



# TOWN OF NORTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MUNICIPAL CENTER,

70 EAST MAIN STREET, NORTON, MA 02766

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 12, 2017

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 12, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Giblin, Chairman, at 6:00 P.M., held in the First Floor Conference Room.

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

### B. Pledge of Allegiance

### II. LICENSES AND PERMITS

1. 7:00 P.M. - Application of Haralabos Karasavas d/b/a Main Street Pizzeria, for a Common Victualler's License, to be utilized at 63 East Main Street, Norton, MA 02766

Mr. Karasavas said he was married and has three children. He was owner of a business in the Dorchester area as well as in Quincy. He indicated he had communicated to landlord regarding renovations of this establishment to make it appear newer inside. The food will be pizza, subs, and Greek food also. There will be homemade spinach pies and stuffed pepper dinners (fast food but Mediterranean food also). They plan to open at beginning of the month. They will not deliver immediately; they may start delivery of food depending on need and success of business.

Mr. Kimball said when they do open to let the Board of Selectmen know what the menu will be, etc.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve Application of Haralabos Karasavas d/b/a Main Street Pizzeria, for a Common Victualler's License, to be utilized at 63 East Main**

**Street, Norton, MA 02766. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

2. 7:05 P.M. - The Norton Singers, Donald Powers, for a one-day Beer and Wine License to be utilized at the Everett Leonard Park, Saturday, June 10, 2017, 12 Noon - 6:00 P.M., for a private party

Mr. Kimball stated this should be contingent on signoff of public safety.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve The Norton Singers, Donald Powers, for a one-day Beer and Wine License to be utilized at the Everett Leonard Park, Saturday, June 10, 2017, 12 Noon - 6:00 P.M., for a private party, subject to public safety signoff. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2017, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### **IV. BUSINESS**

#### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

1. 6:00 P.M. - Joint Meeting with School Committee, Finance, Committee, Ad hoc Sub-Committee Re:

- Discussion on Municipal and School Audit (if available);
- Discussion by Town Assessor on REcent Tax Bills;
- Discussion on FY18 Budget Process;
- Other

Please see this Joint Meeting discussion at the end of these Minutes of Meeting.

2. 7:10 P.M. - Representatives of National Grid, Verizon and Comcast - Discussion regarding Double Poles

Present were representatives of Verizon, National Grid and Comcast.

Mr. Salvo stated communication was a problem and issues not being relayed to the proper people. He realized the double poles are in many towns, however, he feels they are an eyesore and a site view issue.



The National Grid representative responded they get entered into a database and, depending on what part of town it is, decision is made of who sets the poles. They notify Verizon when they are done and they are always at top of pole and that will then show up that it is a "ball in court" for Verizon next and then Comcast is next to follow.

Verizon representative, Ms. Ellen Cummings, said as far as communication is concerned, that was looked at a couple of years ago. There were different databases, and to go to a new database they wanted to ensure the info in database was correct and paid to have a company go out and survey every municipality and every pole within the Commonwealth and that info was scrubbed and entered into the new database. Therefore, regarding the communication issue, they did address it and the database is now up and running within the last few months.

Mr. Giblin stated then that should alleviate the length of time double poles exists.

Ms. Cummings noted things will get prioritized too. She was certain Mr. Yunits would contact them if needed. Possibly if Town has a project or a commercial project/priority happening in Town or an emergency/safety issue, or road widening projects, these will take priority. She said the Norton Fire Department does work very well with them and they have a good relationship.

The National Grid representative indicated sometimes there are customers involved as well before they can physically do work. They have been working and talking with Verizon for changing the process and hoped this will speed things up. National Grid is setting all poles and Verizon will be removing all poles. They are communicating. There will always be new poles in Town; someone will always hit a pole with a vehicle, etc. They go by priorities and those are addressed immediately/first. If there are priorities, Mr. Yunits should be made aware of those priorities.

Mr. Salvo provided the example of Bernie & Phyl's on East Main Street, where a truck pulled a line down and it impeded their operation; there was a call made to the company who owns the tower and two hours was spent on the telephone with Verizon. He was unable to talk to a live person to get to talk to a ground person, and finally a ticket was pulled and a week went by and last Saturday, an out of state company repaired the wire. He said people need to talk to a live voice.

