

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The January 16, 2014 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Kimball, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m., held in the First Floor Selectmen's Conference Room.

A. ROLL CALL: Mr. Robert W. Kimball, Jr., Chairman; Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell, Clerk; and Mr. Timothy R. Giblin were present. Absent: Mrs. Mary T. Steele, Vice-Chair, and Mr. Robert S. Salvo, Sr. Mr. Michael Yunits, Town Manager, was also present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

A. Approve bills Warrant #43, dated January 16, 2014, in the amount of \$191,840.01
MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #43, dated January 16, 2014, in the amount of \$191,840.01. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous.
MOTION CARRIES.

B. Approve Minutes –
There were no Minutes reviewed/approved.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board wanted to extend its condolences to the family of Deborah Fuller, who recently passed away, and who was a former assistant in the Building Dept. of Town Hall.

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Below are the employment opportunities available currently in the Town of Norton:

. Tax Collector-Treasurer; 40 hour week position with a salary range of \$63,024 to \$86,528 and also a Human Services/COA Director; 32 hour week position at \$20.00 per hour for the FY14 rate. All open positions can be located on the Town of Norton website for a full copy of the job description, minimum qualifications, and an employment application: www.nortonma.org.

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Residents should be receiving their Annual Town Census Forms in the mail between January 8 and January 15, 2014. These Census Forms must be signed and returned to the Town Clerk's Office within ten days of receipt, and must be returned even if there are no changes.

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Dog Licenses for 2014 are now available and must be completed by March 1st to avoid late fees. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the online licensing system which can be accessed from the home page of the Town's website by clicking on "Pay Town Bills Online".

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Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election in Norton are available at the Town Clerk's Office beginning Monday, January 27, 2014. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Friday, March 7th at 5:00 P.M. The Annual Town Election in Norton will be held on Tuesday, April 29th. A full listing of available offices and calendar of candidate deadlines as well as additional information for potential candidates is available on the Town's website at www.nortonma.org.

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Requests for Pesticide Spraying Exclusion must be filed with the Town Clerk by March 1, 2014.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:05 P.M. – Fire Chief Paul J. Schleicher Re: Swearing-In Ceremony – Firefighter Jonathan Drobnis

Chief Schleicher referenced the January 3, 2014, North Attleboro fire in which Norton Fire Department assisted with, and commended the department for their efforts. The North Attleboro Fire Chief also sent a letter of thanks to the Norton Fire Department. This particular fire was also featured in Time magazine. Mutual aid was also discussed.

Chief Schleicher said he appreciated the support of fire department personnel being present this evening for Firefighter Drobnis.

It was noted Mr. Drobnis grew up in Sharon and attended college at Roger Williams and University of Alaska in Fairbanks obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design, and has also assisted the department with his graphic design skills. He does reside in Norton and is also a finished carpenter.

The Town Clerk conducted the swearing-in of Firefighter Drobnis and he was congratulated by the Board of Selectmen. Firefighter Drobnis' parents and his girlfriend, Amanda, were asked to approach the podium for pinning of his badge.

Firefighter Drobnis said he was happy to be here this evening, and this was his dream come true.

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Chief Schleicher noted the local Union is currently conducting a fundraiser, therefore, it is legitimate and there will be a comedy night held at Holiday Inn as part of this fundraiser on March 21st at 8 p.m.

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Chief Schleicher said the Fire Department had a firefighter resign, Alan Bliss, as he also owns a pest control business and it is very successful, so it was the right thing to do.

2. 7:15 P.M. – Fire Chief Paul J. Schleicher Re: Request to approve increase in Permit fees, etc.

Chief Schleicher said the fees are capped by Massachusetts State law and many towns charge more than this, and the Board had been provided a fee schedule of various towns for comparison. He asked the Board to consider raising fees from the last ten years.

Mr. Kimball agreed the Board should take this under consideration, and the Board agreed to consider this. It was discussed this was not a money-maker and ten years is a long time to not raise fees.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Request of Fire Chief Paul J. Schleicher to approve increase in Permit fees as proposed. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

3. 7:30 P.M. – CONTINUATION OF HEARING – Petition of National Grid-Verizon covering joint National Grid-Verizon pole locations – Freeman Street Pole 4133

It was noted this was Tabled at the previous meeting.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Remove the Request from the Table. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Bill Maffei, representative for National Grid-Verizon, was present and explained Petition. The pole is located on Freeman Street, and is located on the outside corner and has a tendency to pull toward properties and this would remedy this.

