

Justin Paré, President
John Simmons, Vice President
John Costello
Daniel Donovan
Mark Gould, Jr.



Darius Gregory
Andrew Shanahan
Andrea Slobogan
Patricia St. Pierre

Town of North Attleborough
TOWN COUNCIL
43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760
Phone: (508) 699-0100

1/22/2024 - Minutes

I. Pledge Of Allegiance

Vice President Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Town Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council Members Present:

John Simmons Vice President
Daniel Donovan
Andrew Shanahan
Pat St. Pierre
Mark Gould
John Costello

Members Absent:

Justin Paré President
Darius Gregory left at 7:15PM

Staff Present:

Town Manager Mike Borg
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito
Clerk of the Council Kerrin Billinghoff
Treasurer/Tax Collector Chris Sweet
DPW Director Mark Hollowell
NAFD Chief Chris Coleman
Elections Coordinator Pat Dolan
Customer Services Representative Chanelle Sae-Eaw
North T.V. Director Peter Gay
North Attleborough Housing Director Dan Oulette

Residents Present:

State Representative Adam Scanlon
Nancy Vigorito Elections Commissioner
Neil Lambert Elections Commissioner
Alex Colacito Elections Commissioner
Kevin Holrade Resident

Documents Reviewed:

- Town Council Minutes of December 11, 2023
- Town Council Executive Session Minutes of December 11, 2023
- Joint Town Council- School Committee Minutes of January 8, 2024
- Measure 2024-048- Approval for Elections Department to "Opt Out of Mail in Ballots" for the Upcoming Election in April 2024
- Measure 2024-041- Approval to repurpose remaining funds from previous School Capital Improvement Projects be used for the Early Learning Center Playground Project
- Measure 2024-042- Approval to repurpose remaining funds from previous School Capital Improvement Projects to be used for the Purchase of Two F-Series Super Duty Pickup Trucks and Truck Equipment
- Measure 2024-040- To see if the Town Council will conduct a comprehensive examination of Chapter 108, Article 1 within the General Bylaws, as well as Chapter 290, Use Schedule B found in the Zoning Bylaws and then provide revisions as necessary or needed.
- Measure 2024-036- FY24 Free Cash Strategy Proposal
- Measure 2024-045- Request that multiple parcels of land located on Allen Avenue be transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held to the Town Manager
- Measure 2024-047- General Government Capital Improvement Plan Projects -FY2024 Free Cash
- Measure 2024-050- Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$8.86 for adjustment for the June Blue 20/20 Vision Insurance for Human Resources
- Measure 2024-051- Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$875.00 for costs associated with securing the Webster Building for the Building Department
- Measure 2024-052- Appropriation request for the utilization of FY23 Retained Earnings for Comcast PEG Access for North TV (for additional funding for Measure 2023-073) for the North Attleboro High School Press Box in the amount of \$8,335.50.
- Measure 2024-053- Request that Parcel of Land described as Map 34/ Lot 555 be Transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held to the Town Manager for the purpose of sale.
- Measure 2024-054- Award Sisters at Heart \$25,000.00 of ARPA NEU Funding

II. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2023

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve the December 11, 20243 Minutes.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0-1.

- b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of December 11, 2023

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023 Executive Session Minutes.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0-1.

- c. Approval of Joint Town Council- School Committee Minutes of January 8, 2024

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve Joint Town Council-School Committee Minutes of January 8, 2024.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6-0-2.

III. Town Councilor Community Announcements

There was discussion amongst the Town Council members regarding the banning of a book from a North Attleboro School. They all were in agreement that they are Not in agreement with banning of books in the Town of North Attleboro or anywhere.

Councilor Gregory left the meeting and stated that he could not serve as a member of the Town Council until changes are made.

State Representative Adam Scanlon also spoke on the "Book Ban" in North Attleboro. He said that North Attleboro was one of only 5 Towns in the entire Commonwealth to ever ban a book.

State Representative Scanlon thanked Housing Director Dan Oulette for his years of service to the Town of North Attleboro and wished him well in his future endeavors.

IV. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Michael Borg gave an overview of the Town Manager Report. Items he reviewed included:

- Emergency Management -Updates
- Communications-Updates
- Operations-Updates
- Budget-Updates
- Personnel-Updates

V. Resident And Community Comment

Resident Kevin Holrade was in attendance and asked the Town Council what needs to be done to mitigate the flood damage at his home.