Ms. Cummings stated Mr. Yunits is aware they can be contacted or emailed. Also, for a municipality, it is not the normal telephone number which should be called.

Mr. Salvo stated they were active wires to that tower.

Mr. Giblin thanked the representatives for coming in this evening.

The representative from National Grid stated once they are aware of what new process is, they will let Mr. Yunits know.

3. To Discuss and/or Vote on Notice given, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 61 Section 8, and Chapter 61A, Section 14, Daggett-Crandall-Newcomb Home, Inc.'s intent to Sell Land on Newland and Newcomb Streets, Norton, MA 02766

Mr. Yunits said Conservation Commission is not interested recommendation is for Board of Selectmen to look at this.

Mr. Yunits said he had not heard from Land Preservation Society regarding this.

Mr. Salvo stated it would be a good place for a pumping station.

Mr. Yunits noted this land is being sold for \$650,000.

Mr. Kimball indicated he was not certain if vote should be taken on this; he believed they should think about this, and possibly give the citizens of the Town of Norton an opportunity to vote on this.

Mr. Yunits stated they do have a time limit; and he will find out what their time limit is.

Mr. Kimball suggested Mr. Yunits reach out and find out what parcels Conservation Commission is possibly interested in and obtain more information on this as well. Are they interested in working with the Board of Selectmen?

Mr. Yunits stated it is 61A and abuts Red Mill Road.

It was discussed it would be worth asking what they would be doing with the other parcels.

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Giblin noted there are surplus items the Town is looking to sell.

It was noted there was also a 1997 International and a 1991 utility trailer, so they would like to add those two items to surplus auction list as well.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to add the 1997 International and a 1991 utility trailer to the Surplus Auction List. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Update on Regional Emergency Communications Center

Mr. Yunits indicated next week, Tuesday, January 17th, is the meeting being held at Mansfield Town Hall regarding the Regional Emergency Communications Center with Board of Selectmen



members and other officials from Mansfield, Easton, and Foxboro. Mr. Yunits stated he provided a copy of proposed agreement to the Board. The Town's Planning Committee along with the Fire and Police Chiefs, and Communications Director discussed what things should be done at that location and the majority of everything of it is done already such as attending to burglar alarms, fire alarms, icy roads, etc.). Therefore, Norton is in the best shape out of all the towns because when looking at savings dollar wise to each town, the other towns have dispatchers sitting at station so that won't be an added cost to Norton. The Town of Norton could be saving \$200,000 per year from dispatch, and the Planning Committee will bring those specifics back to the Board. On January 26, is the date the Planning Committee will come before the Board.

Mr. Salvo noted he cannot attend the January 17th meeting. He asked what happens if one of the town's opts out, etc.?

Mr. Yunits stated the answer to that is that the large driving force of cost is employees and if one town drops out then there is a drop of employees.

Mr. Salvo said he agreed on that part, but with upgrades all the towns need to contribute money.

Mr. Yunits referenced the cost to do upgrades. He said if it is the Town of Norton and another town, it would be 50% less than what it would cost the Town of Norton without regionalization.

Mr. Bramwell asked if the health insurance was a separate entity?

Mr. Yunits replied, yes, it was a separate entity.

#### **D. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Appointment of Tabitha Harkin, Planning and Economic Development Director - Planning Board Representative to the SRPEDD Commission for the period ending May 24, 2017

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the Appointment of Tabitha Harkin, Planning and Economic Development Director - Planning Board Representative to the SRPEDD Commission for the period ending May 24, 2017. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

2. Appointment of Lucia B. Longhurst, Town Clerk, as Records Access Officer for the Town of Norton, effective January 1, 2017

Mr. Yunits stated this is a requirement under the new public records law passed. This is to ensure all public records requests are publicly addressed.

Mr. Giblin asked if there were specific guidelines to this law?

