

**DRAFT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The January 22, 2015, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mrs. Steele, Chairman, at 6:30 P.M., held in the First Floor Conference Room.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Session:

Declaration of Chairman:

Declaration of the Chairman at 6:31 P.M.: Under G.L. c30A, Section 21(b)(3) and (4), the purpose of the executive session will be discussion to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation, known

as Island Brook, LLC v. Norton Zoning Board of Appeals, HAC No. 2014-08 which concerns a comprehensive permit project known as "Island Brook" on East Main Street, because a discussion of the litigation strategy in open session could compromise the purpose of the executive session and with the Board to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session, as a discussion of this litigation strategy in open session could compromise the purpose of the executive session; and with the Board to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Motion to Convene Executive Session:

MOTION was made at 6:32 P.M. by Mr. Giblin that the Board of Selectmen go into executive session under G.L. c.30A, Section 21(a)(3) for the purposes and reasons declared by the Chairman and with the Board to return to open session thereafter. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

The Board of Selectmen reconvened Open Session at 7:15 P.M.

II. WARRANTS AND MINUTES

- A. Approve bills Warrant #43, dated January 15, 2015, in the amount of \$173,512.42

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve bills Warrant #43, dated January 15, 2015, in the amount of \$173,512.42. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended January 17, 2015, Warrant #44, dated January 22, 2015, in the amount of \$1,218,525.87

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended January 17, 2015, Warrant #44, dated January 22, 2015, in the amount of \$1,218,525.87. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Approve bills Warrant #45, dated January 22, 2015, in the amount of \$235,382.91

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve bills Warrant #45, dated January 22, 2015, in the amount of \$235,382.91. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Approve Minutes – May 22, 2014

September 25, 2014

January 8, 2015

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated May 22, 2014, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated September 25, 2014, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated January 8, 2015, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Town Census forms are being mailed out the week of January 5. The Annual census forms must be signed and returned to the Town Clerk's Office within 10 days of receipt.

.....

Dog Licenses for 2015 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". Licensing forms can also be found on the back side of the annual census form.

.....

Annual Town Election - Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election in Norton are available at the Town Clerk's Office beginning Monday, January 26. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Friday, March 6th at 5:00 P.M. The Annual Town Election in Norton will be held on Tuesday, April 28. 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

.....

Request for Pesticide Spraying Exclusions must be filed with the Town Clerk by March 1st.

.....

A commendation letter was received dated December 26, 2014, commending EMT's Ed Burgess and Bob Jordan for the excellent care they provided to a Norton resident on December 21.

The Attleboro Landfill meeting is now scheduled for February 7, 2015.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. 7:15 P.M. – Public Meeting to make Library Square a Single-Direction Roadway

Mr. Kimball explained the reason for this proposed change is to alleviate the traffic heading east and would allow the Town Common Revitalization Committee to widen the road a bit; the extra space could be utilized. The Revitalization Committee is asking for consideration for public safety issues and the need for parking in that area. The Unitarian Church has been very helpful and good over the years. When Wheaton is not in session, there is some parking in that area, but no parking for Town Common. Once done, people will plan to have art exhibits at the Common, as well as other utilizations of this area.

Mr. Giblin said one of the major reasons is the safety side of it. It will help with parking, but he believes it should be primarily done for the safety aspect.

Mr. John Sullivan of Wheaton College was present and stated Wheaton is in support of this. He said the only concern is that once this does happen, there is the concern of the local public driving through the parking lot to circumvent traffic. He said he was certain Wheaton College's public safety and Norton public safety will work together to alleviate any issues for safety of nursery school children and others.

Mr. Yunits said there were notices sent to the abutters and he heard from Unitarian Church and they are in favor of this.

Mr. Kimball referenced the intersection itself and the new stone "Welcome" sign for Wheaton College; possibly some space could be taken from that area to make it wider for people to turn. He said if Wheaton College needs one or two speed bumps, they should communicate this to the Town and Town can try to assist as much as possible.

Mr. Kimball noted there were no sidewalks in front of the President's House of Wheaton College, and on that side, which is unusual. The entire area needs to be looked at in conjunction with Wheaton, to see how it can work better.

Mr. Sullivan encouraged the Town to contact Wheaton College.

Mr. Paul Schleicher said all lighting/electrical was paid for by Wheaton College over the years and they supported it. A lot needs to be done and believed a one-way was a good idea.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to close Public Hearing. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to make Library Square a Single-Direction Roadway, heading west on Route 123. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Salvo asked to have a Friendly Amendment to Motion by asking Highway Department to erect a sign that there will be a one way on a certain planned date.