DPW Director Hollowell spoke to this resident.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Measure 2024-048- Approval for Elections Department to "Opt Out of Mail in Ballots" for the Upcoming Election in April 2024

Councilor Slobogan read the Legal Ad into the record:

TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
LEGAL NOTICE
JANUARY 22, 2024

The Town Council will hold a Public Hearing in the James Rice Conference Room at the Woodcock Administration Building, at 6 Morse Street, on **Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:00PM,** for Approval of the Elections Department to "Opt Out of Mail in Ballots" for the Upcoming Town Election on April 2, 2024. This Public Hearing will be broadcast by North TV. 01/06/2024 & 01/13/2024

Councilor Slobogon made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Councilor St. Pierre-YES

Councilor Donovan-YES

Vice-President Simmons-YES

Councilor Slobogon-YES

Councilor Shanahan-YES

Councilor Gould-YES

Councilor Costello-YES

Motion carried 7-0.

Elections Coordinator Pat Dolan was in attendance to address the Council. She reviewed a Power Point Presentation with the Council to explain why it is necessary to "Opt Out of Mail in Ballots."

Councilor Slobogon made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Councilor St. Pierre-YES

Councilor Donovan-YES

Vice-President Simmons-YES

Councilor Slobogon-YES

Councilor Shanahan-YES

Councilor Gould-YES

Councilor Costello-YES

Motion carried 7-0.

There was discussion amongst Ms. Dolan and the Town Council. This vote to "Opt Out of Mail In Ballots" will only be for this Election Day Only. With this vote, it will be postponed until next year.

Councilor Slobogon made a motion to approve Measure 2024-048- Approval for Elections Department to "Opt Out of Mail in Ballots" for the Upcoming Election in April 2024.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

VII. Confirmations

None at this time.

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Finance

- i. Measure 2024-041- Approval to repurpose remaining funds from previous School Capital Improvement Projects be used for the Early Learning Center Playground Project

This request is to ask for approval to repurpose remaining funds from the following:

Measure 2020-034- Utilization of Free Cash to Fund Capital Projects and One Time Expenses- FY20 Free Cash. One of the Capital Improvement Projects was for the Middle School Walk in Freezer Replacement in the amount of \$75,000.00 The walk-in freezer project has been completed. The current balance in this account is \$33,100.58. Account 30300287-587001

Measure 2023-015- **General Government Capital Improvement Plan Projects-** FY23 Free Cash. One of the Capital Improvement Projects was for Lavatory Remodeling Projects for various schools in the district in the amount of \$75,000.00. Multiple bathroom remodel projects have been completed district wide. The current balance in this account after completion of the bathrooms is \$35,000.00. Account 30300315-582004

Measure 2023-062- General Government Capital Improvement Plan Projects-FY23 Free Cash. One of the Capital Improvement Projects was for the Early Learning Center Surface Replacement in the amount of \$60,000.00. This project has not begun. At the Early Learning Center, there was an oil tank that was recently removed, which has disturbed a portion of the existing playground. In order to have the playground fully functional, we need to fix the structure to include a ramp, replace the existing surfacing, repair a portion of surrounding asphalt surfacing and install a new fence. The original amount allocated in the CIP did not take into account the oil tank removal and other relevant repair work. Account 30300362-558202

Therefore, it is requested that \$35,000.00 from Measure 2023-015, \$33,100.58 from Measure 2020-034, in addition to the \$60,000.00 from Measure 2023-062 (which had already been allocated to this project) remaining funds in the amount of \$128,100.58 be repurposed for the Early Learning Center Playground Project.

The Finance Sub-Committee Met on January 11, 2024 and voted in favor of voting this measure back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation 6-0.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve Measure 2024-041- Approval to repurpose remaining funds from previous School Capital Improvement Projects be used for the Early Learning Center Playground Project.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- ii. Measure 2024-042- Approval to repurpose remaining funds from previous School Capital Improvement Projects to be used for the Purchase of Two F-Series Super Duty Pickup Trucks and Truck Equipment

Purpose:

This request is to ask for approval to repurpose remaining funds from:

Measure 2021-065- FY2022 Capital Improvement Projects- Utilization of FY22 Free Cash. Account 30300165 - 585100. **One of the Capital Improvement Projects was for the School Department's Replacement of Two Maintenance Vehicles in the amount of \$110,000.00. One vehicle was purchased in the amount of \$33,198 and the remaining balance is \$76,802.00. The original measure had a reference to hybrid vehicles. After further evaluation the needs of the department, the recommendation is to fund the purchase of two F-Series Super Duty Pickup Trucks.**

