

**DRAFT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN**

The January 8, 2015, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mrs. Steele, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m., held in the First Floor Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

**II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES**

A. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended December 20, 2014, Warrant #38, dated December 24, 2014, in the amount of \$1,110,543.60

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended December 20, 2014, Warrant #38, dated December 24, 2014, in the amount of \$1,110,543.60. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

- B. Approve bills Warrant #39, dated December 24, 2014, in the amount of \$23,866.06

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #39, dated December 24, 2014, in the amount of \$23,866.06. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

- C. Approve bills Warrant #40, dated December 31, 2014, in the amount of \$629,648.15

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #40, dated December 31, 2014, in the amount of \$629,648.15. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

- D. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended January 3, 2015, Warrant #41, dated January 8, 2015, in the amount of \$1,036,334.27.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended January 3, 2015, Warrant #41, dated January 8, 2015, in the amount of \$1,036,334.27. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

- E. Approve bills Warrant #42, dated January 8, 2015, in the amount of \$1,168,101.17

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to Approve bills Warrant #42, dated January 8, 2015, in the amount of \$1,168,101.17. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

- F. Approve Minutes – No Minutes were reviewed/approved.

### **III. LICENSES AND PERMITS**

### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A public hearing will be held on January 22 at 7:15 at the Norton Municipal Center regarding Library Square and the potential of making it a one-way road.

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Mr. Kimball spoke of the loss of James H. Dunlap, a retired former Norton police officer, and recognized his service to the Town and sent condolences to his family.

**V. BUSINESS**

**A. NEW BUSINESS**

1. 7:10 P.M. – Paul Mission, SRPEDD, Manager of Transportation Planning Re: DRAFT Goals and Objectives for the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Mission was accompanied by Ms. Jacqueline Schmidt of SRPEDD who is actively involved in the bicycle path planning. On January 29, there will be an informational meeting from 5-7 p.m. for Norton and neighboring communities. Regional Transportation plan development was discussed. It was noted bridges, rail systems and traffic congestion are all taken into consideration. Routes 123 and 495 signal warrant analysis were referenced and Mr. Mission stated they do warrant signalization. The impact to rivers and streams are also looked at.

Mrs. Steele recognized Ralph Stefanelli, Ed Beatty and Keith Silver, Highway Dept. Superintendent, who were in audience are involved with this planning.

Mr. Kimball spoke of the development of industrial parks with added traffic on Pine, Plain, South Washington, and Hill Street, which causes congestion on these roads, and had concerns with the narrow roads. Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Mission to put this in his report and develop a plan. It may possibly require a traffic study.

Mr. Mission responded that annual traffic counts are usually conducted. Potential Mass DOT funding was discussed for traffic studies.

Mr. Bramwell spoke of his concerns of the Town hardly having any sidewalks on the secondary streets, which he believed was a safety issue throughout the Town. Routes 140 and 123 was referenced and also to study sidewalks on some streets and noted Plain Street has a school. Sidewalks to be built to feed into bicycle path would be beneficial. He also noted traffic light signalization at center of Town is not aligned correctly. Also, adding additional turning lanes in center of Town was discussed.

Mr. Mission noted Ms. Schmidt was involved with "Safe Route to School" program.

Mr. Kimball said Wheaton owns one grassy area which may assist Town in making area wider; it could assist with additional turning lanes.

Mr. Kimball said Reservoir Street connects Mansfield and Norton which is another area to look into.

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Mr. Bramwell stated the intersection of Routes 123 and 140 for pedestrians is a safety issue.

Mr. Silver said Pine Street/Plain Street cannot be widened. Also "No trucks" signs cannot be erected. The sidewalk idea is great, but it won't work.

Mr. Silver said the intersection of Route 123 and North Worcester Street is a priority. He said Route 140 and Route 123 traffic signal is also not working out properly and is a safety issue, especially for Wheaton students who are in that area a lot.

Repairs on bridges was discussed. It was noted DOT (Department of Transportation) oversees this area.

Mr. Silver spoke of two culverts on Walker Street, which he understands is not considered a bridge, but it overflows and is falling apart.

Mr. Mission responded he can put Mr. Silver in touch with Mr. Bill Napolitano from SRPEDD office as he has information on culverts, etc.

Mr. Silver referenced the bicycle path on Route 123 where it crosses over and concern of there being significant traffic in that area. He did also speak to VHB engineers regarding this.

Mr. Mission said that area is a challenge and may need signal installation set up or to actually stop traffic and also important to have community understanding in community to slow down near that particular bicycle area.

Mr. Silver noted Cobb Street was a difficult area also.

Mr. Mission encouraged people to submit comments to the SRPEDD website about any aspect of transportation to their website: [www.srpedd.org](http://www.srpedd.org)

Mrs. Steele said it would be beneficial for Mr. Mission to come back before the Board.

Mr. Mission said the Board/Town can send a request in writing to the SRPEDD office to have him come back.

Mr. Kimball said it may be beneficial to drive around Town in a small school bus and see the different areas of concern.

