

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

Telephone (508) 285-0210; Facsimile (508) 285-0297

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Select Board
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2024

I. Call to Order by Chair

The April 25, 2024 meeting of the Norton Select Board was held at the Norton Housing Authority, Woodland Meadows Community Room, 120 West Main Street, Norton, MA 02766 as well as remotely (Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83225589285>; Phone: 646-558 8656; Webinar ID: 832 2558 9285), and was called to order at 7:04 P.M., by Mr. Kevin Snyder, Chair. Members present: Mr. Steven Hornsby, Mr. Alec Rich, III, Ms. Megan Artz (remotely) and Ms. Denise Luciano. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

II. Appointments/Resignations/Retirements

Appointment of Sharon Rice to the Cultural Council.

MOTION was made by Ms. Luciano to appoint Sharon Rice to the Cultural Council. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

III. Minutes

Approve Minutes, including but not limited to: March 28, 2024; April 11, 2024; and April 11, 2024 (Joint Meeting).

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve the minutes of March 28, 2024; April 11, 2024; and April 11, 2024 (Joint Meeting). Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

IV. Licenses and Permits

1. 2024 License Renewals – New England Rodeo.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve the CV and Live Entertainment licenses for New England Rodeo. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Vote to Approve the One-Day Beer and Wine License to Elias DaSilva for a Private Event at 185 North Washington Street, Norton, MA from 12:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 26, 2024.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve the One-Day License. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.



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MOTION was made by Ms. Luciano to approve the Special Events Parking Permit application for Ruscito Brothers LLC, for 60 Parking Spaces at 253 Mansfield Avenue from June 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

4. Vote to Approve the Amended License of John M. Freeman and Dorothy A. Freeman d/b/a Freeman's Garage Removing Dorothy A. Freeman as a Co-Owner on the Class II and Class III Licenses.

MOTION was made by Mr. Rich to approve the amended licenses of John M. Freeman and Dorothy A. Freeman d/b/a Freeman's Garage removing Dorothy A. Freeman as a Co-Owner on the Class II and Class III Licenses. Seconded by Mr. Hornsby. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to approve the amended licenses of John M. Freeman and Dorothy A. Freeman d/b/a Freeman's Garage removing Dorothy A. Freeman as a co-owner on the Class II and Class III Licenses and add Paul Freeman as a Co-Owner subject to the Town Clerk's Office having the correct paperwork. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

5. Vote to Approve the One-Day Beer and Wine License to Mark Hesselbarth for a Private Event in the Chase Dining Hall of Wheaton College, 26 East Main Street, Norton, MA from 9:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. on Monday, May 13, 2024 for Senior Pub Night.

MOTION was made by Ms. Luciano to approve the One-Day Beer and Wine License to Mark Hesselbarth for a private event in the Chase Dining Hall of Wheaton College, 26 East Main Street, Norton, MA from 9:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. on Monday, May 13, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Hornsby. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

V. Announcements

1. Recognition of Select Board Member Megan Artz.

Mr. Rich recognized that this was Ms. Artz last Select Board meeting and wanted to thank her for all of her efforts on the Board. He stated that she did a great job and she will be missed. The remaining Board members agreed. Mr. Snyder noted that this position takes a lot of time and is especially difficult for those who work full-time, have families, and have a million things going. He stated that he knows that Ms. Artz has had a lot of stuff going on with her career that included a lot of travel out of state and recognized the spirit of volunteerism throughout her years on the Select Board.

2. Notice of Public Hearing – Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:15 P.M.

Mr. Rich noted that there is a public hearing on Monday, April 29th at 7:15 P.M. for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget hosted by the Finance Committee and the participation information for the meeting is posted to the town website. Mr. Hornsby asked if this is the last meeting before town meeting for the budget and Mr. Yunits replied that it would be on the 1% budget. Ms. Luciano questioned if they would be presenting all three budgets and Mr. Yunits stated that it would just be the 1% budget. Ms. Luciano asked if they have to have another public hearing on the override proposed budgets and Mr. Yunits answered that he didn't believe so, but he would check with town counsel on that. The Board members discussed that they thought they recalled Attorney Goldberg stating that town meeting would serve as the public hearing for the override budgets.

3. 2024 Norton Cleanup Day, Saturday May 4th from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

4. Norton Parks & Recreation - Over 21 Pick-Up Kickball League, Fridays 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. May 17th – July 26th at Everett Leonard Park.

