

06-2020

MINUTES FOR THE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 27, 2020

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Walter Eykel at the Norton High School Football Field.

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Walter Eykel to my right is your Town Clerk Lucia Longhurst, and I would like to call the annual Spring Town Meeting of Norton to order.

First, I would like to invite you to all rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

You may have noticed a new face here next to our Town Clerk. As I said, my name is Walter Eykel and I was elected Town Moderator in the election held last week. As you may have heard, Norton also elected a new member of the Select board, Mike Toole, so congratulations to him.

I would like to thank you all for taking the time and making the effort to attend our Town Meeting. I would like to extend to you all a socially-conscious group elbow bump.

As this is my first Town Meeting, I would like to assure you that I will strive to run the meeting to provide you all the best opportunity to participate in town government. I don't claim to be able to replace Bill Gouveia, all I can say is that will come after him.

Before we begin the meeting, I would like to go over some of the rules governing our meeting today.

Please find a seat. If you wish to address this meeting, you may do so only after being recognized by the moderator. When you wish to speak, you may stand up, I will recognize you and a worker will bring a microphone to you, so we ask you to stay at your seats during the meeting.

If you are a registered voter, you may sit anywhere in the center of the football field. Non-voters must sit in the section by the yellow sign.

When you speak, please start by stating your name and address so the clerk can record that information for the minutes of the meeting.

Please try and keep your remarks brief, to the point and make sure they are relevant to the article under discussion only. All speakers will be treated with respect and courtesy by the moderator and the other attendees of the meeting. No speaker will be allowed to use the meeting for personal attacks on any individual. All remarks will be directed to the Moderator and while I will allow questions to be asked of individuals, I will not allow cross examination of speakers.

In recognizing people to speak, I will try to call upon those who have not spoken on the topic already before those who have already spoken on the topic.

I will entertain motions to move the questions, but I will reserve my right as Moderator to deny any motion to move the question if I think there is still discussion to be had.

If a standing vote is required, you will be instructed to stand at your seats until the vote is counted. If a ballot vote is required, instructions will be presented then.

If you wish to make an amendment to any motion, you must do it in writing and present it to the Moderator and the Clerk. Please prepare your written amendment and bring it up here. If you want to move an article that has not been recommended by the Finance Committee, you must also present that motion to the clerk in writing.

I remind you that no motion to reconsider any article will be accepted by the Moderator until at least three articles following that article have been acted upon by this meeting. This will not apply if the article is one of the last three of the warrant. Be aware that any article that you act upon today can be reconsidered. So, the Bill Gouveia rule of reconsideration means that if you came here for, let's say, article 5 and that article passes, and you decide to leave the meeting. But three articles later, someone moves to reconsider the article, discussion and possible voting restarts and the result may change. So be aware that the results of the voting are not permanent until the end of the meeting.

There will be a process for non-voters to speak on certain articles, and it is up to the meeting to decide, but I remind you that outside speakers often have important, relevant facts that you need to have when considering articles, so consider that when deciding whether to hear outside speakers.

Thanks to Health Agent Chris Zahner and his team for all his work.

At the end of the meeting, I would like to ask you all to stay seated until you are directed to leave. We will be exiting a row at a time after some important announcements.

Another piece of business. Section 2-2 of the Norton Town Charter allows the Moderator to designate a Deputy Moderator to serve from now until the next Spring Town Meeting. The deputy can preside at Town Meetings when the Elected Moderator is not available. The appointment of the Deputy must be voted on by the members of the Town Meeting. I would like to nominate Bill Gouveia for the position of Deputy Moderator and put it to a vote at this time. Would anyone like to discuss this before we vote?

Before we close the meeting, I have a couple important announcements to make. For the first I would like to turn the meeting over to Finance Committee Chairman, Bill Rotundi.

Also, there are now two open positions on the Norton Finance Committee and it is my responsibility to fill them. If you are interested in applying for the role, please contact me at [weykel@nortonmaus.com](mailto:weykel@nortonmaus.com).

