

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



Kathleen Prescott  
Patrick Reynolds  
Andrew Shanahan  
Andrea Slobogan

Town of North Attleborough

**TOWN COUNCIL**

43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760

Phone: (508) 699-0100

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2/13/2023 - Minutes

**I. Pledge Of Allegiance**

President Paré called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and lead the Council and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**Members Present:**

Justin Paré  
John Simmons  
Patrick Reynolds  
Darius Gregory  
Mark Gould  
Kathleen Prescott  
Andy Shanahan  
Daniel Donovan  
Andrea Slobogan

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Town Manager Mike Borg  
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito III  
Town Accountant Linda Catanzariti  
Treasurer/Tax Collector Chris Sweet  
Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith  
DPW Director Mark Hollowell  
Schools Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci  
School Committee Chair Ethan Hamilton  
School Committee Member Kathryn Hobbs  
School Committee Member John Costello

**Invited Guests:**

Matthew Fondas

**Residents Present:**

Lori Laws Resident

John Donohue of the Charter Review Committee  
Joe Spinelli of 121 Virginia Ave.

### **Documents Reviewed:**

- Minutes from the January 26, 2023 Meeting
- Town Manager's Report February 13, 2023
- Measure 2023-039- Confirmation of Appointment of Matthew Fondas to the Historical Commission
- Measure 2023-030- Approval of Transfer of Funds to the School Building Committee for the NA High School MSBA Feasibility Study
- Measure 2023-034- Approval of Transfer of Free Cash for Constructing Roadway for Boulter Farm Cleanup
- FY24 Preliminary Budget Brief and Budget Message

## **II. Approval Of Minutes**

- a. Approval of Town Council Minutes of January 30, 2023

Vice President Simmons moved to approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2023.

Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0.**

## **III. Town Councilor Community Announcements**

President Pare' reminded residents to be cautious when driving and be mindful of pedestrians out walking or running.

## **IV. Town Manager 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**

Laurie Lawes, John Donohue, and Joe Spinelli were all in attendance to either express their concerns, present their arguments against, or show their support for, as well as share their comments and opinions regarding the High School MSBA Feasibility Study Project.

## **VI. Confirmations**

- a. Measure 2023-039- Confirmation of Appointment of Matthew Fondas to the Historical Commission

Town Manager Borg explained that an interview Matthew Fondas of 195 Commonwealth Ave., North Attleborough was completed to serve on the Town Historical Commission. After a favorable interview, he was recommended for appointment to the Commission.

The Town Manager respectfully requested the Town Council confirm the appointment of Matthew Fondas as a member of the Conservation Commission. His Term will expire on June 30, 2026.

Mr. Fondas expressed his thanks to the Town Manager and the Council for allowing him to serve his community and is excited for the opportunity to give back to the Town.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2023-039- Confirmation of Appointment of Matthew Fondas to the Historical Commission. His term to expire on June 30, 2026.

Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 9-0. UNANIMOUS**

## VII. Sub-Committee Reports

### a. Finance

- i. Measure 2023-030- Approval of Transfer of Funds to the School Building Committee for the MSBA Feasibility Study

#### Attachment A

#### ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the North Attleborough High School Building Committee for the feasibility study for North Attleborough High School, 1 Wilson Witty Way, North Attleborough, MA, for which the Town may be **eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The MSBA's** grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall **be the sole responsibility of the Town.**

#### MOTION/VOTE/ORDER

That the Town of North Attleborough appropriate the amount of Two Million (\$2,000,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of the feasibility study for North Attleborough High School, 1 Wilson Witty Way, North Attleborough, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which North Attleborough may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the North Attleborough **High School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) Dollars will be transferred from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund and the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) will be transferred from Fiscal Year 2023 Free Cash. The Town of North Attleborough acknowledges** that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town of North Attleborough incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of North Attleborough.

\$1 Million from the Capital Stabilization Fund. This requires a 2/3 majority.

\$1 Million from FY23 Free Cash.

