

**DRAFT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 16, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The April 16, 2015, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Bramwell, Vice-Chair, at 7:00 P.M., held in the First Floor Conference Room.

- A. ROLL CALL: Mr. Bradford Bramwell, Acting-Chair; Mr. Timothy R. Giblin, Clerk; and Mr. Robert W. Kimball, Jr. were present. Absent: Mrs. Mary T. Steele, Chairman and Mr. Robert S. Salvo, Sr. 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 April 11, 2015, Warrant #62, dated April 16, 2015, in the amount of \$1,114,866.41

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ended April 11, 2015, Warrant #62, dated April 16, 2015, in the amount of \$1,114,866.41. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Approve bills Warrant #63, dated April 16, 2015, in the amount of \$470,022.67

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve bills Warrant #63, dated April 16, 2015, in the amount of \$470,022.67. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Approve Minutes – December 4, 2014

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Approve Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated December 4, 2014, as written. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

III. LICENSES AND PERMITS

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Offices will be closed Monday, April 20, 2015, in observance of Patriot's Day.

V. BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS

7:15 P.M. - Public Meeting for the purpose of receiving oral comments on the Municipal Energy Aggregation Program

Mr. Bramwell said these guests could not be present this evening, but Mr. Yunits will explain the program, etc.

Mr. Yunits stated all billing will stay the same through National Grid. He explained 17 of 20 municipalities have joined the program. Mr. Yunits explained and handouts distributed to members of the audience entitled, "Understanding Your Electric Bill".

Mr. Kimball said everybody will receive a discount/a volume discount, and people have right to opt out of it. Discussion ensued.

No one in audience spoke for or against this when asked by the Board.

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

2. 7:30 P.M. – Water/Sewer Commission Re: Special Town Meeting Article for the L.G. Nourse Sewer Connection & Annual Town Meeting Article for Environmental Impact Report

Ms. Dianne McElligott, Chairman of Water & Sewer Commission, was present along with Bernard Marshall, Superintendent of Water & Sewer.

Ms. McElligott distributed and displayed: “Town of Norton MA Town wide Wastewater System and Needs Area Map”; estimate at \$120,000.

Mr. Marshall referenced CWMPS (Comprehensive Wastewater Management Program).

Ms. McElligott explained the other location is the L. G. Nourse School and septic system is failing, and can potentially pick up school by rerouting the main by the school property. Bottom line is to cover the difference in the cost from Town center project (\$2.7M voted for that project). To add in L. G. Nourse would be an additional \$440,000 as one of the best estimates at this time.

Ms. McElligott stated the DEP and EPA Federal both have jurisdiction over Massachusetts projects. Consulting fees and administrative costs is about 20% and additional consulting fees of \$600,000 to do it themselves. Discussion ensued.

It was noted this was a three-pump system, as well as a 6” line and an 8” line.

Mr. Giblin asked if the \$440,000 was a well-projected number?

Mr. Marshall said they were highly confident that number is sufficient.

Mr. Kimball wanted to stress the importance of what is being planned. Wheaton College has a serious issue with their sewerage and the Town is trying to take care of its own problem with the L. G. Nourse. It Seems like it may be a lot of money, but it needs to be done.

3. 7:40 P.M. – Sandra Ollerhead, Alternative Transportation Committee, Re: Annual Town Meeting Article for the multi-purpose recreational Norton Rail Trail Project

It was noted that \$3.2M was secured; engineering design is \$400,000-\$500,000. Letters were written to appropriate parties to ask for money for the design study for the rail (about \$400,000-\$500,000).

Mr. Kimball said he was in favor of this trail project, but the Town is very tight on cash. In previous times when the Town has tried to obtain money from State, it seems the first time around it does not happen.

If the State made a promise to give the Town \$500,000, they should provide it to the Town of Norton. As much as he would like to see it done sooner than later, it is difficult to do. This is a regional/state issue.

Mr. Yunits referenced the Transportation Bond Bill; if state reps go back to their districts and ask what is needed, less than 50 percent gets approved.

Ms. Ollerhead said their Committee was very positive about it; and it doesn't always make sense as to what State does. It was noted letters to local reps/to neighboring communities were sent regarding this; important to have other towns on board to push for this too.

Mr. Bramwell said the Board of Selectmen a sent letter to the Governor and Mayor Hoyt in Taunton who also sent a letter to the Governor in support of this. The town of Mansfield has also sent letters of support.

Mr. Giblin stated everyone was under the impression \$500,000 was coming to Town for this project.

Mr. Yunits said this is the \$3.2M in the TIF.

Jackie Schmitt from SRPEDD indicated construction funding is not currently in TIF; this project in top three, so it is likely funding will eventually happen for this project. She recommended getting design done as soon as possible; if another project comes in and gets its design done first, it may move ahead to forefront.

Mr. Kimball said Plan B would be to get their counterparts together to sit down in a room and get angry about this, and get a petition circulated, and get people from every town and send a letter to Governor with signatures on it denoting what is desired. He said state reps and senators will take a hard look at something if they get a bunch of signatures. He suggested they can work with the Town Clerk's Office to make that happen. This must be pushed back quickly and strongly and between now and the next Town Meeting they need to fight back, and keep the Board of Selectmen informed.

Discussion ensued on this whole area is already being impacted anyhow, and it is also the regionalization of various communities.