5. Norton Veterans' Council Memorial Day parade will be on Monday, May 27th at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Rich advised that if there is inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the gymnasium of the Henri A. Yelle Elementary School (HAY). He explained that it will be starting at the High School parking lot and carrying on the normal route and then ending at the HAY.

6. The Water and Sewer Department will be holding its public outreach program for the Elm Street water and sewer improvements project at the Woodland Meadows Community Room on May 8, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

VI. Business

A. New Business

1. Discussion and/or Vote on Special Election.

Mr. Yunits gave the ballot question from town counsel to the Board and pointed out that from the e-mail from town counsel, that you can vote "Yes" or "No" on the two override questions (\$4 million override and \$6.5 million override). The Town Manager explained using the example that if both overrides were to pass, even if the \$4 million override got more "Yes" votes than the \$6.5 million override, the State law is if both were to pass, it is the dollar amount that passes with the majority of the votes or 51%. Mr. Yunits stated that you cannot use override money in the first year to put funds in their Stabilization Fund, but if they don't use Free Cash because the override passes, then they can put Free Cash funds into Stabilization. Mr. Yunits advised that that the Finance Committee is going to hear a presentation on Monday, April 29th on the 1% budget from School Department, but they haven't even started to talk about budgets with a \$4 million override or \$6.5 million override. The Town Manager pointed out that the School Department and himself are going to have to develop 2 more budgets, have them reviewed by the Finance Committee with 3 budgets. He noted that when you have an "A" budget and a "B" budget to review and vote on, it is not bad, but going to town meeting with an A, B, and C budget, it leads to a lot of confusion.

Mr. Yunits stated that they can schedule a special election for the first Saturday in June and on May 13th, they can approve the 1% budget, then have the special election on June 1st, and if the override passes (whether it is for \$4 million or \$6.5 million) they would come back to town

meeting with a presentation with the override. Mr. Yunits advised that the Moderator can continue the town meeting to another date, that way, they are not trying to explain to residents 3 budgets and running out of time to review it with the Finance Committee. He noted that the warrant with recommendations has to be posted 7 days prior to the town meeting. Ms. Luciano expressed that they have people engaged and invested, so they owe it to them to present those 3 budgets. Ms. Luciano asked why they don't have the \$6.5 million budget set yet. Mr. Yunits replied that they have to go back through and present it with the Finance Committee. Ms. Luciano questioned why they haven't been doing this and the Town Manager stated that the Finance Committee meetings have been going until 10:00 P.M. and that has just been with going over the 1% budgets and they have met twice this week. Mr. Hornsby expressed that his whole thing was to have this on the town election on Saturday, April 27th and got lambasted for that. Mr. Hornsby further stated that the flip-flopping back and forth isn't helping anybody and thinks they need to stick to the original plan. Mr. Rich agreed with Ms. Luciano and Mr. Hornsby. Mr. Rich understood Mr. Yunits' points but expressed that they are running out of time. Ms. Luciano stated that they should know the \$6.5 million budget because that is what they are basing all of the numbers for the override off of. Ms. Artz agreed with Ms. Luciano and stated that everyone has been so opinionated on this and it enforces the skepticism of residents. Mr. Hornsby emphasized that he knows that this is a tremendous amount of work for the Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager (Michelle Brown), and Office Administrator for the Select Board (Jennifer Reid).

2. Discussion on Town Meeting Logistics.

Mr. Snyder referred to Mr. Rich's question about how many nights town meeting would be. Mr. Yunits advised that it would be Monday, May 13th and Wednesday, May 15th as the dates reserved for town meeting at this time. Mr. Conway stated that the first key piece of information he heard was that the Select Board would be carrying on the 3 budgets and have the budget be first, so once that passes and resolves, they can roll the articles into another night. Mr. Snyder stated that he doesn't believe he has ever been through a multi-night town meeting and asked what the legal procedure would be for this. Mr. Hornsby stated that he believed they just had to have a motion to continue, a second, and then a vote of the Town. Mr. Conway stated that if they are doing all three budgets, they should probably move the venue to the gymnasium with the overflow in the auditorium. Mr. Yunits asked Mr. Conway if he had reached out to the School Department yet or if he wanted them to do that. Mr. Conway replied that he was more than happy to reach out to Mr. Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities, and his team. Mr. Conway explained that in terms of town meeting, he believed the last highest turnout was 1,100 voters. Mr. Conway stated that he would appreciate a call with town counsel for legal logistics to set the procedure so they are more ready to anticipate what might happen. Mr. Yunits asked Mr. Conway to send him an email of times and dates of availability and he will contact Attorney Lauren Goldberg, who will be the Town's counsel for town meeting.