Measure 2023-015- FY2023 General Government Capital Improvement Plan Projects- FY23 Free Cash. Account 30300315-585100. One of the Capital Projects was for the School Department's Replacement of One Maintenance Vehicle in the amount of **\$55,000.00. This CIP was intended to fund vehicle replacement for the School Maintenance Department.**

Justification:

When the request was originally submitted, a quote was secured for two transit vans from state bid vendor MHQ. The Schools then received a notification from the vendor that Ford cancelled all outstanding orders and would not be offering price protection, due to inflation, global microchip shortage, supply chain issues, and lingering impacts of the pandemic. The transit vans, as well as comparable hybrid vehicles, were no longer available, and would not be available for the foreseeable future. The Schools then requested a quote for vehicles that they feel will equally support the Facilities Department. Measure 2023-015 was originally funded for \$55,000; however, the cost of the individual vehicle is \$65,901. This article needs to be modified, as requested, to reflect appropriate funding.

Therefore, it is requested that the remaining balance of \$76,802.00 from (Measure 2021-065) Account 30300165 - 585100 for the CIP for the Purchase of Two Maintenance Vehicles, and the remaining balance of \$55,000.00 from (Measure 2023-015) Account 30300315-585100 for the CIP for the Purchase of One Maintenance Vehicle, for a total of \$131,802.00 be repurposed to fund the purchase of Two F-Series Super Duty Pickup Trucks with relevant truck equipment.

The Finance Sub-Committee met on January 11, 2024 and there was discussion amongst Dr. Antonucci, Mr. Sandland, Mr. Borg, and the Town Council. Items discussed:

- These two vehicles are brand new.
- They will replace two older vehicles.
- The vehicles originally approved were to be "Hybrid", these two vehicles will **not be Hybrid.**
- The two trucks will be for plowing.
- Purchased from MHQ.
- It was decided that the trucks will be housed in a garage at the High School.
- The Finance Sub-Committee voted in favor of sending back this measure to the Full Town Council with a positive recommendation with a vote of 6-0.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve Measure 2024-042- Approval to repurpose remaining funds in the amount of \$131,802.00 from previous School Capital Improvement Projects to be used for the Purchase of Two F-Series Super Duty Pickup Trucks and Truck Equipment.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

b. Economic Growth & Sustainability

c. By-Law

- i. Measure 2024-040- To see if the Town Council will conduct a comprehensive examination of Chapter 108, Article 1 within the General Bylaws, as well as Chapter 290, Use Schedule B found in the Zoning Bylaws and then provide revisions as necessary or needed.

Councilor Shanahan reviewed this measure and explained that it was created to modernize the current Bylaws in Town. A Measure will need to come back to the Town Council, go to the Planning Board Public Hearing, and then back to the Town Council for two readings and a Public Hearing.

d. Rules

e. School Committee Representative

f. Communication, Public Participation & Engagement

g. Local Emergency Planning

IX. Old Business

a. Measure 2024-036-FY24 Free Cash Strategy Proposal

Town Manager Borg reviewed the FY24 Free Cash Strategy Proposal in the amount of \$5.53 mm with the Town Council.

FY24 Free Cash Strategy:

- Snow and Ice \$500K
- Capital Improvements \$1.272mm
- Capital Stabilization Fund \$3mm
- Safety & Security \$781K

Councilor Gould asked if there was a way for new ideas to be presented to spend as Free Cash.

Councilor Simmons stated that the Town Council can still propose ideas, and that this is only the "overall strategy."

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve Measure 2024-036- FY24 Free Cash Strategy Proposal.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

X. New Business

a. Update on Flooding in Town

DPW Director Mark Hollowell was in attendance to address the Town Council and the

residents. He gave them information regarding the flooding in Town and encouraged everyone to report all issues to Big Red 311. He also discussed future remediation plans for the Town.