Mr. Yunits responded a person per state needs to be dedicated.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve Appointment of Lucia B. Longhurst, Town Clerk, as Records Access Officer for the Town of Norton, effective January 1, 2017. Second by Mr. Salvo.**

**Discussion:** Mrs. Steele asked if the Town needed to pay someone to do this?

Mr. Yunits responded it is not a requirement to be paid.

**Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

3. Appointment of Theresa Rand, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, as Records Access Officer for the Norton Public Schools, effective January 1, 2017

**MOTION was made by Mr. Bramwell to approve Appointment of Theresa Rand, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, as Records Access Officer for the Norton Public Schools, effective January 1, 2017. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

#### **V. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL**

Mrs. Steele asked Mr. Yunits if there was any update on the building inspector exam?

Mr. Yunits responded February 25, 2017 is the date the interim inspector takes the exam.

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Mr. Kimball stated he received an email about the Norton VFW needing a new sign on Taunton Avenue. It appears to have been knocked down or taken down and trying to replace it. They filled out a form for the State Highway asking for permission (it is a small sign). State Highway replied with a letter regarding proposed sign installation; however, this is just to replace a sign and stated permit is not in compliance with Mass DOT sign policy.

Mr. Kimball asked Mr. Yunits if this could be handled for the VFW? If the state reps need to be involved, they should be contacted.

Mr. Yunits responded he was meeting with the state reps tomorrow.

It was noted there would be no meeting next Thursday; they would be holding the "regional dispatch" joint meeting in Mansfield on Tuesday, January 17.

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Mr. Yunits stated he spoke to the Water & Sewer Superintendent and Turtle Crossing has no approvals by Water & Sewer as of now. He believed there is a meeting on January 23, but at this time, there was nothing approved.

#### **VI. WARRANTS AND MINUTES**



A. Approve bills Warrant #42, dated January 12, 2017, in the amount of \$160,595.12  
**MOTION was made by Mr. Salvo to Approve bills Warrant #42, dated January 12, 2017, in the amount of \$160,595.12. Second by Mr. Kimball. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

B. Approve Minutes - November 3, 2016  
**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of Meeting, dated November 3, 2016, as written. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**VII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

1. Joint meeting with Planning Committee, Towns of Foxboro, Mansfield, and Easton Re: Proposed creation of a Regional Emergency Communications Center

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to Adjourn at 8:00 P.M. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**1. 6:00 P.M. - Joint Meeting with School Committee, Finance, Committee, Ad hoc Sub-Committee Re:**

- Discussion on Municipal and School Audit (if available);
- Discussion by Town Assessor on REcent Tax Bills;
- Discussion on FY18 Budget Process;
- Other

This meeting was opened by the Board of Selectmen, as noted earlier in these Minutes of Meeting, as well as the School Committee.

Discussion on Municipal and School Audit (if available)

Mr. Yunits noted this audit will be completed soon and asked auditor to provide him with some dates to discuss audit. He said if there were any questions or items that anyone would like to bring to his attention at this time to see if it would be part of audit, please do so.

Mr. Diniz asked if there was an approximate date when the audit would be completed?

Mr. Yunits responded the auditors usually attend a Board of Selectmen meeting toward the end of January or beginning of February.

Mr. Stefanelli declared a "Point of Order" and stated where this is a mixed/joint meeting and televised, if all parties could speak louder and if anyone from audience had something important to communicate, they should utilize the microphone, especially for those watching this meeting from home.

Mr. Giblin agreed and said, yes, the volume is not always consistent.

Mr. Yunits explained a complete financial audit is conducted each year and different categories are chosen each year. Different accounts are analyzed and it is an accounting audit and if there was an issue with the way cash is being handled or turnovers being handled, this audit would address that.

Mr. Kimball asked if there would be any information from this audit on manpower from today vs. ten years ago?

Mr. Yunits replied, no, it analyzes mainly how the Town departments handle the money.

Discussion by Town Assessor on Recent Tax Bills



Ms. Denise Ellis was present to discuss how the property values have increased this year. Assessments have gone up because it is predicated on what the market is doing. They take the sales of 2015 and analyze all those sales and some homes increase, decrease, or stay the same. This year ranches went up about 12%, but it is normal for one style of house to go up like that. Some condos went up about 2%, some went down, and some stayed the same.

