCom hearing and it was continued to April 23, 2012 at library.

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Mr. Kimball stated Mr. Yunits had discussed town clerk/salary and elected vs. appointed position at a FinCom meeting. Mr. Yunits spoke of \$46,599 salary of town clerk recommendation. FinCom recommended \$61,901. There is no objection by Mr. Yunits if position is appointed. Mr. Kimball said if he was currently the town clerk, he could work 20 hours a week and try to get all the work done. This is not a reflection on present town clerk, Ms. Sicard.

Mr. Kimball said in Board's best interest he suggested to take Mr. Yunits' recommendation of making it an appointed position. If a certain goal is reached, then more money can be given to this position. He recommended Board to take Mr. Yunits' recommendation or if position is appointed then can rethink what this position should be paid. It puts Board of Selectmen in an awkward position.

Mr. Yunits said he indicated to FinCom that he would return to them with salary range.

Mr. Bramwell said town clerk probably deserves the higher salary, however, times are tough and this indicates how desperate Town's economic times are. It would also be sending the wrong message to other departments. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Giblin said it would be a \$15,000 raise to "position" not to "person" working as town clerk. Mr. Giblin said he would also agree with Mr. Yunits' recommendation.

Mr. Salvo said if appointed, it is not a union position; it is management/contract position.

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Mr. Bramwell referenced the Norton Historical Society Newsletter referencing old gas stations (including Scott's Garage) which brings back memories. Tuesday night "the Village of Norton Center" will be presented by the Historical Society.

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Mr. Bramwell said on Saturday, April 14th, at 10 a.m. the Dedication of the new fire engine will be in honor of Al Briand and will be held at Norton Fire Station Headquarters.

Mr. Kimball recognized Herb Ellison who retired as a Trustee of Norton Library and had served on Committee for 50 years.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Re: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and not to return to Open Session. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet Sweeney

Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING OF
APRIL 12, 2012**

Bradford K. Bramwell, Chairman

Mary T. Steele, Vice-Chair

Timothy R. Giblin, Clerk

Robert W. Kimball, Jr.

Robert S. Salvo, Sr.

Date Approved: _____

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at April 12, 2012, Board of Selectmen Meeting

- . Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 12, 2012 and January 26, 2012
- . MMA Pension Reform Summary (April 2012)
- . Town of Norton Warrant for Special Town Meeting, May 14, 2012, Bristol, SS.