



**TOWN OF NORTON**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MUNICIPAL CENTER,**  
**70 EAST MAIN STREET, NORTON, MA 02766**

Telephone: (508) 285-0210 Fax: (508) 285-0297

**Board of Selectmen**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2020**

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**I. Call to Order by Chairman**

The February 27, 2020 meeting of the Norton Board of Selectmen was held in the Norton Middle School Library and was called to order at 6:40 P.M., by Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell, Chairman. Member(s) present: Mr. Michael Flaherty, Mr. John Conway, Ms. Mary Steele and Ms. Renee Deley. Also in attendance: Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

**II. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements**

1. Appointment of Susan Bieksha as a Part-Time Dispatcher in the Communications Department.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to appoint Susan Bieksha as a Part-Time Dispatcher in the Communications Department. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

2. Appointment of Christine Mooney as a Part-Time Dispatcher in the Communications Department.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to appoint Christine Mooney as a Part-Time Dispatcher in the Communications Department. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**III. Licenses and Permits**

1. Application for a Permit by the Disabled American Veterans Cpl. William F. Reardon Chapter 57 for the Forget-Me-Not Drive for May 30-31, 2020 (Second Choice: June 6-7, 2020).

**MOTION was made by Ms. Steele to approve the permit. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

2. Application for a Permit by the American Legion Post 222 for the Memorial Day Poppy Drive on May 23-24, 2020 to be held at Roche Bros., 175 Mansfield Avenue (Route 140).

**MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Conway. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**IV. Announcements**

Mr. Conway announced the following:

1. May 16, 2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. is the Touch-a-Truck event at the Life Church Field located at One New Taunton Avenue (Rain Date of May 23, 2020).

2. Norton Parks and Recreation swim lessons will be held on July 6-9, July 13-16, July 20-23, July 27-30, August 3-6, and August 10-13. For more information or to register, visit [www.nortonma.org/parks-and-recreation](http://www.nortonma.org/parks-and-recreation).

3. The Norton Spring Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M. There will be a lunch held at BOG Iron Brewery afterwards.

4. The Spring Egg Hunt will be held at the Everett Leonard Park – 6 Parker Street - on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The event begins at 11:45 A.M. age 2; 11:50 A.M. ages 3-4; 11:55 A.M. ages 5-6; and 12:00 P.M. ages 7-8. The rain date is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>.

5. The Spring Fling Social will be held on Friday, March 13, 2020 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Norton Middle School. You must register ahead of time. For more information, see the Parks and Recreation webpage.

6. Parks and Recreation is looking for lifeguards to join the team. Certification classes will be offered at the Boys and Girls Club of Taunton; April 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> are the next sessions.

7. Wheaton College is hosting a Community Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in the Emerson Dining Room where there will be live performances by their students.

#### V. Business

##### A. New Business

1. 6:30 P.M. – Public hearing on the Application for a Transfer of License from A&R Enterprise Inc., d/b/a Cozy Beer and Wine, to Speedway of Massachusetts, LLC, d/b/a Speedway 2411, for the Retail Package Goods Store License to Expose, Keep for Sale, and to Sell Wines and Malt Beverages Not to be Drunk on the Premises. The proposed licensee will also be requesting a Change of Location from 411 Old Colony Road, Norton, MA 02766 to 125 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766.

Attorney Andrew Upton introduced himself, Nick Lorenzana, District Manager of Speedway, and Selene Taveras, General Manager of Speedway and the proposed manager of record for the liquor license. Attorney Upton provided a brief summary of the character and fitness of the applicant. He stated that Speedway has over 2,700 liquor licenses. They also have a mystery shopper that comes in to try and buy restricted products and they have never failed a mystery shopping test. Attorney Upton noted that if the store fails an internal compliance test or a compliance test from the local authority that the general manager does not get their bonus. He informed the Board that there would be a small selection of well-known beers and wines at the establishment if they were granted the liquor license. Attorney Upton explained that he did not believe there would be any increased traffic because the business is already there nor should it create any rowdiness (no nips, pints, or kegs will be sold by the company). He stated that the beer fridge would be about the size of two Coke refrigerators.

Mr. Lorenzana stated that he understands that it is a privilege not a right to have a liquor license. He reiterated that the company has a good track record with compliance. Attorney Upton stated that Ms. Tavares is the current General Manager and has completed and passed the compliance for the liquor license. Ms. Tavares informed the Board that she is on the premises at least 50 hours a week. Attorney Upton added that every person before their shift begins is required to sign a form regarding the compliance for tobacco.