Thank you.

Town Clerk Lucia B. Longhurst read the call and return of service from the constable as written in the warrant.

We will now proceed to the warrant. As is our custom, the Chairman of the Finance Committee makes the motions for the warrant articles.

ARTICLE 2 (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town approve Article 2 as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 2 AS PRINTED IN THE WARRANT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allotted, or to be allotted, by the Commonwealth and/or County for the construction, reconstruction and improvement of Town roads, and to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, and/or appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of road and other municipal improvements within the Town of Norton which are eligible for reimbursement, subject to conditions detailed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, pursuant to G.L. c.90, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3 (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to transfer the amount of \$185,735.00 from Free Cash to pay all outstanding separation expenses associated with the retirement of various employees from the Town of Norton and to authorize the Town Accountant, in consultation with the Town Manager, to allocate amounts to appropriate departments.

**Questions were asked as to who the employees were receiving these monies and how much each.**

ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 4 – (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to approve the cost items for the first fiscal year of a contract between the Town of Norton and AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1702, Water and Sewer Employees, for the period between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2023, with the funding therefor to be appropriated in the Water and Sewer Enterprise funds under Articles 6 and 7.

**Motion was made to table the article and was second. Motion failed.**

**Motion was made to move the question and passed by 2/3 vote.**

ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 5 (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$25,000.00 for tree services, including but not limited to, the removal of hazardous trees, stump removal, and performance of additional preventative and emergency services Town-wide, including crane rentals and other incidental and related costs.

ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6 (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the total amount of \$4,563,343.00 be appropriated for the operation of the Water Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2021 from Water Enterprise Receipts (including but not limited to user charges, lease revenue, interest, and miscellaneous revenues) in the amount of \$4,306,004.00 and by transferring from Retained Earnings the amount of \$257,339.00, \$4,172,628.00 of said sum being appropriated hereunder for direct costs of the Enterprise, and \$390,715.00 of said sum to be appropriated in the General Fund under Article 8 for indirect costs and allocated to the Water Enterprise Fund for funding, as follows:

\$1,116,590.00	Personnel Services
\$1,211,000.00	Other Charges and Expenditures
\$1,845,038.00	Debt Service
<u>\$ 390,715.00</u>	Indirect Costs – Charged to Enterprise Fund from General Fund and raised under Article 8
\$4,563,343.00	Total for Fiscal Year 2021 - Water

ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 7 (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the total amount of \$1,765,878.00 be appropriated for the operation of the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2021 from Sewer Enterprise Receipts (including but not limited to fees, charges, interest, and miscellaneous revenues), with \$1,670,892.00 of said sum being appropriated hereunder for direct costs of the Enterprise, and \$94,986.00 of said sum to be appropriated in the General Fund under Article 8 for indirect costs and allocated to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for funding, as follows:

\$ 250,581.00	Personnel Services
\$ 1,186,100.00	Other Charges and Expenditures
\$ 94,986.00	Indirect Costs – Charged to Enterprise Fund from General Fund and raised under Article 8
<u>\$ 234,211.00</u>	Debt Service
\$ 1,765,878.00	Total for Fiscal Year 2021 - Sewer

ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8 (2/3 Vote)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$58,430,352.00, raise from Water receipts the amount of \$390,715.00, raise from Sewer receipts the amount of \$94,986.00, all as presented in the Finance Committee’s recommendation as printed in Article 8 of the June 27, 2020, Annual Town Meeting Warrant and further, the amount of \$1,902,820.00 be transferred from the following funds for a total appropriation for the Fiscal Year 2021 operating budget of \$60,818,873.00:

		<b>FY 2021</b>
		<b>Finance Comm</b>
<b>FY 2021 Operating Budget</b>		<b>Recommend.</b>
<b><u>Board of Selectmen (122)</u></b>		