Mr. Ralph Stefanelli stated that the logistics aren't going to get them behind the 8 ball and clarified that the Moderator will state that the meeting is extended to the date and the place. He continued stating that the logistics is really just the planning aspect of the meeting because then people can line up that second date if it goes that way. Mr. Yunits advised that there is probably going to be a ballot vote at town meeting.

Mr. Tsilis stated that the Finance Committee is being given the task to review and approve 3 budgets within the next couple of weeks and they haven't even gotten through the 1% budget; so, if they want to present 3 budgets, there is going to have to be a percentage down the board [between the General Government and School Department]. Mr. Tsilis expressed that he believes the School Department's budget is a meeting in and of itself. Mr. Yunits agreed with Mr. Tsilis. Mr. Conway agreed with Mr. Tsilis that there is a lot of ground to cover for the Finance

Committee, especially where they haven't even seen the \$4 million override budget or the \$6.5 million override budget. He pointed out that the warrant with recommendations needs to be posted by Monday, May 6th and available for the Finance Committee on Monday, April 29th. Mr. Conway stated that he is trying to protect the interest of the Finance Committee with their time and efforts.

3. Review, Discuss, and/or Vote Annual Town Meeting Articles, including, but not limited to, the Acceptance of Leonard Street North as a Public Way and Taking of All Easements Necessary Therefor.

Mr. Yunits advised that Mr. Jeffrey O'Neil of Condyne was on Zoom to present the Leonard Street North article. Mr. Yunits explained that he is seeking what is termed as an Order of Layout for completion of Leonard Street North. The Town Manager advised the Board that this is one of the steps Condyne needs to go through to be on the town meeting warrant and that the Planning Board gave its non-binding recommendation to endorse the roadway, which has moved them towards the acceptance of the street and release of bond. He informed the Board that all of the culverts have been improved, a traffic signal has been installed, and they have invested \$10 million between Phase 1 & 2 to bring and attract companies to the Town of Norton, which will create real estate taxes, jobs, etc. Mr. Yunits noted that \$1.3 million has been brought in for building permits as well as water/sewer fees. Mr. Yunits also mentioned that the fire communication system has been updated, new excise taxes have been created, installed EV stations, and brought in lots of jobs to the Town of Norton. Mr. Yunits stated that the mylar showing the roadway is 2,500 feet in total length with all utilities and infrastructures in place. In addition, Mr. Yunits mentioned that they will be changing the monument signs and adding the word "North" to the street name so there is separation of those two streets. He lastly stated that Building 12 is in the process of completion and they will be bringing in a new tenant. Mr. Yunits advised that this is Article 14 on the warrant. Mr. Rich asked if this was built to DMT specs, which Mr. Yunits confirmed. Mr. Rich expressed that if this has been done to State specifications, that is as good as it is going to get. Ms. Luciano asked where the Town's responsibility ends and businesses' responsibilities begin such as having the roadways being cleared. Mr. O'Neil stated that it would be that strip of road from the beginning of Leonard Street North and the end of the cul-de-sac and includes with trees. Mr. Rich thanked Mr. O'Neil for everything they have done over there and commented on how great it looks. Mr. Rich expressed that he personally thinks their contractors did a great job. Mr. Hornsby agreed and noted that he was on the Planning Board when this first began and it has been professional from the start.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 14 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits advised that the Finance Committee had the Water/Sewer Superintendent and Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent attend their meeting last night at their meeting. Mr. Yunits summarized the line items to the Board with a total budget summary \$4,911,256. Ms. Luciano asked how many employees the Water and Sewer Departments have. Mr. Yunits answered that there are 13 positions with 12 filled for the Water Department.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 4 for town meeting. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Luciano – Yes; Rich – Yes; Hornsby – Yes; Artz – Yes; and Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits next explained Article 5, the Sewer Enterprise Budget, and stated that Personnel Services is \$460,359 (a \$3,000 increase over last year); Interfund Transfers \$153,547; Charges &

Expenditures \$1,417,251 (mostly treatment plant costs, which is the payment to MFN for treatment costs totaling \$1,038,101); debt-service \$397,440.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 5 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Yunits stated that the Operating Budget is what the Finance Committee has approved to date, which the only one they haven't done so far is the School Department, which will be presented on Monday. He advised that the Capital Improvements Committee voted to take no action.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to take no action on Article 7. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Capital Plan: Article 8

Mr. Snyder stated that the next Select Board meeting is scheduled for May 9th and asked if they thought at this point, they might need another meeting in there somewhere. The Board discussed and agreed to meeting again on May 2nd.