Mr. Bramwell mentioned the fact that they have a strict adherence to selling to individuals who are underage. He informed the applicants that the Police Department will actually send an underage person into an establishment to check and make sure licensees aren't abusing their license. Mr. Bramwell emphasized that the Selectmen will be fair, but are strict when penalizing the licensee by taking the license away for a certain period of time depending on the situation. Mr. Bramwell expressed that it appeared that the company understood the seriousness of serving people underage and stated that they usually ask people to be TIPS certified, but it seemed that this establishment is even more strict/diligent. Mr. Flaherty agreed and asked Mr. Lorenzana if he owns any other stores that have a liquor license and he answered he did not. Mr. Conway asked what hours they would be selling the alcohol. Attorney Upton answered 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. Attorney Upton clarified that the store is open 24 hours, but they would lock away the alcohol at 11:00 P.M.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to approve the transfer of the beer and wine license from A&R-Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a Cozy Beer and Wine to Speedway of Massachusetts, LLC d/b/a Speedway 2411 for the Retail Package Goods Store License to expose, keep for sale, and to sell wines and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises at 125 West Main Street, Norton, MA. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Mr. Conway – Yes; Ms. Deley – Yes; Ms. Steele – Yes; Mr. Flaherty – Yes; and Mr. Bramwell – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

## **2. Discussion on Proposed 40B – Reservoir Apartments at 253 Mansfield Avenue.**

Mr. Yunits informed the Board that MassHousing will be doing a site walk at the proposed location tomorrow (February 28<sup>th</sup>) at 11:00 A.M. if anyone was interested in going. MassHousing asked that any comments regarding the site be sent to them by March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. Vote to Accept Revised Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.**

Mr. Yunits explained that the Selectmen originally voted to accept the grant in the amount of \$1,963.00 and now the amount has increased to \$2,275.00.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Flaherty to accept the grant in the amount of \$2,275.00. Seconded by Ms. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

#### 4. Discussion on Grant Writer Position.

Mr. Yunits stated that he had provided a list to the Selectmen with towns that have a grant writer. Ms. Steele said that with the opportunities that are out there to get grant money, this position would more than pay for itself, add funding to the budget, and alleviate the department heads from the additional workload. Mr. Yunits replied that there aren't that many grants out there that they can't get by just having the department heads apply for them. The Town Manager explained that they could put in a budget line item to contract a grant writer, which could be worthwhile.

Ms. Steele asked if there are that many grants out there. Mr. Yunits answered that the Police Department and the Fire Department receive grants every year for around \$5,000.00. Mr. Yunits pointed out that the chances of receiving grant money to justify hiring someone and then having to pay for their salary, benefits and vacation time is small where you could contract someone on an as-needed basis and budget for this. Ms. Deley asked that a line item be put into the budget for a grant writer in the amount of \$25,000 so it is at least there and then they can iron out the details later. Ms. Deley then asked Mr. Yunits to provide the costs for a part-time person for 20 hours per week and what the costs of benefits would be. Mr. Yunits and Mr. Bramwell informed Ms. Deley that they would not want to do 20 hours, but rather 18 hours per week to avoid the cost of having to provide benefits.

#### **B. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **C. Town Manager's Report**

##### 1. Update on the Current Town Hall.

Mr. Christopher Carmichael, Building Commissioner, gave an update on the current Town Hall. He stated that they received 14 mandates from OSHA, including the following updates:

- Obstructed exit in the basement
- Egress illumination from Archer \$10,000 (addresses items 3, 4, and 6)
- Sign estimate for labels on all the doors is about \$500
- Deadbolt on the gym door of the Fire Department was removed and a fire prevention plan was put into place
- Gene Hardy Flooring gave an estimate of \$24,078.75 for flooring on ramps to eliminate tripping hazard
- Fire extinguishers are being scheduled to be inspected monthly
- Sprinkler inspection has been done and completed by Rustic at a cost of \$350
- Live wires in basement addressed by Archer Electric and has been completed
- Combustible materials under the stairwell has been removed
- Received scan estimates for the clean-out of storage in the basement, which came in at about \$25,000 per department

- Received an estimate for the roof unit for heating/cooling estimate \$16,500
- Roof is going to cost \$50,000 to replace
- Abandoned receptacles on the floor are being removed (included as part of Archer estimate)
- Written procedures for hazards have been completed by the Fire Department.