Vice-President Simmons reported that this measure was discussed at the February 9, 2023, Finance Sub-Committee meeting and reviewed their discussion, comments, and decision. It was discussed in great detail. Dr. Antonucci was also present at the meeting and answered any of the questions that the Committee had regarding the Feasibility Study. This measure was voted 5-1 with a favorable recommendation back to the Full Town Council.

Mr. Borg told the councilors that half of the \$2 million will be allocated from the Town's Capital Stabilization Fund while the remaining monies will come from FY23 Free Cash. Town Manager Borg stated that this is the next step for many on this council and this town to refurbish, renovate, or rebuild our High School and this will start the Feasibility Study for our High School.

**Schools Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci was in attendance to answer any questions that the Council may have had.** Dr. Antonucci said that this is one of the most exciting things that he has been working on and it will be incredible for the community too. Dr. Antonucci thanked the Council for their consideration and explained that it will be incredible for the community. Dr. Antonucci said that the \$2 million was an estimated amount based on past projects the MSBA shared with the district. While the exact price is not known, the superintendent said the current amount of funds was reasonable. He said that the number comes from past projects that the MSBA shared with us, there was a big range.

Dr. Antonucci was in attendance to answer any questions that the Council may have had. He said that the number comes from past projects that the MSBA shared with us, there was a big range.

There was discussion amongst the Council members and the Town Manager as well as Dr. John Antonucci. Items discussed:

- If we were to say no to this Feasibility Study, this would end this project.
- We would need State Assistance to build/renovate High School
- High School was chosen by MSBA, an Elementary School was not
- Reimbursement Rate has not been determined yet.
- Scope of project has not been determined. It will be determined once the Feasibility Study is conducted and completed.
- Range of project in surrounding areas is between \$1.2mm-\$1.8mm
- In order to get any assistance and funding with this project we need to do **this Feasibility Study**
- Taking care of the repairs & long-term managing of maintenance of the Elementary Schools in the district is part of the FY2024 Proposed Budget and CIP
- A new High School will lift up the entire community.
- Will increase the desire for people to move into and stay in North Attleborough

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to vote in favor of Measure 2023-030- Approval of Transfer of Funds to the School Building Committee for the NA High School MSBA Feasibility Study.

Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

Councilor Gould wanted to amend the motion to change the \$2mm to \$1.5mm. He felt that \$1.2mm seemed a more appropriate amount.

It was discussed and the Council agreed to keep the amount at \$2mm.

Vice-President Simmons withdrew his motion. Councilor Prescott withdrew her second.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2023-030:

"To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the North Attleborough High School Building Committee for the feasibility study for North Attleborough High School, 1 Wilson Witty Way, North Attleborough, MA, for which the Town may be **eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The MSBA's** grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall **be the sole responsibility of the Town.**

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Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:  
Councilor Gould - No  
Councilor Slobogan - Yes  
Councilor Shanahan - Yes  
Councilor Gregory - Yes  
Vice-President Simmons - Yes  
President Pare' - Yes  
Councilor Prescott - Yes  
Councilor Reynolds - Yes  
Councilor Donovan - Yes

#### **Motion carried 8-1.**

- ii. Measure 2023-034- Approval of Transfer of Free Cash for Constructing Roadway for Boulter Farm Cleanup

Purpose and Justification:

The Director of Public Works, through the Town Manager, is requesting a transfer in the amount of \$30,000 to the Highway Division Regular Overtime Budget 014228-513000 for the purpose of assisting in providing matching funds of \$125,000 in

support of an EPA funded grant of \$500,000 to clean up the Town-owned Boulter Farm contamination site.

Vice-President Simmons reported that this measure was reviewed at the February 9, 2023 Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of referring Measure 2023-034 back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation.

DPW Director Mark Hollowell was in attendance to answer any of the questions that the Council may have had. Mr. Hollowell explained that this clean up effort is made possible through an EPA Grant. He explained that the DPW will need to spend \$30,000.00 to get \$500,000.00.