Article 9: South Worcester Street and East Hodges Street Water Main Replacement Project Using Wells 5 & 6 Unspent Bond Proceeds and Costs of Engineering Investigation, Design, and Construction for Treatment Facility Upgrades and PFAS Removal and Contaminant Remediation Processes at All Water Sources and Appurtenances.

Mr. Yunits informed the Select Board that the Finance Committee approved this article. He explained that the Water and Sewer Department is looking to use funds remaining from a previous article that were borrowed, but are still available because the project came in under budget. Mr. Yunits advised that these were funds that were appropriated in October of 2023 and June of 2020. He stated that they are looking to repurpose these funds for the water main project on South Worcester and East Hodges Streets. He advised that the total funds from the October 19, 2023 appropriation was \$605,476.24. and \$178,984 is going to be used to pay the the cost on water main project on South Worcester Street. Mr. Yunits further stated that \$426,492.22 would be used for treatment facility upgrades and PFAS removal. Mr. Rich asked how effective this is going to be. Mr. Yunits replied that they are looking at engineering and design right now. Mr. Rich asked if this project was going to be in the millions and Mr. Yunits confirmed it would be somewhere in the range of \$5 million.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 9 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 10 – Elm Street Improvements for Water and Wastewater

Ms. Luciano noted that the Finance Committee didn't vote yet, which Mr. Yunits confirmed and stated that there was a meeting last night with people from the neighborhood and Weston & Sampson regarding the water/sewer infrastructure project on Elm Street from East Main Street to Reservoir. He advised that the cost would range from \$2 million to \$2.4 million and would be completely paid for by rate payers and the cost of the sewer work \$5.35 to \$6 million. He noted that the Town did receive a \$3.5 million grant to go towards the expense of the project. Mr. Yunits explained that the betterments would be assessed to 64 homeowners, which would range from

\$8,600 thousand to \$12,000 per home. He stated that like West Main Street, it would be a betterment and they can either pay for it all at once or be a 20 betterment on their taxes (\$600-\$900 per home per year), which leaves \$2.5 million to \$2.8 million that would be a share that would be attached to development of Reed & Barton. Mr. Yunits noted that the Planning and Economic Development Director has a call with the developer tomorrow, but if the property isn't developed, the Town would be on the hook and there would be a lien on that property. The Town Manager explained that the hope is by putting sewer there, it will be more attractive to a buyer where someone will come in and clean it up. Mr. Yunits expressed that you can look at it as some people thinking that they are doing it because the Town wants the Reed & Barton site cleaned up or can look at like West Main Street where they had property that needed sewer, so it was a catalyst to help fund that project, which would be the same case here. Mr. Yunits pointed out that it would enable them to get a \$3.5 million catalyst that would reduce the costs and make it a viable project. He stated that some of the residents that were there expressed that it would benefit the whole town to have the site torn down, but by having the sewer going by their properties, generally speaking, would increase the property values and noted that you never know when a septic system is going to fail. The Town Manager relayed a message from a resident of Talbot Drive who mentioned a recent septic system replacement job that cost \$60,000. Mr. Yunits explained that the Finance Committee didn't have a full Committee last night and didn't want to make a decision on this until they did. Mr. Rich stated that having the infrastructure is important, but expressed a concern with the timing. Mr. Rich in contrast then pointed out \$3.5 million grant the Town was approved for. Mr. Rich asked if there is relief on the betterment to residents and questioned if they could extend it. Mr. Yunits stated that some of the things that came up is seeing if the Water/Sewer Department can waive the mandate to tie-in within 7 years and a Water/Sewer Commissioner pointed out that this isn't their rule, but rather is a town bylaw. Mr. Yunits asked town counsel if they have to create a bylaw to make them not subject to this. Mr. Rich asked if the Town has another developer at the table, which Mr. Yunits confirmed. In response, Mr. Rich stated there is more leverage there with that too. Mr. Snyder emphasized that that the concern from the Water/Sewer Department is the inability to budget because they aren't collecting any of the water and sewer fees until they have tied in.