Mr. Yunits recommended to also reach out to various businesses, such as Horizon Beverage, to make a call of support, along with other businesses in Myles Standish Business Park.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits to send a letter to Governor, state reps, etc., with concerns which Mr. Bramwell raised, then copy that letter to various businesses (including Taunton Industrial Park and Tri-Town Chamber).

Ms. Schmitt noted "Letter of Support" was on an agenda from Taunton Industrial Park and National Parks.

Mr. Bramwell said they should also include the Rodman Ride for Kids and Pan Mass Challenge-type of fundraising, as well as Boston television stations.

Mr. Denny Goodrich suggested a position letter from Norton's state reps asking why the Town is not receiving this money.

4. Discussion Re: Renovation/New Town Hall

Mr. Yunits communicated he met with the Town's Building Committee recently and stated this Committee is excellent; each and every member has experience working on public building projects. He referenced he had provided the Committee with a 1996 report. The Town has outgrown the space; it is not only crowded but presently illegal. The estimate to renovate is \$2.9M, however, members from Building Committee said this building could not be done with \$2.9M. He was told to build a new building would be approximately \$7.5M. He said he has inquired of Lynn Foster to actually see what it would cost for a combination senior center/town hall and what would \$10M cost over twenty years, and Ms. Foster did a 20 and 30 year analysis.

Mr. Yunits Ms. Foster said she would not be supportive of a thirty year loan. A 20 year loan annual debt service to begin is \$800,000 and starts dropping out. 30 year starts at \$685,000, but actually paying more over the life of the Note.

Mr. Kimball reiterated this building does not have an occupancy permit; has not been granted an occupancy permit. Discussion ensued on various options/ideas.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and/or vote on Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants

Mr. Yunits explained what Finance Committee had already voted on.

Spring Annual Town Meeting:

Article 11

He said this evening the Water & Sewer was present and asked if the Board desired to vote on that this evening.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to support Article 11 in the amount of \$120,000. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 12

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to support Article 12. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 13

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to support Article 13. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 15

Mr. Yunits stated this related to the "Capital Plan"; commitments already in place. It includes air-conditioning issue for Norton Public Library and two police cruisers.

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to support Article 15. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 20

It was noted the State has a new law; in order for it to be effective towns must vote to approve it, etc. As of now, a veteran is exempt from paying their auto excise if they are deployed overseas. This would be exempt if deployed from out of State from Massachusetts.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to support Article 20. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 21

It was noted this should be deleted from the Warrant; not needed any longer.

Article 22

This Article deals with Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Flood Plain; and need to wait until a recommendation is received from Planning Board.

Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Article 9

L. G. Nourse tie-in (up to \$440,000).

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to support Article 9 with an amount up to \$440,000. Second by Mr. Kimball.

Discussion: Mr. Kimball said anytime anything is done in the Municipal Building, we should not have to pay fees, etc. This is very important to get sewer connected and believed the Board needed to work with town counsel.

Mr. Yunits said this is strictly for construction because the fees cannot be borrowed. That is the reason why he made it clear tonight and asked about this and Ms. McElligott said she was not clear on the conditions. It is necessary to be clear on what the Board is voting on. The figure for project currently is \$440,000.

Mr. Kimball asked if they can ask the Water and Board Commissioners to consider waiving that connection fee, and to also clarify the \$65,000 portion.

Mr. Bramwell recommended to get this in writing from Ms. McElligott to clarify.

Article 7:

Mr. Yunits asked if the Board wanted to remove Article 7? He referenced the Town purchase of the Erikson property, and the proposed Bay Road Heights which was never built and never came forward with money.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to remove Article 7. Second by Mr. Giblin. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Bay Road Heights was referenced and it was discussed the name will keep changing and some Board members wondered if they would be able to put a lien on that property?

Mr. Yunits responded he will look into it but he doubted a lien could be placed on property.

Article 10:

This is an important agreement from property owner. No Action Taken.

D. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

. Update on Hill Street Solar Project

Mr. Yunits referenced free cash and it was discussed at a Finance Committee (FinCom) meeting. He gave FinCom a directive from DOR (Department of Revenue); 2.3 in 2012; 2.1 in 2013; and 2014, etc. It was in the range of 3-5% in recent years. It is important to hold onto some money.

Mr. Yunits said he also had a discussion regarding school budget; increase doubled from last year. Charter School is oversubscribed every year and he did not think it will make people who want to attend Charter School switch to the Town of Norton school system, especially with talk of full day kindergarten. He felt the School Department can find creative ways to fund full-time kindergarten. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Giblin said shift needs to come to Public Safety and people in this Town Hall building.

. MBTA Advisory Board Representative

. Chapter 90 Update

Mr. Yunits stated he spoke with Matt Ludwig and jurisdiction over Winnecunnett regarding water bodies. In Barrowsville/Chartley, there is only one owner that owns into pond.

E. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL

VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Giblin to Adjourn at 8:55 P.M. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at April 16, 2015, Board of Selectmen Meeting

. 12/4/14 Board of Selectmen Draft Minutes of Meeting

. Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants – dated May 11, 2015

. "Understanding Your Electric Bill" document

. "Town of Norton, Massachusetts Town-Wide Wastewater System and Needs Areas Map", dated October 2012 by Weston & Sampson (Figure 3-1)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

April 16, 2015

MARY T. STEELE, CHAIRMAN

BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, VICE-CHAIR

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CLERK

ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR.

ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.

Dated: _____