

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION  
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October 23, 2018

Lucia B. Longhurst, Town Clerk  
Town of Norton  
70 East Main Street  
Norton, MA 02766

**Re: Norton Annual Town Meeting of May 14, 2018 -- Case # 9120  
Warrant Article # 16 (General)**

Dear Ms. Longhurst:

**Article 16** - We approve the portion of Article 16 from the May 14, 2018 Norton Annual Town Meeting amending the Town's general by-laws to include a new bylaw, "Veterans Property Tax Work-Off Program."

We take no action on the portions of Article 16 accepting the provisions of G.L. c. 59, § 5N, or authorizing the Board of Selectmen to establish a program to allow a veteran to provide volunteer services to the Town in exchange for a reduction in real property tax obligations on the veteran's tax bill. The Town may wish to consult with Town Counsel regarding whether the portion of Article 16 accepting G.L. c. 59, § 5N, needs to be filed with the Secretary of State's Office and/or the Department of Revenue/Division of Local Services.

**Note:** Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, neither general nor zoning by-laws take effect unless the Town has first satisfied the posting/publishing requirements of that statute. Once this statutory duty is fulfilled, (1) general by-laws and amendments take effect on the date these posting and publishing requirements are satisfied unless a later effective date is prescribed in the by-law, and (2) zoning by-laws and amendments are deemed to have taken effect from the date they were approved by the Town Meeting, unless a later effective date is prescribed in the by-law.

Very truly yours,

MAURA HEALEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Nicole B. Caprioli*

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cc: Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg



# OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

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## ARTICLE 16 (Majority)

### ARTICLE 16

I RICHARD DORNEY move that the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5N, authorizing the Board of Selectmen to establish a program to allow a veteran who qualifies for participation to volunteer to provide services to the Town, or an authorized representative for persons physically unable to provide such services, in exchange for a reduction in real property tax obligations on the veteran's tax bill, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person is otherwise entitled, not to exceed \$1,000 and that any veteran participating in such program shall not receive a rate of, or be credited with more than the current minimum wage of the Commonwealth per hour; and further, to amend the General Bylaws to include the following new bylaw:

#### VETERANS PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

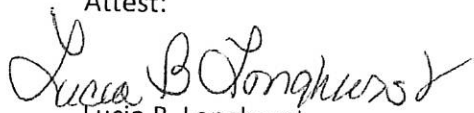
There shall be in the Town of Norton a Veterans Tax Program in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.59, §5N, allowing the Town of Norton the opportunity to utilize the knowledge and skills of its resident veterans, or an authorized representative for persons physically unable to provide such services, in exchange for a reduction in real property tax obligations on the veteran's tax bill, in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person is otherwise entitled. The purposes of this program are to enhance municipal services and alleviate resident veterans' tax burden.

The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to promulgate regulations to implement the Veterans Tax Program subject to and in accordance with the limitations imposed by G.L. c.59, §5N. Such regulations shall be adopted at an open meeting for which notice of such action was properly provided under the Open Meeting Law, and any regulations promulgated by the Board of Selectmen shall be posted in the offices of the Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk and Board of Assessors, and on the Town's website.

PASSES BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DELCARED BY THE MODERATOR

I hereby certify that the above article was voted and declared voted by the Moderator at the Annual Town Meeting on May 16, 2018.

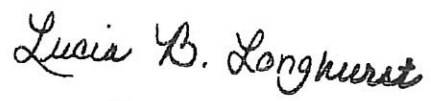
Attest:



Lucia B. Longhurst

Town Clerk

True Copy Attest



Norton Town Clerk