Mr. Yunits said they would need State Highway approval to do this, where it does intersect a state road. He said he will send them a notice regarding this.

2. Discussion Re: MMA Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, January 24, 2015, 10:15 – 11:50 A.M., voting procedures

Mrs. Steele stated she will be attending this, therefore, no voted needed.

B. OLD BUSINESS

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Yunits said he had provided Board MMA material and said there are many interesting topics. One of which is tax exempt institutions is an interesting topic. Also, another topic is putting advertisements in with tax bills; as well as municipal liquor licenses being a controversial topic, also. Mr. Yunits referenced a topic on the veterans' benefits, which he said he needed to get more information on; it involves having the veterans' agent approve payments but checks would be coming from State. If any topics look interesting, he asked the Board to let him know and he will obtain additional information. Other topics include municipal unemployment insurance, as well as double poles.

.....

It was noted the Governor declared a shortfall for State this year.

.....

Schpack Update Meeting to be held on Monday, January 26 at 10 A.M. at the Norton Public Library.

.....

Mr. Yunits said he received an estimate from engineers for repair of dam of \$879,400.

Ch 90 money was referenced; previously Governor was holding it up. Governor Baker said he would release it; instead of \$563,000; it is now approximately \$840,000.

.....

Mr. Yunits stated the State is looking for leased space of approximately 22,000 square feet in the communities . Condyne/Jeff O'Neil is planning on putting a proposal out on this.

.....

Mr. Yunits referenced the school finances. Town Counsel, Lauren Goldberg, stated the School Department does have the right to spend their budgeted money any way they want, however, they cannot use capital or any Article money (cannot use money for Middle School roof or another project, etc.).

D. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Resignation of Rachel Daly from the Norton Cultural Council, effective January 7, 2015

It was noted this term expires June 30, 2016.

2. Appointment of James M. Viera, Lead Dispatcher in the Communications Department

Mr. Yunits said two dispatchers stepped up and applied for lead dispatch position. Mr. Viera was chosen; he has 20 years of public safety experience and has worked in Norton since 2010. Both chiefs seem comfortable with this decision.

Mr. Kimball said it would be nice to have Mr. Viera come in to meet/see him.

Mr. Yunits responded Mr. Viera works the 4 P.M. -12 A.M. shift, therefore, he will have to have someone cover for him.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to appoint James M. Viera as Lead Dispatcher in the Communications Department. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

Mr. Giblin congratulated the Boy Scout Troop 12 for the two individuals, Christopher Litchfield and Thomas Denim, who are becoming Eagle Scouts. Ceremony will be held on Sunday, January 25.

Mr. Kimball said Timmy Brown of the Town of Norton is a contestant on American Idol; he was not certain of what status was and if he rose to the next level. Mr. Kimball said the Board wishes him well on this endeavor.

.....

Mr. Salvo spoke of the monthly Housing Authority meeting and a few months ago they wanted to explore looking into offsetting the electricity bill. He said a company called SunEdison came back with an agreement. They are on a trunk line with other housing authorities and hopefully by March they will be signed up with a alternative company.

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is planned to be January 29th.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. 6:30 P.M. – To discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation, known as Island Brook, LLC v. Norton Zoning Board of Appeals, HAC No. 2014-08 which concerns a comprehensive permit project known as “Island Brook” on East Main Street, because a discussion of the litigation strategy in open session could compromise the purpose of the executive session and with the Board to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney
Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at January 22, 2015, Board of Selectmen Meeting

- . Notice of Public Meeting to Make Library Square a Single-Direction Roadway, on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 7:15 P.M. in the Norton Municipal Center

- . Map of Library Square area-Town of Norton, dated January 22, 2015 (Map for Reference Only-Not a Legal Document)

- . Letter dated December 26, 2014, addressed to Paul J. Schleicher, Chief of Fire Department, commending Ed Burgess and Bob Jordan

- . Memorandum addressed to Board of Selectmen, dated January 14, 2015, from Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager, Re: Notice of Appointment of Lead Dispatcher in the Communications Department – James Viera, with a requested start date of January 18, 2015

- . Memorandum dated January 7, 2015, to Board of Selectmen, from Danielle M. Sicard, Town Clerk, re: Resignation of Rachel Daly from Cultural Council, effective January 7, 2015

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2015

MARY T. STEELE, CHAIRMAN

BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, VICE-CHAIR

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CLERK

ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR.

ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.

Dated: _____