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**Town of Norton
Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners
166 John Scott Blvd.
Norton, MA 02766
(508) 285-0280**

**Joint Meeting with Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2022**

I. Call to Order by Chair

The May 23, 2022 joint meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners and the Finance Committee was held remotely (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6391519600> - Meeting ID: 639 151 9600; Phone: 646-558-8656 – Meeting ID: 639 151 9600) and was called to order at 7:12pm, by Commissioner Steven Bishop, Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner James Jardin and Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Also in attendance: Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, Office Administrator Brooke Durden, Town Manager Michael Yunits, Select Board Member Michael Toole and Finance Committee Members Aimee Sawyer, Bonnie Yezukevich, Joe Parker, Zack Tsilis, Bill Rotondi, Kevin Bugaj, Paula Daniels, and Stephen Evans.

II. New Business

1. Select Board Member Michael Toole was present at the joint meeting and began by presenting some information regarding Article 15 that is listed on the warrant for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Toole stated he has been working with the Select Board on this Article and the goal is to see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter and the Town Bylaws to create a Department of Public Works. Mr. Toole also stated that if the Town becomes a DPW, the Water/Sewer Department and the Highway department would remain as separate departments; however, they would be under one Public Works Director. The salary for this Director, who would be a certified Engineer, ranged between \$123,000 - \$170,000 and 86% of their salary would be paid under the Water/Sewer Budget, where as the other 14% would be paid under the Town Operational Budget. Mr. Toole also mentioned that under a DPW, the Water/Sewer Commissioners would be appointed by the Select Board, rather than elected. In order for the Town to create a DPW, it must be approved at Town Meeting, then again at the following Town Election. Therefore, if it passes, the DPW would go into effect beginning FY 2024 (July 1, 2023). Finance Committee members Joe Parker, Bill Rotondi, and Steve Evans, as well as Water/Sewer Commission members Steve Bishop, James Jardin, and Steven Bernstein, stated their concerns regarding this article. Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent John Harrop also stated some concerns

regarding this article, including the possibility of laying off current employees. Water/Sewer Commissioner Steve Bishop shared the same concern as Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, and also mentioned that rates will be affected directly if the Water/Sewer Budget would have to cover 86% of the new DPW Director. Water/Sewer Commissioners Steve Bishop, James Jardin, and Steven Bernstein all agreed that the information provided is very vague and would like to see the numbers on how this would save the Town money. After further discussion between the Water/Sewer Commission, the Finance Committee, and Select Board Member Michael Toole – the Finance Committee voted to not move Article 15 at the Annual Town Meeting by a 3-5 vote. However, Finance Committee Chair, Aimee Sawyer, mentioned that if more information about this Article is presented at the Select Board meeting this Wednesday, the Finance Committee can vote to reconsider this article at the next Finance Committee meeting on next Tuesday.

III. Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:26pm. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE

BOARD MEETING HELD: May 23, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

Steve Bishop
Steve Bishop, Chairman

6-14-22
Date Approved

James Jardin
James Jardin, Clerk

6-14-22
Date Approved

Steven L. Bernstein
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

6/14/22
Date Approved