Mrs. Steele stated some people are confused and think if taxes are going up the Town is bringing in more money. She asked if Ms. Ellis could explain how the individual taxes are relative to the 2 ½ increase the Town is allowed to take on a yearly basis?

Mr. Yunits referenced Mrs. Steele's question, and said they can only go up 2 ½ percent; that pool may get split because some people's values go up, some may go down, but it does not change the total amount of money raised by taxation. It was discussed the Town is not getting extra money because of this.

Ms. Ellis referenced new growth and explained the definition of it. It is an improvement to property or increase in a property's value. Construction, additions, or if an exempt property is now going to a taxable property.

Ms. Ellis referenced a split tax rate; there is only one rate. If they did a split tax rate it would not increase the amount of tax revenue.

#### Discussion on FY18 Budget Process

Mr. Yunits stated the way the budget process works and the way it is outlined in Charter, by the third week in February, he needs to present to the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen the anticipated revenues and expenditures. The school's budget needs to be submitted to Town Manager eight weeks prior to Town Meeting (by March 10) and final budget to Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen is six weeks prior to Town Meeting (March 27).

#### Other

Mr. Giblin noted both School Committee and Board of Selectmen had ad hoc group meetings since June 2016.

Mrs. Steele explained the Ad Hoc Committee consists of two members of Board of Selectmen; two members from Finance Committee; two members from School Committee and Superintendent of Schools and Town Manager. This Committee has been meeting since June and purpose is to bring the boards together with some guidance from Finance Committee to look at, perhaps, why the override may have failed last year, what the Town's needs are going forward, and to have a lot more communication between the two boards and to be able to bring some information to the public a bit quicker than they were able to do last year. As of this point, no decisions have been made; budgets are not complete; and they do not know if they will propose an override or what that specific number would be. However, it was important to hold a joint meeting this evening to

provide everyone with an opportunity to see where the Town is at this point and for any questions/comments people may have. Moving forward, the Ad Hoc Committee will meet more often and, within the next month, with the specific purpose to look at numbers. They have previously been meeting on a monthly basis, but that frequency will increase.

Mr. Diniz indicated one other reason behind the ad hoc meetings was they were attempting to ensure it was a bit more thought-out this time around and last time the perception was the override was not inclusive of all town departments and it would involve everyone in the process and would be more planned out.

Mr. Giblin stated it was important these meetings were public and also to notify the Town they are trying to do their due diligence to look at all aspects of funding of Town and what the needs of the Town are as well. It was important to go through and for the Ad Hoc Committee to take a look at all aspects, where there are some shortcomings and where there are not, and come up with a smart decision and notify the Town of what they are trying to do as a group.

Mr. Kimball said they are trying to do this whole process as transparently as possible. These meetings are open and anyone can attend. They want to look at as progress happens over the years, without any additional influx of cash, how the Town is being run. Also, to look at where the Town stands today vs. ten years ago, and what are the finances for the Town. Over the years, for the most part, if they look at different Town departments, and he was speaking on behalf of the Town government portion; they have seen a decrease in services to the Town and lived within their means to make that happen. As a member of this Board of Selectmen, he recognized in the past, they had a full-time recreation director; a full-time COA director; Chartley Fire Station was open and now it is closed; and various departments have decreased in staffing over the years. The Police Department has the same manpower as the early 1990's. There are a number of issues to look at from the Town-government side. He is aware of the impact on schools and the Town. One thing he hears often from people in Town is the lack of services the Town offers for the tax dollars. He noted there is no trash pick-up; the highway department is combined with the cemetery department and at same staffing level or has decreased in last 20 years. There are issues with the Town's cemeteries because they do not have manpower. He wanted to look at different departments and see what their needs were and hoped the Ad hoc Committee can bring these departments in and have discussions with them, even beyond the guidance of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Kimball referenced the school system. He said he was sure there were a number of students who want to get involved, but the Town's fees (athletics fees/bus fees) increase; and they cannot utilize the bus/late bus due to these fees.

