

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING with  
FINANCE COMMITTEE and BOARD OF SELECTMAN  
MINUTES OF MEETING

2019 JUN 20 A 11: 24

***Date of Joint Meeting:*** Thursday, May 30, 2019

***Location:*** Norton High School Library

***Call to Order:***

School Committee Chairman Stern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded by Norton Cable Access for public record. Chairman Stern announced all members were present.

Selectman Bramwell called the meeting to order and announced four members were present and that Mr. Yunitz was unavailable due to attending a Town Managers Conference.

Finance Representative Rotondi called the meeting to order and announced all but one member was present.

Project Building Representative O'Brien called the meeting to order and announced all members were present.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

***Project Town Hall and Community Center – Building Committee***

Mrs. O'Brien addressed an issue of concern from the committee. Recent documentation was brought to the Building Committees' attention on May 24, 2019 indicating the EPA and DEP would not be completely cleaning the site at Elm Street for the proposed new building project as previously anticipated. The recent news was indicated from documentation and reports that dated back to February 2019. Selectman Deley informed the committees these documents will be published on the Town of Norton website. She also informed the committees that the CEC will be present at the next Selectman meeting and all are encouraged to attend. Discussion and concerns were addressed from all committees regarding the timeframe between the dated reports and the recent notification.

Mr. Chris Carmichael Building Commissioner addressed that the Reed & Barton building located on Cross Street as the site for this proposed project was condemned due to the roof and walls collapsing regardless of the project status.

Mrs. O'Brien indicated that the Building Committee met at Town Hall before this meeting to discuss the recent information. The Building Committee voted 3-2 not to move forward with this project at the initial proposed site. Selectman Flaherty addressed that the \$25.7 million dollars on the article for this project is without land acquisition. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that other sites considered were municipal land.

Mrs. O'Brien addressed concerns about the Special Town Meeting to be held on June 3, 2019. Selectman Flaherty discussed the Selectman meeting held in March 2019 was the final timeframe that was required if they were not to move forward with the Special Town Meeting. Selectman Deley addressed that the information was not provided at that time.

Mr. William Gouveia, Town Moderator explained some circumstances that could arise at the town meeting, but the town meeting could not be cancelled. He further indicated a representative will need to address the public at the town meeting with a full explanation as to the changes being brought forth to the article. It will also need to explain why the Finance Committee, Selectman and Building Committee are not now supporting the article.

The Finance Committee motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup> to reconsider Article 1 at Town Meeting on June 3, 2019. Unanimously voted to reconsider the Article.

The Finance Committee motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup> to recommend Article 1 at the Town Meeting on June 3, 2019. Unanimously voted to recommend the article

The Building Project Committee indicated they would like to continue with their efforts to locate a new site for the proposed new Town Hall and Community Center. The Board of Selectman agreed for the committee to continue this building project.

### ***Communication Between Boards***

Keep open communication among all committees by:

- Minutes of the Meetings should be shared.
- A representative from each committee should attend other committee meetings.
- A few members from each committee should meet periodically.
- The chairperson of each committee should communicate and then discuss any further action.
- More joint meetings like this will continue.

All committees appeared to be in agreement these recommendations should and will be followed.

### ***Transparency Center***

The School uses a Transparency Center for the process of communicating public information.

### ***School Department Finance***

Dr. Baeta addressed the concern of non-factional information regarding the school budget that had been presented at Finance Committee and Board of Selectman meetings. He requested to all the committees that if the School Department is on their agenda for a meeting that the school be notified so a representative could attend.

It was also suggested that the School Superintendent and Business Manager set up periodic meetings with the Town Manager and Town Accountant to keep open communication.

The Finance Committee agreed they recently had a challenging meeting and it is a good idea to get the committees together and all be included. The committee also expressed they need to meet more frequently and develop a schedule and better lay out and format for the town finances. The Finance Committee can then utilize the information to fully determine the revenue and expenditures for a given period of time.

All committees were invited to attend the school budget meetings. It was encouraged for the committees to review any of the school's appropriation line items.

***Other Business***

This was Paul Helmreich's last meeting on the Finance Committee. He was recognized for his many years of service and dedication.

***Motion to Adjourn***

MOTION: by Mr. D. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. S. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.  
Secretary Pro Tem

Kathleen Stern, Chairman

  
Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairman

  
Sheri Cohen

  
Deniz Savas

  
Dan Sheedy