2. Request of Veterans' Agent Estelle Flett, to set up a Gift Account to accept donations to be used by the Veterans' Department for the health and welfare of Veterans, events and activities as determined by the Veterans' Agent

It was noted there was correspondence addressed to Mr. Yunits, dated December 18, 2014 regarding donation account for request to set up gift account.

Mr. Yunits said there are times Ms. Flett has a person come in with a small need at a certain point in their lives and this would be especially beneficial for that instance.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits to find out if these donations/gifts would be tax deductible.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve Request of Veterans' Agent Estelle Flett, to set up a Gift Account to accept donations to be used by the Veterans' Department for the health and welfare of Veterans, events and activities as determined by the Veterans' Agent. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

3. Vote to increase membership of Town Common Revitalization Committee from five (5) members to seven (7) members

Mr. Kimball said he is a member of this Committee and they have held a couple of meetings thus far. He noted they cannot find molds for existing fence around Town Common. They would like to increase this from five to seven members. He was aware two people would like to join Committee: Gary Cameron and Fire Chief Paul Schleicher.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to increase membership of Town Common Revitalization Committee from five (5) members to seven (7) members. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**D. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**. Discussion Re: \$120 MIL Shortfall in State Worker Health Insurance Program**

Mr. Yunits informed the Board the GIC was running \$120M deficit this year and it was bothersome to him that rates were raised. He notified Board that Easton was leaving the health group consortium and going to GIC. GIC should be paying for health insurance and Town should not be subsidizing it.

Mr. Yunits stated he would like to send a letter regarding this to the new Governor of the Commonwealth if this was agreeable to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Kimball said he recommended letter to new Governor along to Senator and state reps as this burden should not fall on the towns. Also, he recommended sending the same letter in draft form to communities of this group and ask them to join Norton in sending this letter.

. ALI Update

Mr. Yunits said it was recently discovered a meeting was scheduled next week regarding this. It is too soon to hold meeting next week, so now it is rescheduled for February 17. If holding meeting at schools is not feasible, they can hold at library or media center.

Mr. Kimball stated the newspaper called him last week. The landfill needs to be capped and everyone realizes that. He asked for a letter to be sent to all participants and the city of Attleboro as well regarding the Town's concerns. It does have an odor to it and they need to find out what exact process is. He asked Mr. Yunits to craft a letter and the Board of Selectmen can review it. Discussion ensued.

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Mr. Yunits referenced the Route 140 update and New Testament School; signs to be erected next week and crosswalks to be painted in Spring of 2015. State Rep Howitt assisted with this project.

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Mr. Yunits stated Citizens Energy has filed with Conservation Commission.

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Mr. Yunits also wanted to update the residents there is a scam where people will call stating they are from National Grid and try to secure a prepaid debit card or they tell residents their power will be shut off. Another scam is a person arrives to a person's door and states they are from National Grid/utility company and come into house and another person steals items from house. He advised residents/public to call their utility company to ensure person at door is legitimate before they are let into house.

Mr. Yunits said there is also another scam where a message is left stating they are from IRS and ask residents/people to call a number immediately. Any kind of payment demand is fraudulent and residents are cautioned not to do this. IRS will not call you via telephone.

**E. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

1. Request of Gary Cameron to be considered for appointment to the Town Common Revitalization Committee

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Gary Cameron to the Town Common Revitalization Committee. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Kimball stated he spoke to Fire Chief Schleicher and he is interested in serving on this Committee and recommended appointing him to this Committee also.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to appoint Paul Schleicher to the Town Common Revitalization Committee. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL**

It was communicated by Police Chief Clark that January 9 was "National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day". It was also noted Sgt. Dennett attended the New York Police Officer's funeral , who was recently assassinated, and wanted to let people know the police are available to help out and they appreciate the support from residents/people.

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Mr. Bramwell said the Board of Selectmen recently took a tour of the fire station and saw the new ambulance.

It was noted an anonymous person sent a letter commending the Fire Department personnel EMT's Ed Burgess and Bob Jordan as they were very professional and calming during an emergency call.

Mr. Bramwell said on the evening on Dec. 26, a member of his family utilized the ambulance also and wanted commend them also on their professionalism and outstanding service.

Mrs. Steele said the Town is fortunate as it has excellent public safety departments as well as excellent schools, etc.

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It was noted they need to advertise the open constable position; they have one letter of interest thus far regarding this position.

**VII.     NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

**VIII.    EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**IX.      ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 8:38 P.M. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney  
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary



**Documents Distributed/Reviewed at January 8, 2015, Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- . Draft Goals and Objectives for the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan
  
- . Letter dated December 18, 2014, addressed to Mr. Yunits, Town Manager, from Estelle Flett, Director, Veterans' Services Department, regarding creation of donation account
  
- . Letter dated December 26, 2014, addressed to Paul Schleicher, Fire Chief, commending EMT's Ed Burgess and Bob Jordan for their professionalism

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

**JANUARY 8, 2015**

**MARY T. STEELE, CHAIRMAN**

**BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, VICE-CHAIR**

**TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CLERK**

**ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR.**

**ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_