Mr. Kimball asked if anyone in audience wished to speak in favor or not in favor of this Petition. No one responded. The certified mail receipts were provided.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Petition of National Grid-Verizon covering joint National Grid-Verizon pole locations – Freeman Street Pole 4133 (NGRID to remove pole-tree guy at Pole 4133 Freeman Street and install a 35' class 4 stub pole 4133-84 across the street from P4133 and install an anchor 10 feet from P4133-84 to guy it). Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

4. Joanne Haracz, Chairman, Planning Board, Re: Discussion – Solar By-Law

Mrs. Haracz referenced the solar bylaw and stated Planning Board wanted to know what concerns of Board of Selectmen were.

Mr. Kimball responded that Mrs. Steele was the one who had been discussing this. He is aware nothing is in place now, so wanted to ensure site plan and building permits are done.

Mrs. Haracz discussed bylaws regarding regulations and access, and also that access may affect abutting properties.

Mr. Kimball said it was his own personal opinion that there was some control over where they are placed.

Mr. Yunits said he cannot speak for members who are not present this evening, however, he thought it was more the placement issue for them. Also, there were concerns from conversations with Fire Chief regarding safety issues/fire concerns, and Fire Chief had indicated he would like to be informed when Planning Board is having deliberations regarding this.

Mrs. Haracz stated it appeared Board of Selectmen seems to have concerns of facility itself and public safety, etc.

Mr. Bramwell said he did not want to ban them from all areas, but to have some controls in place before any of these proposals come to fruition.

Mr. Giblin referenced the issues of public safety; the needs of residents; accessibility; and also that the Board of Selectmen did not have enough information and wanted to talk to Planning Board and public safety on how to make it right.

Mrs. Haracz said it also appeared to be a concern about a large scale commercial project.

Mr. Kimball suggested to Mrs. Haracz to draft a bylaw and the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board can work on it together. Discussion followed regarding to possibly put a placeholder on the Warrant for this, with Planning Board and Board of Selectmen as sponsors of the Article.

5. Presentation from OMNI Life Science-

. Discussion of TIF

Ms. Lynn Tokarczyk of Business Development Strategies, Inc., stated this is a company that is considering relocating to Norton. Ms. Tokarczyk introduced others that accompanied her this evening, including Mr. George Cipolletti, President and CEO of Omni Life Science; Mr. David LaSalle, Chief Operating Officer of OMNI Life Science; and Mr. Ed Tartufo, of Chamber of Commerce. State Representatives Barrows and Howitt were also in the audience this evening.

Mr. Cipolletti presented a Powerpoint presentation: "Company Overview", and explained what OMNI Life Science does, including, but not limited to, selling products to surgeons, dealing with artificial knees or hips replacements, and company was started in 1999. There are 70 employees in Massachusetts and other areas; headquarters are in Taunton at this time.

Mr. LaSalle said their company is being affected by the proposed casino. "Proposed Expansion Plans" were discussed. Also, they are seeking a facility that could be long-term for their company, and has expansion capability. Also discussed: "Proposed Investment Plans"; "Economic Impact"; "Community Involvement", and also spoke of a sense of urgency for them. Cost of building to be about \$3.5M

Mr. Kimball said they are very pro-business in this Town and have never had any issues with any of the previous TIFs. The Board of Selectmen will try to take action after this presentation and stated the Board is as committed as they are. He also recommended for them to think of building bigger the first time as it is sometimes easier to not have to come back for a second TIF; possibly make that 40,000 square feet a bit larger. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Tokarczyk provided background, history and plans of this company. She also wanted to thank Mr. Yunits, Town Manager, for his leadership and for recognizing this company as they are considering the Town of Norton. She hoped they could go through the process on an accelerated pace with final approval at the end of March. Ms. Tokarczyk stated the company was grateful to have this opportunity.

Mr. Yunits indicated if the Board does move to vote to move forward, he did take the liberty of posting a meeting for next Wednesday with the Industrial Development Commission.

Representative Barrows stated this is a great opportunity and said he would like to be the first to extend an invitation to their STEM (science center) meeting at Wheaton College.

Representative Howitt said he would be happy to work with OMNI Life Science and welcomed them.

Mr. Tartufo explained this company is not just a warehouse; they do some manufacturing; it increases demographics of community, and they look forward to another company coming to the Town of Norton.

A member of the Industrial Development Commission thanked them for coming forward and they hope to discuss this with them next Wednesday. : todd/codd:

. Scheduling of Special Town Meeting

The timelines for the Special Town Meeting was discussed. It opens on January 16 with Warrant closing on January 28, and will forward a copy of Warrant to Finance Committee Chairman on January 29th. Special Town Meeting to be held February 24th (Monday), and Mr. Yunits stated Superintendent of Schools said the Middle School is available on that date to accommodate the Special Town Meeting.

MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Call for a Special Town Meeting to be held at Norton Middle School on Monday, February 24 at 7 P.M. Second by Mr. Giblin.