Mr. Zack Tsilis of the Finance Committee stated that this came up at the Finance Committee and they received letters of concern from residents. He expressed that these residents are living there, the project is being done to clean up the property, and now they are being forced into a betterment of \$12,000 where they might have just put in a septic year ago, then in 7 years, they will have their yards torn up and the new infrastructure put in. Mr. Tsilis questioned that if this is an improvement to the Town like the Town Manager has said, why are they all of a sudden being hit with a \$10,000 betterment. Mr. Tsilis stated that he will not be behind it unless there is some relief to the residents because they are already going to feel the impact of the three projects (Senior Center, Town Hall, and athletic complex), a possible override, and now another \$10,000 (or whatever the cost may be) for a betterment. Mr. Snyder requested that the Select Board get a copy of that letter.

Article 11: Reauthorization of Revolving Funds

Mr. Yunits advised the Select Board that the Finance Committee recommended this article and provided the following summary of revolving funds spending limits:

237 MANSFIELD AVENUE (WENDELL JACKSON PROPERTY) REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$60,000.00
FORESTRY REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$30,000.00
HOME COMPOSTING BIN DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$2,000.00
RECYCLING REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$20,000.00
CERTIFIED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN(S) REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$10,000.00
COUNCIL ON AGING REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$20,000.00
STORMWATER BYLAW REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$100,000.00
79 NORTH WORCESTER STREET (CAMP EDITH READ PROPERTY) REVOLVING FUND	
Spending Limit:	\$60,000.00

Mr. Yunits pointed out that the Council on Aging (COA) revolving account spending limit was \$10,000 and now it is \$20,000 and the Highway Department requested an increase in their revolving fund as well for the recycling to \$20,000. Mr. Snyder clarified that these are spending limits, which Mr. Yunits confirmed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 11 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 12: 5-Year Recertification Program.

Mr. Yunits advised that the Assessor's request is for \$220,000. He explained that the Assessor's Office has previous money to do this, but they need additional funds.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 12 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 13 – Establish Town-Wide Speed Limits

Mr. Yunits explained that this article would allow the Select Board to set speed limits to roads not posted as 25 mph in town. He clarified that they can post that a road is 40 mph or 30 mph, but if there isn't any speed limit set, the road would be designated as 25 mph. Mr. Rich clarified that it would go through the proper channels with MassDOT and then the Select Board would set the speed limits, which was confirmed. Mr. Yunits suggested having the Police Chief their next meeting to provide information to them and the public and Mr. Snyder also asked if the Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee, Mr. Robert Kimball, could attend as well.

Article 15: Police Department - Withdrawal from Civil Service

Mr. Yunits explained that they have this article on the warrant because they have the ballot question on the town election's ballot. Mr. Yunits stated that if anyone has questions about this, they can go to the town website where there is a link for more information. The Town Manager point out that in the last round of contract negotiations, the Fire Department agreed to withdraw from civil service as well as the Norton Police Association (NPA) and Norton Police Superior Officers Association (NPSOA). Mr. Yunits stated that the civil service process has just become antiquated at this point. Mr. Yunits clarified that anyone that is currently in civil service would be grandfathered in and that new hires wouldn't be. Mr. Yunits emphasized that the contracts were negotiated with the understanding that they would be withdrawing from civil service on July 1, 2024; so now, for anyone to say they don't want to withdraw, they wouldn't be giving back any of the concessions the Town gave, so it would be like they would be double-dipping at this point. Chief Clark advised that Mansfield, Foxboro, Easton, North Attleboro, Plainville, Sharon, and Walpole are a handful of towns that withdrew and Rehoboth and Seekonk were never in civil service.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 15 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 16 – Collection and Disposal of Discarded Items Abandoned Along Roadways and Throughout Town that Requires Special Handling

Mr. Yunits advised that they have \$3,000 to use from Free Cash for the collection and disposal of discarded items on roadways around town.

Mr. Hornsby questioned why there was a no vote and Mr. Yunits stated that he wasn't sure, but one member questioned why they couldn't put it in the Highway Department's budget.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 16 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 17 – Household Hazardous Waste Day

The Town Manager explained that this is to use \$12,000 from Free Cash to have Household Hazardous Waste Day.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to recommend Article 17 as written. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 18 – Bylaw Amendment: Home Owners Privacy (Petition of Paraskevi Constantine)

Mr. Yunits advised that the Finance Committee hasn't taken any position on these articles yet and pointed out to the Select Board that these are petitioned articles; one is a bylaw amendment and the other is the zoning bylaw amendment.