Vice-President John Simmons made a motion to refer Measure 2023-034- Approval of Transfer of Free Cash for Construction a roadway in support of an EPA Funded Cleanup for Boulter Farm.

Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

**Motion carried. 9-0. UNAMIOUS**

b. Economic Growth & Sustainability

Councilor Gregory reported that they had a meeting on 2/13/2023 at 6:00PM.

c. By-Law

d. Rules

Councilor Prescott reported that they has meeting on 2/13/2023 at 6:00PM.

e. School Committee Representative

Nothing to report at this time.

f. Communication, Public Participation, & Engagement

Nothing to report at this time.

g. Local Emergency Planning

Vice-President Simmons reported that there is a meeting scheduled for 2/15/2023 at 2:00PM.

**VIII. Old Business**

None at this time

**IX. New Business**

a. Presentation of Preliminary FY24 Budget Brief and Budget Message

Town Manager Borg began his presentation by first explaining that as of right now, we have an unbalanced budget. We are waiting on the Governor who has until March 1, 2023 so as a result, there are some estimates.

Town Manager Borg presented the Proposed FY24 Budget Brief through a power point. He reviewed the following:

### Outline

- North Attleborough Charter Requirements
- Forecast for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)
  - Known and unknown projections
  - Department level analysis
  - Enterprise funds
- Budget Drivers and Economic Indicators
- Capital Improvement Program
- Summary and Questions

### REVENUE

- FY24 Estimated Revenue
- FY24 Total Tax Levy Computation
- First State Aid
- FY24 Local Receipts Projection
- FY24 Enterprise Indirects
- FY24 Miscellaneous Revenue

### EXPENSE PROJECTION

- Departments: Administration
- Departments: Finance
- Departments: Public Works
- Departments: Public Safety
- Departments: Community Development
- Departments: Health & Human Services
- Departments: Schools
- Regional Schools
- Debt Service
- Non-Discretionary Requirements
- Estimated Assessments & Charges
- Other Requirements & Miscellaneous
- General Budget Operation Expense Summary
- Enterprise Fund: Solid Waste
- Enterprise Fund: Sewer
- Enterprise Fund: Water
- Enterprise Fund: Comcast
- Enterprise Fund: Verizon

### BUDGET DRIVERS & ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- FY24 Drivers & Indicators
- 5 -Year Revenue Forecast
- 5-Year New Growth Forecast

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- FY23 CIP: Previously Authorized
- FY24 CIP: FY23 Free Cash Proposed
- FY24 CIP: Bonding Proposed
- FY24 CIP: Ambulance Fund Proposed
- FY24 CIP: Enterprise Funds Proposed
- FY24 CIP: Delayed/Rejected Projects
- FY24 CIP: FY24 Free Cash Proposed

There was discussion amongst the Council and the Town Manager.

Councilor Gould was disappointed about not borrowing for a Fire Station.

Councilor Gregory asked if it was possible to combine any of the Elementary Schools, maybe one of the ones that is in the worst shape and then we could focus on the others.

Vice-President Simmons would be interested in hearing more about the 7 additional police officers requesting to be added to the force.

President Par' had questions regarding the boiler project at the Falls School. Also, where are we with Green Communities, they have helped in the past. Have we applied for any more grants with them?

The Council thanked Mr. Borg for the very thorough and thought out FY24 Proposed Budget Brief.

## X. Executive Session

- a. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec.21(a), Sec.6- To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

President Pare' announced that the Council would be entering into Executive Session at 9:50PM and would not be returning back into Open Session. They would be adjourning right from Executive Session.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to go into Executive Session.

Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Reynolds - YES

Councilor Shanahan - YES

Councilor Gregory - YES

Vice-President Simmons - YES

President Pare'- YES

Councilor Prescott - YES

Councilor Gould - YES

Councilor Donovan - YES

Councilor Slobogan - YES

**Motion carried 9-0.**

*EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES (PDF)*

Minutes approved 02.27.2023 and released to the public on 06.21.2023

**XI. Adjournment**