Discussion: Mr. Kimball said there were two Board of Selectmen members not present this evening, however, they have shared they are 100% behind this proposal.

Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

. Discussion – Building Committee

Mr. Yunits stated the schools are looking at another roof project. They are seeking for members to join the Building Committee.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits to ensure this is posted on website.

. Discussion – Fixed & Shared Expenses

Mr. Yunits provided an update on fixed and shared expenses. He said the insurance company indicated they will have some info available tomorrow. Mr. Yunits told the Board they should have two detailed sheets in their packets ("Fixed and Shared Expenses") and he discussed the maturing debt, interest on notes, etc.

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Mr. Yunits referenced the traffic count numbers on Routes 123 and 495, and spoke of a letter received from Mary Jo Perry, State Highway Director, indicating signs will be installed at appropriate locations to allow for police enforcement.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits to please advise Police Dept.

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Mr. Yunits said he also met with Mr. Ralph Stefanelli, Norton's SRPEDD rep, yesterday and discussed the work to be done in Town with assistance from SRPEDD.

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Mr. Yunits spoke of a unit on both the inside and outside of the building of Norton High School emitting a noise. This is a change and studies are being done to improve that noise.

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There will be a Norton High School Open House/Tour scheduled for March 29 at 1 P.M. and all residents are invited. Also invitations are being extended to all state reps and senators.

Mr. Kimball said the Gold Star Committee met recently and a shadow box is being put together with various items, including a flag to donate to Norton High School. The Gold Star Committee asked Mr. Kimball to send a letter to School Committee and Superintendent of Schools regarding this and on March 29 will dedicate this box to Sgt. Master Trent.

E-coli report: There is no e-coli at all, but there is a problem with the well. It appears a catastrophic failure of motor occurred on Well 3 and has since been repaired and put back together. This morning samples were taken and are currently awaiting results.

Production capacity on Well 6 was discussed. Pump and motor were removed and awaiting on a hydrogeologist report to see why that well is not producing much at all.

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Giblin said at the beginning of December the Board met with the Cemetery Commission regarding the fee structure and recommendations. It may be a good idea to have Mr. Yunits invite them back in.

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Mr. Yunits referenced Union Road and said he met with City of Attleboro Mayor; Mr. Silver, Norton Highway Superintendent; and Senator Kennedy's Office appears to be getting involved and need to find a solution as to what is going on. Detention area is filling up and it is a safety issue on road. The EPA and PRP are awaiting as to what steps can be taken.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits to keep Board informed regarding this in case they need to take legal action.

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Mr. Kimball said one thing he wanted to bring up was the Norton Post Office appears to be demobilized, and it appears Norton's mail is going through the City of Taunton. He believed Norton's zip code was being absorbed into a larger facility. Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits to send a letter to Postmaster and copy to state senators and reps regarding this matter. He also suggested to send a copy to Representative Kennedy. Need to find out: 1) status of the Norton Post Office and how does this issue get rectified? and 2) is Norton's zip code still assigned to the Town of Norton? If this is being changed, the Town of Norton was never notified.

Mr. Bramwell said this was surprising, especially with Wheaton College directly next door. It is the main post office in the Town of Norton. Discussion ensued.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman's Declaration:

Declaration of the Chairman at 8:35 P.M.: Under G.L. c30A, Section 21(b)(3) and (4), the purpose of the executive session will be to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as a discussion of this strategy in open session could compromise the purpose for the executive session; and the Board shall not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Motion to Convene Executive Session:

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin at 8:35 P.M. that the Board of Selectmen enter into executive session, under G.L. c.30A, Section 21(a)(3), regarding discussion of strategy with respect to litigation. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

JANUARY 16, 2014

ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., CHAIRMAN

MARY T. STEELE, VICE-CHAIR

BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, CLERK

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN

ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.

Dated: _____

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at January 16, 2014, Board of Selectmen Meeting

. Notice of Public Hearing from Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager, dated December 9, 2013, to be held January 9, 2014, at 7:30 P.M., in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Norton Municipal Center, 70 East Main Street, Norton, MA 02766, relative to a Petition of National Grid-Verizon pole locations (Freeman Street Pole 4133) with accompanying documentation (Petition and Plan)

. OMNI Life Science Presentation for Norton Board of Selectmen, dated January 16, 2014 (including "Company Overview"; "Market Trends and Projections"; Product Portfolio"; "Proposed Expansion Plans"; "Proposed Investment Plans"; "Proposed Location"; "Proposed Job Creation Plans"; "Economic Impact"; "Community Involvement"

. "Fixed And Shared Expenses" Document

. "Special Town Meeting" Document (including "Action" and "Deadline")

. Fire Department "Proposed Fee Increases – January 16, 2014" Document