	510	\$ 60,569.00
	570	\$ 3,160.00
		\$ 63,729.00
<b><u>Town Manager (123)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 262,133.00
	570	\$ 14,750.00
		\$ 276,883.00
<b><u>Finance Committee (131)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 1,710.00
		\$ 1,710.00
<b><u>Reserve Fund (132)</u></b>		
-		\$ 150,000.00
	502	
		\$ 150,000.00
<b><u>Town Accountant (135)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 216,183.00
	520	\$ 26,000.00
	570	\$ 3,760.00
		\$ 245,943.00
<b><u>Assessors (141)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 162,206.00
	570	\$ 34,578.00

		\$ 196,784.00
<b><u>Treasurer/Collector (147)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 228,275.00
	570	\$ 53,594.00
		\$ 281,869.00
<b><u>Legal Services (151)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 90,000.00
		\$ 90,000.00
<b><u>Data Processing (155)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 29,155.00
	570	\$ 403,534.00
		\$ 432,689.00
<b><u>Tax Title Foreclosure (158)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 45,000.00
	570	\$ 45,000.00
<b><u>Town Clerk (161)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 113,661.00
	511	\$ -
	570	\$ 10,719.00
		\$ 124,380.00
<b><u>Elections (162)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 630.00
	570	\$ 64,850.00



		\$ 65,480.00
<b><u>Conservation Comm (171)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 123,094.00
	570	\$ 17,986.00
		\$ 141,080.00
<b><u>Planning Board (175)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 119,642.00
	570	\$ 5,025.00
		\$ 124,667.00
<b><u>SE REG Plan &amp; Econ Dev (176)</u></b>		
	560	\$ 3,654.00
		\$ 3,654.00
<b><u>Zoning Bd Of Appeals (177)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 300.00
		\$ 300.00
<b><u>Municipal Bldg Maint (192)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 207,750.00
		\$ 207,750.00
<b><u>Town Report (195)</u></b>		
	520	\$ 2,000.00
		\$ 2,000.00
<b><u>Postage -All Depts (199)</u></b>		

	570	\$ 37,500.00
		\$ 37,500.00
<b><u>Police Department (210)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 3,592,120.00
	570	\$ 212,850.00
		\$ 3,804,970.00
<b><u>Fire Department (220)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 3,974,917.00
	570	\$ 200,840.00
		\$ 4,175,757.00
<b><u>Emergency Medl Serv (230)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 143,900.00
		\$ 143,900.00
<b><u>Emergency Planning (240)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 7,400.00
		\$ 7,400.00
<b><u>Inspection Dept (241)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 221,961.00
	570	\$ 21,350.00
		\$ 243,311.00
<b><u>Sealer Weights (244)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 2,200.00

		\$ 2,200.00
<b><u>Communication Center (290)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 147,330.00
	560	\$ 508,782.00
	570	\$ -
		\$ 656,112.00
<b><u>Animal Control (292)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 67,436.00
	570	\$ 13,628.00
		\$ 81,064.00
<b><u>Tree Warden (294)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 2,000.00
		\$ 2,000.00
<b><u>School Department (300)</u></b>		
-		\$ 30,706,589.00
		\$ 30,706,589.00
<b><u>Southeastern Reg Voc (306)</u></b>		
	560	\$ 1,447,135.00
		\$ 1,447,135.00
<b><u>Reg Agricultural Sch (308)</u></b>		
	560	\$ 19,336.00
		\$ 19,336.00
<b><u>Highway (420)</u></b>		

	510	\$ 824,750.00
	570	\$ 102,050.00
	580	\$ 8,000.00
	581	\$ 1,000.00
		\$ 935,800.00
<b><u>Snow Removal (423)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 80,000.00
		\$ 80,000.00
<b><u>Street Lighting (425)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 40,000.00
		\$ 40,000.00
<b><u>Sanitary Landfill (438)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 13,000.00
		\$ 13,000.00
<b><u>Board of Health (510)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 162,375.00
	570	\$ 10,025.00
		\$ 172,400.00
<b><u>Public Health Nurse (522)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 35,139.00
	570	\$ 10,250.00