Mr. Bramwell asked about the handicap elevator and if it still works. Mr. Yunits answered that the lift still works, but the State doesn't want the Town using it because the lift doesn't stop when the door opens.

Mr. Conway expressed his opinion that a lot of the items listed on the report seemed like they were just "good housekeeping." Mr. Conway further stated that it made him very mad when reading the OSHA report and that it is very embarrassing. Mr. Conway said the Selectmen's meeting room is a huge safety hazard, but the rest of the building is right behind it.

Mr. Yunits stated that a lot of that has to do with when OSHA came in. The Town Manager informed Mr. Conway that a lot of stuff used to be stored under the stairwell, but the Fire Department said they had to remove it, which they did. Mr. Yunits added that they have illuminated exit signs, but they are not proper and face the wrong way. Mr. Conway asked if Mr. Yunits was upset after reading the report, to which Mr. Yunits answered he was, but what makes him more upset is putting in a significant amount of money in order to keep the current building together.

Ms. Deley said if the same thing is going on with the Senior Center that they should get someone in there and not have the same thing occur, which Mr. Yunits agreed. Ms. Deley asked for an update at the next meeting of the Senior Center by having Mr. Carmichael do an inspection there. Mr. Conway expressed that splitting the building maintenance and the Board of Health responsibilities for Mr. Christian Zahner, Board of Health Agent, is too much. Mr. Yunits responded that everything comes down to money. He said it would be great to hire facilities maintenance, but they don't have the money. Mr. Yunits pointed out that it is also most important to have a Human Resources Director, but they don't have the money nor the space for that either. Mr. Yunits advised Mr. Conway that the Town also needs a GIS Director, but they don't have the money nor the space.

Mr. Carmichael said that since he came into town about 23 months ago, he has been working on getting issues resolved, but 30 years of negligence isn't going to be fixed in 23 months. The Building Commissioner advised that the Town is moving in the right direction and his department is getting support from the Town Manager, who is hiring a part-time local inspector to help enforce these codes to be in compliance with the State. He emphasized to the Selectmen that these problems do not get fixed overnight and that this is a town-wide issue. Mr. Carmichael said they are lacking on multi-family inspections, restaurant inspections, etc. and said that this was how things were dealt with in the past, but it is not being dealt with like that now. Ms. Deley asked if the Selectmen's meeting room is being shut down because they need an extension from the State by tomorrow if not. Mr. Carmichael said that they still need more information, but advised

moving meetings elsewhere and making that room an office because of the undersized egress.

Mr. Carmichael asked for a vote from the Selectmen to shut down the Selectmen's meeting room. Ms. Deley suggested having the Building Commissioner provide the top five reasons of why the Selectmen's meeting room should no longer be used as an assembly room and voting on this at their next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, which the Board agreed to.

V. **Selectmen's Report and Mail**

Ms. Deley gave an update on the conversation the Industrial Development Commission (IDC) had with town counsel. Due to the language within the [marijuana] bylaw of the number of licenses issued, she said that town counsel suggested coming up with an application process or policy. Ms. Deley stated that the IDC would develop the application process on behalf of the Board with their support. The Board agreed.

VI. **Meeting Minutes**

There were no Minutes voted upon at this meeting.

VIII. **Warrants**

There were no reports on the warrants given.

IX. **Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

X. **Next Meeting's Agenda** – March 5, 2020:

XI. **Executive Session**

There was no need for an executive session.

XII. **Adjournment**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Conway to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:25 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

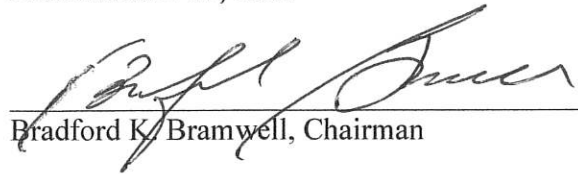
URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkkcAwA-4KM>

Respectfully Submitted by:


  
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Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator



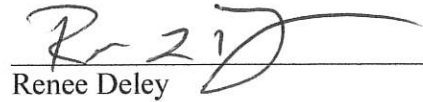
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

  
Bradford K. Bramwell, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Flaherty, Vice-Chairman

  
John Conway, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary T. Steele

  
Renee Deley

Minutes Approved by Board on: May 14, 2020