

06-2019

**TOWN OF NORTON**  
**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**JUNE 3, 2019**  
**BRISTOL, SS.**

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator William A. Gouveia at 7:04 PM at the Norton High School Gymnasium. He stated that everyone was in the building so there was no need to recess.

Welcome to tonight's Special Town Meeting. I am Town Moderator Bill Gouveia. With me is Town Clerk, Lucia Longhurst.

To begin tonight's meeting, I would like to introduce State Representative, Jay Barrows. Mr. Barrows made a presentation to former Selectmen Robert Kimball, Jr. and Robert Salvo, Sr. thanking them for their years of service.

Thank you. Now I would first like to go over some of the rules for this meeting in this new venue.

- I ask everyone to please find a seat for this meeting. Standing in the back and on the sides creates problems both on a noise level and in counting standing votes. There are plenty of seats, please find one.
- If you are not a registered voter in the Town of Norton, you are welcome to visit but must sit in the section of seats marked in for that reason. If you are registered voter, please sit anywhere else, because your vote will not be counted if you are sitting in the non-voting section.
- If you wish to address this meeting, you must do so only after being recognized by the Moderator. There are two microphones located up front here. Please move to one of those if you wish to speak and wait to be recognized. When speaking, please identify yourself by name and address for the record. Please try and keep your remarks brief and to the point, and confine them only to the matter under consideration at the time.
- All speakers at this meeting will be treated with courtesy by the Moderator and everyone else in the room. No speaker will be allowed to use the meeting for personal attacks on any individual. All remarks will be directed towards the Moderator, and while I will allow questions to be asked of individuals, I will not allow cross-examination type discussions from the floor.
- In recognizing people to speak, I will endeavor to call upon those who have not yet spoken on a topic before recognizing those who have already spoken. I will recognize motions to move the question, but if in my opinion there are still people waiting to speak who may add

to the discussion, I will exercise my authority to not accept a motion to move the question under those circumstances.

- If a standing vote is required, you will be instructed to stand at your seats until your vote is counted. If a ballot vote is required, you will be given instructions by the Moderator and or the town Clerk as to how to proceed.
- If you wish to make an amendment to any motion, you must do so in writing and present it to the Moderator. Please prepare your amendment in writing and bring it to me up here. If you are moving an article that has not been recommended and moved by the Finance Committee, you must also present that motion to the Town Clerk in writing.
- I remind you all that no motion to reconsider any article will be accepted by the Moderator until at least three articles following the article being reconsidered have been acted upon by this meeting. If the article is one of the last three on the warrant, I will accept any motions to reconsider them prior to adjourning. Please be aware that any article you act upon tonight can be reconsidered as few as three articles later.
- There may be requests this evening to allow non-voters to speak on certain articles. This must be done by a Motion voted upon by this meeting. While it is the right and the decision of the meeting to allow or not allow non-residents to speak, please keep in mind they may have information to add to the discussion. All non-voters must approach the moderator if they wish to be heard.

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

## **ARTICLE 1 (2/3) VOTE**

I David Heaney move that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the total sum of \$25,700,000.00, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of planning, design, construction, furnishing and equipping of a Municipal Center and Senior/Community Center (the “Project”) which Project shall include costs for professional services such as design, contract administration, professional, and owners project management, as well as site preparation and demolition, and all other incidental and related costs; and to meet this appropriation, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow said sum and issue bonds and notes therefor, pursuant to G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; 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, provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½); that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by (i) transferring a sum of money from the amount appropriated under Article 12 of the October 23, 2017, Town Meeting, and (ii) any gifts or grants received for such purposes prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes authorized hereunder; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such actions and execute such documents and agreements as are necessary to effectuate the purpose of this article, including contracts with terms in excess of three years, or take any other action relative thereto.

**David Heaney made a motion to change the Article from reading (i) transferring a sum of money to (i) transferring the balance.**

**Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was approved.**

**The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen had chosen not to move forward on the article and the Permanent Building Committee withdrew their vote but stated they will move forward.**

**Town Manager, Michael Yunits explained that in February they received new information indicating the environment site issues and they felt the issues were too unknown and the cost to correct was also too unknown to move forward with this article. An asbestos abatement went out to bid and three prices came back. The Building Committee was not aware and it could have delayed their project so they decided not to move forward with the building project.**

**Selectmen Chairman Brad Bramwell, spoke and could only apologize that the knowledge of what was under the ground eluded them. He said that they realized the need for these buildings and strongly suggested to move forward, but stated going forward they will add an ad hoc committee with representation from the Building Committee, Finance**

**Committee and School Committee at each Board of Selectmen meeting and will keep the residents informed. He also stated that at every Board of Selectmen meeting they will have a report on the Elm Street property and the Building Inspector, Chris Carmichael will give bi-weekly reports to its progress.**

**Residents expressed their concerns asking if they could be more specific about the other locations they had in mind for the new Town Hall and Senior/Community Center locations. They also expressed the need for the new buildings and other shared their concerns about not passing this article.**

**Keith Silver made a motion to move the question.**

**The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and by a vote of hands the motion passed.**

**Voting was done to either pass or decline the article by a vote of hands.**

**The article was defeated.**

**ARTICLE DEFEATED AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