Mr. Kimball stated they tried to expand the Fire Department, which is really an ambulance service, and they have done that only through the fees they raised and they can tap into those accounts to



pay salaries to add manpower because of these fees, not because the Town has extra cash. He would like to see if there is any way to open the Chartley Fire Station.

Mr. Kimball stated he is also on the Capital Improvements Committee, and many times "band-aids" are used on problems in Town. They need to look at how they can rebuild the Town infrastructure (where a Council on Aging can be built; and whether to renovate or rebuild a Town Hall). Mr. Kimball said he is getting frustrated as a Board of Selectmen member as to how to support the Town of Norton and providing services people/residents are asking for. It is difficult to raise money through donations, etc. He wanted to stress these Ad hoc Committee meetings are open to the public and they are being transparent; and if there is the meeting room is not large enough, they will relocate to a larger location/room.

Mr. Bramwell said he thought he would be enlightened at this meeting as Ad hoc Committee has been meeting for the last seven months. He stated it appeared the audit is the audit the Town normally has conducted and thought it would be directed at problem the Town is having. He said he was bewildered at this and asked why they are evening having this meeting. He was looking for answers, input, facts, and something he could mull over.

Mrs. Steele said the problem they are up against is they cannot come up with override number until they have Town side of budget. During the last six months the Ad hoc Committee met, they held various discussions, including why the last override failed, ways they may want to go forward in the future, however, there is really not a lot they can do until they have that number. It is the same company that does the Town's usual audit, but can direct them with some questions from the Ad hoc Committee and thus the reason why Mr. Yunits asked if anyone had any questions the auditors could address. They are not willing to go forward with a number for the override until the audit is in hand because information from audit will either substantiate the need for an override or indicate the Town does not need it.

Mr. Bramwell responded when the question was asked if there were any questions in reference to the audit, for anyone who was not involved with Ad hoc Committee, such as himself, he would not know what questions to ask because he does not know what is going on. It is premature for them to offer questions to be adding to audit when some people do not know what to ask. For him personally, not being involved with the Ad hoc Committee, it is similar to being on the outside looking in with not enough knowledge about what is going on.

Mrs. Steele replied she understood what Mr. Bramwell was saying. Perhaps the asking of this question relating to the audit was the Town Manager just being polite. They are not in a position to make a decision until all the facts are in front of them, but it is important that the public know this is something they are discussing every single month.

Mr. Giblin noted if a member of the Board is feeling this way, he was sure members of the community may be feeling the same way as well. This seems like a kickoff meeting, even though



the Ad hoc Committee has been meeting for about six months. As a Board of Selectmen and a School Committee, it is important to have separate discussions at the regular meetings for updates from the Ad hoc Committee members. It is also that after the audit, they schedule another meeting with the School Committee to go through this again.

Ms. Cohen referenced Mr. Bramwell's comment/concern and stated they decided at their last Ad hoc meeting that each Committee would update their respective Board/Committee (Mrs. Steele would update the Board of Selectmen; Mr. Diniz would update the School Committee, etc.) regarding these Ad hoc meetings. When they scheduled this public meeting, they thought they would have the audit results in, but they were not available and thought they would still have this meeting and discuss what the Ad hoc Committee has been doing. Mr. Yunits will wait to get the audit results and he's meeting with department heads this month and see what the needs are with departments. The Town (general government) side and School Committee will continue working on this and the next Ad hoc meeting will be held at the end of January, and they hope to have another public meeting at the beginning of February to provide more info to everyone.