Topics of Discussion:

- 100 Year Storm Statistics
- Frustration of Residents as a result of the flooding.
- DPW has been doing all they can in their capacity to fix the flooding in Town,
- Dredging of Ten Mile River
 - Looking for funding
 - Army Core of Engineers may be able to assist.
 - 2014-2015- There was a plan to dredge the Ten Mile River
 - Long Term constraints
 - The entire length of the channel needs to be dredged- Projected Cost \$15mm to 20mm
 - State supports the project 100%, but they can't help pay for it.

b. Review and Update of Big Red 311

Customer Service Representative Chanelle Sae-Eaw was in attendance to present, review and update the Town Council on Big Red 311. She also encouraged residents to report all problems and issues to this site so that they can reported, delegated, recorded, and addressed.

c. Measure 2024-045- Request that multiple parcels of land located on Allen Avenue be transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held to the Town Manager

The purpose of this measure is to obtain approval to transfer these parcels from the **Town Council to the Town Manager for the purpose of selling.**

The parcels of property known as plat 26/ lot 33, plat 26/ lot 404, plat 26/ lot 377, and a portion of lot 263 located on Allen Avenue, are each currently owned by the Town of North Attleborough. **The Town would be interested in selling these properties.**

If this measure is approved, the North Attleborough Town Manager would then solicit bids for the sale of these parcels of land on Allen Ave., North Attleborough, MA, which totals approximately 27.37 acres. The Request for Bid-Sale of Real Property would then be advertised in The Sun Chronicle and on the Town's Website for at least two weeks before sealed bids would be received.

Therefore, I am asking that the Town Council approve that the Parcels of Land Located on Allen Ave. further described as plat 26/ lot 33, plat 26/ lot 404, plat 26/ lot 377, and a portion of lot 263 be transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held, to the Town Manager for the purpose of sale.

Total value of properties including the school building is \$5.3mm.

\$1.748mm Improvements (school building, shed, pavement)
\$3.638mm land only
\$1.748mm + \$3.638mm = \$5.3mm

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to refer Measure 2024-045- Request that multiple parcels of land located on Allen Avenue be transferred from the Town Council for the

purpose for which it is held to the Town Manager to the Economic Growth & Sustainability Sub-Committee.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- d. Measure 2024-047- General Government Capital Improvement Plan Projects -FY2024 Free Cash

I hereby submit the following measure to the Town Council for its consideration and action:

"That the Town of North Attleborough appropriate the sum of \$00000000 for the purpose of completing the Capital Improvement Projects listed on the Summary of Capital Improvement Projects with FY2024 Free Cash as indicated below:

Department	Project	FY24 Free Cash
Fire	Shift Commander Vehicle	\$156,000.00

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to refer Measure 2024-047- General Government Capital Improvement Plan Projects- FY24 Free Cash to the Finance Sub-Committee.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- e. Measure 2024-050- Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$8.86 for adjustment for the June Blue 20/20 Vision Insurance for Human Resources

Purpose and Justification:

Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$8.86 for adjustment of the June Blue 20/20 Vision Insurance. Please see the attached documentation for backup. This amount represents a charge for 2 employees with individual coverage in June that was not previously charged.

It is respectfully requested that the Town Council approve the payment of \$8.86.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve Measure 2024-050- Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$8.86 for adjustment for the June Blue 20/20 Vision Insurance for Human Resources.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- f. Measure 2024-051- Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$875.00 for costs associated with securing the Webster Building for the Building Department

Purpose and Justification:

Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$875.00 for costs associated with securing the Webster Building, located at 262 Broadway, back on August

19, 2022. Our office received this invoice via email back on November 18, 2023. The company said they submitted it back in 2022 right after the job was complete but no one in the office recalls seeing it at that time. This work was done at the Town's request for safety reasons so we do need to pay them for their services.

It is respectfully requested that the Town Council approve the payment of \$875.00.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to approve Measure 2024-051 - Authorization for payment of an FY23 Invoice in the amount of \$875.00 for costs associated with securing the Webster Building for the Building Department.

Councilor Shanahan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- g. Measure 2024-052- Appropriation request for the utilization of FY23 Retained Earnings for Comcast PEG Access for North TV (for additional funding for Measure 2023-073) for the North Attleboro High School Press Box in the amount of \$8,335.50

Each year the Town receives funds from Comcast for the funding of North T.V. Capital Improvement Projects to enhance PEG access. Measure 2023-073-Utilization of FY24 Retained Earnings for Comcast PEG Access for North TV was approved in the amount of \$6,600.00 for the following capital purchases:

2 Sony 100M Hybrid Optical Cable	\$2,750.00
1 325' SDI Cable (2), Audio (2), CAT5 (1)	\$1,250.00
Install- Snake Sony camera cables, audio, video and CAT cable between press box and van location. Terminated cables	\$2,500.00
Incoming Freight	\$100.00
Total :	\$6,600.00

After this amount was approved by the Town Council, North TV Director Peter Gay met with the Vendor, Ockers Company, and the scope of services was modified, additional equipment was needed and therefore additional funding was required.