		\$ 45,389.00
<b><u>Council on Aging (541)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 88,650.00
	570	\$ 13,200.00
		\$ 101,850.00
<b><u>Veterans Agent (543)</u></b>		
	510	\$ 82,933.00
	570	\$ 3,750.00
	579	\$ 230,000.00
		\$ 316,683.00
<b><u>Library (610)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 501,781.00
		\$ 501,781.00
<b><u>Recreation (630)</u></b>		
-	510	\$ 25,116.00
	570	\$ 17,550.00
		\$ 42,666.00
<b><u>Memorial &amp; Vets Day (692)</u></b>		
	570	\$ 2,000.00
		\$ 2,000.00
<b><u>Maturing Debt (711)</u></b>		
	590	\$ 1,761,774.00

	594	\$ 128,862.00	
		\$ 1,890,636.00	
<b><u>Interest (750)</u></b>			
	590	\$ 535,290.00	
	594	\$ 34,262.00	
		\$ 569,552.00	
<b><u>Employee Benefits (910)</u></b>			
	510	\$ 3,125,329.00	
	511	\$ 7,763,285.00	
	570	\$ 525,000.00	
		\$ 11,413,614.00	
<b><u>Unemployment Comp (911)</u></b>			
	570	\$ 80,000.00	
		\$ 80,000.00	
<b><u>Miscellaneous (940)</u></b>			
	540	\$ 126,000.00	
	570	\$ 706,310.00	
		\$ 832,310.00	
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		\$ 60,818,873.00	

Hicks Fund	\$	100,000.00
Ambulance Receipts	\$	700,000.00
Septic Betterments	\$	35,000.00
Dog Fund	\$	10,000.00
Debt Exclusion Premium	\$	15,320.00
Wetlands Protection	\$	3,000.00
Stabilization	\$	439,500.00
Free Cash	\$	600,000.00
	\$	1,902,820.00

ARTICLE PASSES BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9 (2/3 Vote)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town appropriate the total sum of \$1,300,165.00 for the purchase, or lease for periods of time up to or in excess of three years with an option to purchase, and equip new and/or replacement capital items or for capital projects for various Town Departments, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, for the purposes and in the amounts set forth in the Finance Committee’s Recommendations and in the Chart entitled, “Article 9 Proposed FY21 Capital Budget”, and to meet said appropriation, to transfer the amount of \$416,150.00 from the Capital Improvements Account, the amount of \$34,015.00 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, and by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, and, for the item marked “borrowing”, to borrow the amount of **\$850,000.00 pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §§7 or 8, G.L. c. 44, G.L. c. 29C, or** pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, with the understanding that although these will be general obligation bonds of the Town, it is anticipated that they will be repaid from the Water Enterprise, and, in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, authorize any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, to be applied to the payment of costs

approved hereunder, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs.

<b>DATA PROCESSING (155)</b>	<b>Replace Trend Micro with CylanceProtect &amp; Cylance Optics (Antivirus and Cyber Attack Protection)</b>	<b>\$ 16,500.00</b>
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT (210)</b>	<b>Police Line Cruiser Replacement</b>	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT (210)</b>	<b>HVAC Units Replacement</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT (220)</b>	<b>Turnout Gear Replacement</b>	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT (220)</b>	<b>Pumper Replacement (Year 3 of 5)</b>	<b>\$ 140,250.00</b>
<b>JOINT REQUEST - SCHOOLS/POLICE (300/210)</b>	<b>Traffic Calming Systems</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (300)</b>	<b>District: Minibus (Year 2 of 3-Year Lease)</b>	<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>
<b>NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (300)</b>	<b>District: Minibus (Year 1 of 3-Year Lease)</b>	<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>
<b>HIGHWAY (420)</b>	<b>Peterbilt 348-473118 with Tank (3 of 5)</b>	<b>\$ 36,000.00</b>
<b>HIGHWAY (420)</b>	<b>Holder Utility Tractor (4 of 5)</b>	<b>\$ 33,000.00</b>
<b>TREE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Bucket Truck (Year 2 of 5)</b>	<b>\$ 53,400.00</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 416,150.00</b>
<b>WATER (450)</b>	<b>Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 Pick Up</b>	<b>\$ 34,015.00</b>
<b>WATER (450)</b>	<b>Replacement Wells 5 and 6*</b>	<b>\$ 850,000.00</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL WATER PROJECTS:</b>	<b>\$ 884,015.00</b>

The current balance of the Capital Improvements Fund is \$721,889.00. If this article is approved, there will be \$305,739.00 remaining in the Capital Improvements Fund.