Dr. Baeta said the concern and reason why there is an Ad hoc Committee is that, as a community, they are trying to establish the priorities and needs of this community. This Ad hoc Committee was put together to conduct due diligence and then go to taxpayers for an override or not for an override. For the first time in history, the Board of Selectmen and School Committee looked at an audit together as a Town. It was also informative to listen to the Assessor's discussion this evening. They need to look at, what are budget priorities of School Department and Town, what are the funds available, what is revenue the Town has exclusive of or upon or after shared costs (i.e., health care), therefore, will that be another discussion, and what are those available funds? What are the decisions of the elected Board of Selectmen, the School Committee representing the School Department, and the Ad hoc Committee, and Finance Committee? That process will, at least, allow for folks in various views of override the pros and cons to get factual information. He said without town hall, the police and fire departments, he could not do his job. He referenced the dynamics of the highway department cleaning/plowing their schools during snowstorms. They are in a state within the School Department of doing good things and it is so hard to go back when their product is pretty darn good. Dr. Baeta said the Town is more like the town of Norwell, Massachusetts than any other community due to the funding formula. Every year they are seeing a 1.25% or 1.5% decline. If money is not coming from a well, then decisions need to be made. He noted some families are paying more than \$2,000 for transportation and for playing sports, and possibly they may have seen a 12% increase on taxes on top of that. He noted there were also nine students from Town which they are paying \$200,000+ each for special education as it is mandated and their responsibility as it is the Town's children to educate. Simply put, reimbursement after \$40 is 70 cents on the remaining dollar.

Before the state legislature this year, there is a Chapter 70 foundation formula recommendation for public education that will significantly impact sending more money to 160 communities in the Commonwealth and urged residents to call their state reps regarding this. The question then



becomes where does the State come in as there has been a bill sitting at the State House for four years for every student that is so severely special needs, the bill would be paid by the Commonwealth in full, not the local community, however, this bill won't go anywhere it appears. There are basically no grants for technology upgrades; they file for grants and practically receive nothing back. It is basically impossible to try to balance the residents, the elderly, school children, etc. The Town survives on free cash; revenue is the same year to year. For him it is about putting out some bare facts to give folks some information. The two boards have come together to have discussions and maybe not always on the same page, but they are trying to discuss a solution to a problem.

Mr. Bramwell stated he would like to add onto the Board of Selectmen's agenda "A Report of Ad hoc Committee" from Mrs. Steele until this Committee is abolished.

Mr. Gouveia, Town Moderator, indicated he counted before he arrived at this meeting and they have 79 business days left before the Annual Town Meeting (Town Meeting scheduled for May 8). He questioned what happens in terms of a proposed override if there is one or they do not have one? He wanted to ask everyone to remember that it has a huge impact on townspeople and on Town Meeting. If there is an override, or even if they are going to have a zoning article, that will change the Annual Town Meeting from 300 to 1500 people, and that is not something that should be done on a month's notice, especially where there is a reasonably new town clerk. It raises the cost of having a town meeting by \$10,000-\$20,000 just to have a town meeting. He noted the Town's cable organization is very generous, however, if they are already reserved, they would need to book another cable company which would be very expensive. It is important to start the planning for Town Meeting. One of the things they faced previously was either a town meeting before an override vote or after an override vote. The Town had the vote first last time; however, many people think it should have been in reverse order. Throwing aside any feelings he has personally as moderator pro override or not, as a moderator, and from a common sense and fiscal responsibility view for Town, it makes no sense to do anything but to have town meeting after vote. He used the town of Easton as an example, they had a proposed override and held their town meeting first which was a huge town meeting, and it took them two hours just to hold the vote, and after all this the override passed at town meeting by a huge number, then ballot and override lost by a huge number. He said so many people attended that town meeting were not happy because the ultimate outcome was opposite of what they thought it was going to be and they probably won't be so inclined to come back to another town meeting. He respectfully asked them to consider only spending the money on that large meeting if it is absolutely needed. The biggest complaint he hears as moderator from people who attend town meeting is them asking why does it take so long. He is aware the town manager is very busy trying to create a budget and not knowing what the Town is working with yet, having said that, it is the middle of January and they need to start physically planning.

Mr. Giblin stated that is one of the priorities to ensure the Town is prepared for Town Meeting. The major priority this evening is to ensure they have done their homework and to look at audit for

needs of Town and school. In his own opinion, it is something he believed they cannot and should not rush into. If they have to hold a special town meeting, in addition to the May Town Meeting, it is possible that may be the case, but he noted Mr. Gouveia's point is well taken.

Mr. Gouveia said if it is in middle to late March and decision is made to go forward and need to plan a 2,000 person town meeting in four to five weeks, the Town will have a lot of trouble doing that.