The addition of a digital scoreboard and feeding video from the North TV production van to the press box requires additional cables, equipment, monitors, and installation expenses that had not been originally anticipated. The cables and equipment include 325' SDI cables, one 31.5" 4K Hi-Def monitor, one 28" 4K Hi-Def monitor, two wall mounts for the monitors, additional cables and connectors and the necessary installation. This additional equipment totals \$8,335.50. The current amount is \$217,230.00.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Town Council approve the request for the utilization of FY24 Retained Earnings for Comcast PEG Access for North TV for the North Attleboro High School Press Box in the amount of \$8,335.50. These funds will supplement the request of approved Measure 2023-073-Utilization of FY24 Retained Earnings for Comcast PEG Access for North TV was approved in the amount of \$6,600.00 for the North Attleboro High School Press Box.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to refer Measure 2024-052- Appropriation request for the utilization of FY23 Retained Earnings for Comcast PEG Access for North TV (for additional funding for Measure 2023-073) for the North Attleboro High School Press Box in the amount of \$8,335.00.

Councilor St. Pierre seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- h. Measure 2024-053- Request that Parcel of Land described as Map 34/ Lot 555 be Transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held to the Town Manager for the purpose of sale

The purpose of this measure is to obtain approval to transfer this parcel from the Town Council to the Town Manager for the purpose of selling.

The parcel of property known as plat 34/ lot 555, is 1.6 acres and is located off of Kelley Blvd., is currently owned by the Town of North Attleborough. The Town would be interested in selling this property.

All applicable Zoning Bylaws remain in force.

If this measure is approved, the North Attleborough Town Manager would then solicit bids for the sale of this parcel of land off of Kelley Blvd., North Attleborough, MA, which is approximately 1.6 acres. The Request for Bid-Sale of Real Property would then be advertised in The Sun Chronicle and on the Town's Website for at least two weeks before sealed bids would be received.

Therefore, I am asking that the Town Council approve that the Parcel of Land located off of Kelley Blvd. further described as plat 34/ lot 555, be Transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held, to the Town Manager for the purpose of sale.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to refer Measure 2024-053- Request that Parcel of Land described as Map 34/ Lot 555 be Transferred from the Town Council for the purpose for which it is held to the Town Manager for the purpose of sale to the Economic Growth and Sustainability Sub-Committee.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

- i. Measure 2024-054- Award Sisters at Heart \$25,000.00 of ARPA NEU Funding

Purpose:

The primary purpose of this measure is to authorize the allocation of funds from North Attleborough's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Non-Entitlement Unit (NEU) funds to Sisters@Heart. Specifically, the measure seeks to address the funding shortfall caused by the recent 9C cuts, ensuring the completion of a critical health project initiated by Sisters@Heart.

Justification:

Completion of AED Installation Project: The installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is a public safety priority. AEDs are essential in providing immediate assistance in cardiac emergencies, significantly increasing the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrests. The measure will ensure the completion of installing the remaining four AEDs, making them accessible to the public, especially in high-traffic areas. The 50% reduction in the earmarked funds due to the Governor's 9C cuts has created a significant financial gap for Sisters @ Heart. Utilizing a portion of the ARPA NEU funds, which currently stands at \$600,000, to fill this gap is a strategic and impactful use of these resources.

Community Impact and Awareness: Sisters @ Heart plays a crucial role in supporting the community and raising awareness about heart and brain health. This aligns with the

broader goals of Town Council with support for public health and community welfare.

Utilization of ARPA Funds: The ARPA NEU funds are intended to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts, replace lost public sector revenue, support immediate economic stabilization, and address systemic public health and economic challenges. The funding for Sisters @ Heart falls within these guidelines, as it addresses a public health need and contributes to the community's long-term well-being.

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to refer Measure 2024-054- Award Sisters at Heart \$25,000.00 of ARPA NEU Funding to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and consideration.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

XI. Adjournment

Councilor Slobogan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.