ARTICLE 9 PASSES BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 10 (2/3 Vote)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to appropriate the amount of \$1,100,000.00 for the purpose of constructing sewers, pump stations, and force mains, and for related legal, administrative and other pertinent expenses associated with the construction of public sewers required to serve the Woodland Meadows development, Norton High School and Yelle Elementary School and other public and private properties on West Main Street, Taunton Avenue, Howard Street, and Fillmore Drive, along the sewer alignment needed to serve those properties, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in G.L. c.29C, §1; that such sum of money to be used to augment the \$5,700,000.00 appropriated and approved for borrowing under previous Town Meeting articles and further to authorize the funds appropriated under previous articles to also be expended for the purposes set forth herein; that to meet this additional appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow the amount of \$1,100,000.00 and to issue bonds or notes therefor in accordance with G.L. c.44, G.L. c.29C, or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in G.L. c.29C, §1; that the Norton Water and Sewer Commission be and is authorized to apply for, accept, and expend any state and/or federal grants and loans or other public or private funds that may be available for the project; that the Water and Sewer Commission be authorized to assess sewer betterments and/or privilege fees to recover all or a portion of the sewer project costs authorized by this vote, Article 8 of the May 8, 2017, Special Town Meeting, Article 8 of the May 14, 2018, Special Town Meeting and Article 13 of the May 15, 2019, Town Meeting, in accordance with any of the methods available under G.L. c. 80 and 83 and Town Sewer Department Rules and Regulations; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to said Chapter 29C; and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; that the Board of Water and Sewer Commission is authorized to enter into a Project Regulatory Agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection to expend all funds available for the project; and to authorize the Select Board and/or the Water and Sewer Commission to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on and under the foregoing properties as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes set forth herein; and in accordance with G.L. c.44 , §20, authorize any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the cost of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of project costs approved hereunder, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs.

**Discussions transpired regarding Weston and Sampson needing more money.**

**Steve Peterson from Weston and Sampson explained the issues they came across while working the project to cause the additional funds.**

**Motion was made to move the question and was second. Motion was approved by 2/3 votes.**

**ARTICLE PASSES BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

ARTICLE 11 (Majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners to enter into one or more leases, having terms of no more than twenty (20) years at a time for telecommunications purposes, the antenna mounting locations on the Cottage Street Water Tank and portions of land at the base of said tank, situated on the Town-owned property located at Cottage Street and shown as Assessor Map 21, Lot 102, and, further, to authorize the Select Board and the Water and Sewer Commission to grant such access, utility and other easements on said property as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of serving the telecommunications equipment thereon, all upon such terms and conditions and for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, as the Select Board and Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners deem appropriate.

**ARTICLE PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

ARTICLE 12 (4/5 Vote)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to pay the following unpaid bills incurred in a prior fiscal year using existing Fiscal Year 2020 funds from Account No. 001-175-570:

ACCOUNT	DEPARTMENT	VENDOR	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
001-175-570	Planning	The Sun Chronicle	Advertising	\$ 605.30

Combine ARTICLES 13-17 in one vote (majority)

I William Rotundi MOVE that the Town vote to take Articles 13 through 17, all proposing Zoning Bylaw amendments, together in one vote, and, further, to refer such articles back to the Planning Board for further study.

ARTICLES 13 – 17 PASSES BU MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE  
MODERATOR

A True Copy Attest:

Lucia B. Longhurst  
Town Clerk