Mrs. Steele thanked Mr. Gouveia for his information and noted that was one piece the Ad hoc Committee wanted to discuss. They are limited to the things they can do at this point, however, the timeline is very important. The School Committee and Board of Selectmen would need to discuss this and a decision would be either to hold a ballot question first or the Town Meeting first. They are asking Mr. Yunits to provide them with what a timeline would look like. There would be no decision made this evening, they are just providing information for both boards.

Mr. Yunits said if they want to get on ballot for the April election, the town clerk needs the question by March 20 and if it was done that way, it would go to ballot in April, and if it passed at ballot, then would go to town meeting with a budget that would include the override and people would vote at town meeting on it. If it was not put on ballot for April and they wanted to go other way with town meeting first, they would need to vote an "A" and a "B" budget. For example, if the "A" budget was a balanced budget based on no override and the "B" budget would be a balanced budget based on an override, then there would need to be an election scheduled and, once again, would need to give town clerk thirty days notice to get ballots printed and schedule an election.

Mr. Kimball noted they inquired about Xfinity Center to possibly hold a large population of people for larger accommodations, but learned from town counsel they cannot hold venue outside of the Town of Norton. Basically, the schools will need to provide accommodations.

Dr. Baeta said the concern of the School Department is there is a State mandate of June 15 of each fiscal year of notifying employees that they are being laid off effective the last day of school. Regardless of the last day of school, now it is June 16, he would be notifying employees the Monday or Tuesday of that week. They can reset things, however, a lot of emotion goes with that and a lot of talk within his staff as it has some seniority based decisions and causes angst, and the biggest concern is people begin to look at employment in other places because it is so late. Most school systems do hiring after April vacation; therefore this June date is the date to keep on the radar.

Mr. Giblin asked Dr. Baeta to speak on the water issue.

Dr. Baeta stated they have had, through the Governor's Office, at least \$2M for testing of faucets, spickets, fixtures, etc., within the schools. They decided to have every fixture in every school (every faucet, etc.) tested at all five of the Town schools, at no cost to their budget. Surprisingly,



they came back with significant hits at Norton High School, around copper mostly, because these are new fixtures and new soldering that took place. They began a process of shutting down lead and/or copper and, since then, on Christmas Eve Wade Lizotte, their Director of Facilities, came in with a third party consultant company which they hired to do a retesting, which did have a cost to the school budget (about \$1200) and they have since then been able to clear out certain faucets for washing hands, etc. They will need a third test to determine it is fully cleared. During that time, they spent \$2300 on bottled water for students/staff because they did not want students to attempt to drink it. He stated things are good, they have a plan in place, and buildings and students are safe.

Motion was made by Mr. Diniz to Adjourn

Mr. Stefanelli stated the meeting was never opened.

Mr. Giblin responded, yes, this meeting was opened at beginning of meeting by both boards.

It was explained the School Committee made the motion to adjourn

Mr. Stefanelli called a "Point of Order" before the motion was seconded because he wanted to communicate some things.

Mr. Stefanelli of 12 James Street said his concern would be the word "audit" has been used a lot. Who is the company doing the audit and is it an in-house firm? Is it a firm that would verify all of the accounts and ensure the nickels and dimes were spent wisely and not encumbered or spent unwisely? That was his question.

Mr. Yunits responded it is not an in-house audit. It is a company that is hired to do the audit and they work at the Town Hall and bring in a lot of different people/accountants and audit all accounts and also go to the School Department and audit accounts also.

Mr. Stefanelli thanked Mr. Yunits.

A member of the audience, who was the manager of the trustees of Great Brook Condos had an answer to problems about taxes; the Town should have more adult communities. These adult communities pay taxes and don't use plowing, garbage, they maintain their own roads and facilities, and have no children in the school system. With an increase in taxes or override of 2 ½, the Town will drive the elderly out of town because, not only are the taxes going to increase greatly, they (Great Brook Condos) also have been assessed by the Water Department, a fee of \$13,000 per year which comes to about 2% of what their condo fees are. All of this added together will drive the elderly people out of town who won't be able to afford living in the Town of Norton.