Article 19 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Amend Chapter 175 – 20.2 Applicability

Mr. Yunits explained that the bylaw right now states that lighting that is accessory use to a 1-2 residential dwelling was not applicable and the petitioner wants that language struck from the bylaw, but the Planning Board felt they should not be regulating lighting on single-family homes. Mr. Snyder asked if there was an issue with enforcement, which Mr. Yunits stated there was.

Ms. Stella Constantine, petitioner, stated that when she met with the Planning Board, they explained that the lighting bylaw is more for commercial properties rather than residential and there was really nothing on the books for residential. Ms. Constantine expressed that there appears to be a wording issue where rather than striking language as she was originally suggested to do, the Planning Board advised her to come up with a new residential bylaw for lighting rather than amending this one. She emphasized that she doesn't want to create more work for Planning Board and wanted to come before the Select Board to see what they could do to adjust the wording to get this on the books. She explained that if she were to strike the proposed language out, then every single-family and multi-family homeowner would have to go in and apply for a special permit for the outdoor lighting, which would put a big burden on the property owners and the Planning Board. Ms. Luciano agreed that it sounds like she would have to create a new bylaw rather than amend the existing one, and in result, this new bylaw would have to go to a future town meeting.

Mr. Yunits explained that the other bylaw is so that cameras are not pointing over privacy fences or property lines. Ms. Constantine stated that this was correct and expressed her opinion that there should be some kind of privacy bylaw. Mr. Snyder advised that the current bylaw states that it has to show intent to harass. Mr. Rich agreed that it would be voyeurism. Mr. Snyder asked if they had town counsel review this yet and Mr. Yunits replied that he would get them to look at it. Ms. Constantine mentioned that she did her research and there were not any Massachusetts bylaws on cameras, but there is something in the works that just hasn't come to fruition. Mr. Snyder summarized that the intent is to put off Article 19 until the new bylaw is created. Ms. Constantine asked if someone would help her with that and both Mr. Snyder and Mr. Yunits replied that the Planning and Economic Development Director would be able to assist, especially where it is a zoning bylaw. Mr. Snyder noted that Article 18 they will hold off until they get more information from town counsel. Mr. Yunits stated that if the Finance Committee doesn't take a vote on an article, then the petition can make a motion on town meeting floor to do so.

4. Other Business: Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance.

B. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

C. Town Manager's Report

1. FY25 Budget Update.

See discussion from "Discussion and/or Vote on Special Election" under "New Business."

2. Update on Reed & Barton and Elm Street Water and Sewer Project.

See discussion from "Review, Discuss, and/or Vote Annual Town Meeting Articles, including, but not limited to, the Acceptance of Leonard Street North as a Public Way and Taking of All Easements Necessary Therefor" under "New Business," specifically Article 10 – Elm Street Improvements for Water and Wastewater.

VII. **Select Board's Report and Mail**

There was no Select Board's report or mail to discuss.

VIII. **Warrants**

Mr. Hornsby reported that the following Payroll and Invoice Warrants were approved:

- a. Invoice Warrant AP24-42 dated April 18, 2024.
- b. Payroll Warrant PR24-21 for the week ended April 13, 2024, Warrant dated April 18, 2024.
- c. Invoice Warrant AP24-43 dated April 25, 2024.

IX. **Next Meeting's Agenda** – May 2, 2024.

X. **Executive Session.**

There was no executive session scheduled for this evening.

XI. **Adjournment.**

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to adjourn the Select Board at 8:56 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Ms. Luciano – Yes; Mr. Rich – Yes; Mr. Hornsby – Yes; Ms. Artz – Yes; and Mr. Snyder – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.

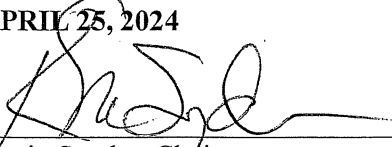
URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar-7u5H362Y>

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 25, 2024**



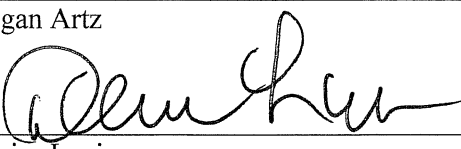
Kevin Snyder, Chair



Steven Hornsby, Vice-Chair

Alec Rich, III, Clerk

Megan Artz



Denise Luciano

Minutes Approved by Board on: May 9, 2024