He stated further, Boston Magazine did a study on the 125 school systems in the Commonwealth, of those systems, the Town of Norton was 79th out of 125 school systems. He agreed that education is very important. He wanted to note there were many schools above Norton, including Mansfield and Foxboro which spend about the same amount per student that the Town of Norton does, but they came out considerably higher than the Town of Norton. His question was, is the School Committee checking into seeing what these schools are doing that are providing their students possibly with a better education than what Norton is providing based that the Town is 79th with the town of Foxboro at 40 and Mansfield somewhere near Foxboro. This may be a place to save some money by contacting other schools systems and finding out what they are doing right as they are rated higher than the Norton school system.

Ms. Werner said she did not think they could agree with those statistic unless they know what criteria was, possibly based upon income or MCAS scores and more statistical information needed on that.

Mr. Giblin said this is something that can be looked at throughout this whole process.

Ms. Cohen said she understood it is difficult for the elderly and she feels for them and she wanted them to understand it is also difficult for her and her family as it costs a lot of money to bus their children to school, to play sports, etc. She has friends who have moved out of town because they would rather pay more taxes and get more services, therefore, young families are also leaving Town as well.

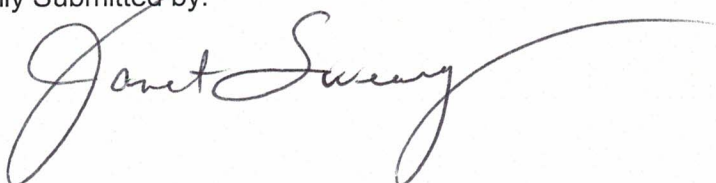
Mr. Giblin said there would be more conversation/communication to occur at future Ad hoc/Board of Selectmen, and School Committee meetings.

Ms. Joanna Ryan, a 13 year resident of Norton, worked all of her life and is a retired registered nurse, believes the school system in Town is very important and has paid Town taxes. She said many young people climb up the corporate ladder who have a young family, which helps them to provide as their salaries increase, and many families have two incomes. When people are on a fixed income, such as retired people, there is no other "pot" than what was provided for by themselves. She has grandchildren in the Norton School System and it is important they have the things they need to succeed and she does understand the other side of it.

**MOTION was made by Ms. Cohen to Adjourn at 7:00 P.M. Second by Ms. Werner. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Giblin respectfully requested a temporary recess for five minutes and then the scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will start.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janet Sweeney", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Janet Sweeney  
Board of Selectmen - Recording Secretary

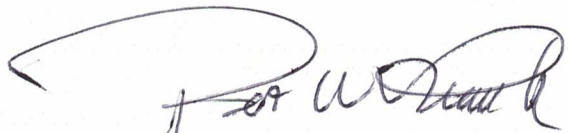
**Documents Presented at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 12, 2017**

- Application of Haralabos Karasavas d/b/a Main Street Pizzeria, for a Common Victualler's License, to be utilized at 63 East Main Street, Norton, MA 02766
- The Norton Singers, Donald Powers, for a one-day Beer and Wine License to be utilized at the Everett Leonard Park, Saturday, June 10, 2017, 12 Noon - 6:00 P.M., for a private party
- Notice - in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 61 Section 8, and Chapter 61A, Section 14, Daggett-Crandall-Newcomb Home, Inc.'s intent to Sell Land on Newland and Newcomb Streets, Norton, MA 02766
- Draft Board of Selectmen Minutes, dated November 3, 2016

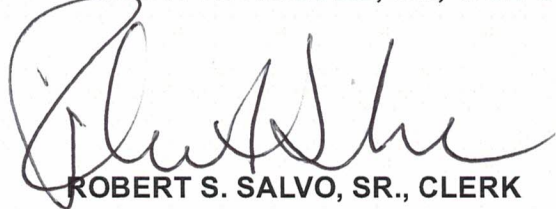


**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2017**

**TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, CHAIRMAN**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Kimball, Jr.", with a large, sweeping initial "R".

**ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., VICE-CHAIR**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Salvo, Sr.", with a large, stylized initial "R".

**ROBERT S. SALVO, SR., CLERK**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradford K. Bramwell", with a large, stylized initial "B".

**BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL**

**MARY T. STEELE**

Dated: 4/6/17