

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

3/10/2025 - Minutes

I. Pledge Of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Pare' called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. and lead the Town Council and the audience in the pledge of allegiance along with Troop 23 BSA.

Town Council Members Present:

Members Absent:

Justin Pare' Darius Gregory

John Simmons

Andrew Shanahan

Andrea Slobogan

Mark Gould

Dan Donovan

John Costello

Pat St. Pierre

Board of Public Works Members Present:

Cable Advisory Committee Present:

Mike Thompson Corey Anderson

Donald Cerrone

Thomas Brennan

Toni Rinaldi

John Donohue

Staff Present:

Town Manager Michael Borg

Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito

Clerk of the Council Kerrin Billinghoff

Treasurer/Tax Collector Chris Sweet

Town Accountant Linda Catanzariti

Department of Public Works Director, Mark Hollowell

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon

NAHS Principal Peter Haviland

Senior Center Director Karen Testa

Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith

Communications Officer Taylor O'Neil

Fire Chief Chris Coleman

North TV Director Peter Gay

Residents Present:

Keith Lapointe Member of the School Committee

Charles Deshane resident of North Attleborough

Andy Burton resident of North Attleborough

John Angelo Santo of Kelley Blvd.

Resident of 27 Cuttings Lane

Joan Gusta of 66 Hillside Road

Ron Lagasse of 179 Glenfield Road

Joe Rezza of Kelley Blvd.

Pat Johnson of North Washington St.

Sue Longchamps of Edmund Nichols Drive

Richard Maitlin resident of North Attleborough

Dick Kieltyka resident of North Attleborough

Guests Present:

Ryan Motto Eagle Scout

Jack Simmons Eagle Scout

Documents Reviewed:

- Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025
- Town Manager's Report March 10, 2025
- Three Certificates of Recognition of three Eagle Scouts
- Renewal of Cable Television License with Verizon New England, Inc. Legal Ad
- Citizens Petition- Update of Water Condition in Town- Lead Petitioner Mark Gould- Submission & Legal Ad
- **Education Plan PowerPoint Presentation**
- Citizens Petition- Special Home Rule Act to Reduce Senior Tax Burden- Lead Petitioner Mark Gould- Submission & Legal Ad
- PFAS PowerPoint
- Special Home Rule Act to Reduce Senior Tax Burden PowerPoint Presentation
- Public Relations PowerPoint Presentation- North TV Public Relations Contract
- **North TV Cost Analysis PowerPoint Presentation**
- **Measure 2025-047**- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption for the proposed new high school building project.
- Measure 2025-047- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption of \$1,000.00.AMENDED
- **Measure 2025-050**-Authorization to Repurpose \$50,000.00 from remaining funds from Completed Capital Improvement Projects to fund Public Relations Support from North TV
- **Measure 2025-053**- Authorization to repurpose funds in the amount of \$7,960.00 to repair Fire Headquarters HVAC System
- **Measure 2025-054 – Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 59, § 50: Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption Guidelines for Municipalities in Massachusetts, including acceptance, criteria, and application procedures**

II. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Approval of Town Council Minutes of February 24, 2025

Approval of Town Council Minutes of February 24, 2025

Vice President Simmons made a motion to approve the Town Council Minutes of February 24, 2025.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

III. Town Councilor Community Updates

a. RECOGNITION OF THREE EAGLE SCOUTS

Vice President Simmons read the Certificates of Recognition into the record and recognized the Scouts for their achievement of Eagle Scout. The Scouts were congratulated by the Town Council on their achievement.

- i. Ryan Moto
- ii. Jack Simmons
- iii. Zach Haffner

IV. Resident And Community Comment

None at this time.

V. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Borg also gave an overview on the following as well:

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

Chief Coleman was in attendance and reported the passing of retired Fire Lieutenant Herbert "Skip" Catalano.

a. CIP Projects Update

CIP PROJECT Update was reviewed by the Town Manager.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

a. JOINT HEARING WITH THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

i. RENEWAL OF CABLE TELEVISION LICENCE WITH VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

1. "The purpose of the public hearing will be to determine whether to renew a cable television license to Verizon New England, Inc. All applications, reports, statements and license drafts to be considered at the hearing that constitute public records under state law are available for public inspection during regular business hours and for reproduction at a reasonable fee. Members of the public are invited to attend and be heard on the topic: (a) whether the current cable operator is in full compliance with its currently-existing cable license; and (b) what are the Town's future community cable-related needs."

Vice President Simmons read the Legal Ad into the record:

TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH

TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CABLE TELEVISION PUBLIC HEARING

LEGAL NOTICE

MARCH 10, 2025

Please take notice that the Town Council, as Issuing Authority for a cable television license under M.G.L. c.166A, will hold a Public Hearing in the JoAnn Cathcart Conference Room in Town Hall, at 43 South Washington Street, on **Monday, MARCH 10, 2024 at 7:00PM**. The purpose of the public hearing will be to determine whether to renew a cable television license to Verizon New England, Inc. All applications, reports, statements and license drafts to be considered at the hearing that constitute public records under state law are available for public inspection during regular business hours and for reproduction at a reasonable fee. Members of the public are invited to attend and be heard on the topic: (a) whether the current cable operator is in full compliance with its currently-existing cable license; and (b) what are the Town's future community cable-related needs.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Council Costello	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Shanahan	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes
Vice-President Simmons	Yes
President Pare'	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor St. Pierre	Yes

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

Corey Anderson Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee, and Thomas Brennan member of the Committee, were in attendance to explain this request. They

explained that they have been negotiating this contract over the past three years.

1. We want to ensure that we can maintain a great product for the residents.
2. Maintain funding for North TV
3. Insure quality of the service to be provided.

These three items were included in this new license as well as a high definition for North TV. This agreement will be for a term of 10 years which Verizon agreed to, but Verizon has the right to terminate the agreement at any time they wish to.

No one from the public had any comments.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Council Costello	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Shanahan	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes
Vice-President Simmons	Yes
President Pare'	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor St. Pierre	Yes

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

Vice President Simmons stated that this contract agreement will be voted on at the next meeting.

Councilor Gould asked the Cable Advisory Committee if they could look into getting Verizon Services into the Oak Knoll Drive neighborhood.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

a. JOINT HEARING OF TOWN COUNCIL & BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

i. CITIZENS PETITIONS- LEAD PETITIONER MARK GOULD

1. Citizen's Petition - A Citizens' Petition has been submitted by Town Councilor Mark Gould to North Attleborough's Town Council, to hold a Public Hearing and take action on said petition as follows: "Petition to Inform Community on Town Water

Condition and Remediation Efforts- We petition the North Attleborough Town Council to hold a Public Hearing and DPW to present to the Council and the public an update and written report on the condition of the water, steps being taken, and progress being made to bring the water in compliance with the Federal EPA Regulation of 4 parts per trillion of PFAS. Further that DPW present a written quarterly report and quarterly public update to the Council until the water is certified to be in compliance with the Federal standard of 4 parts per trillion of PFA

Citizen's Petition - A Citizens' Petition has been submitted by Town Councilor Mark Gould to North Attleborough's Town Council, to hold a Public Hearing and take action on said petition as follows: "Petition to Inform Community on Town Water Condition and Remediation Efforts- We petition the North Attleborough Town Council to hold a Public Hearing and DPW to present to the Council and the public an update and written report on the condition of the water, steps being taken, and progress being made to bring the water in compliance with the Federal EPA Regulation of 4 parts per trillion of PFAS. Further that DPW present a written quarterly report and quarterly public update to the Council until the water is certified to be in compliance with the Federal standard of 4 parts per trillion of PFAS."

A motion was made for the Board of Public Works to open their meeting.

Motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

- Mike Thompson Yes
- Donald Cerrone Yes
- Tony Rinaldi Yes
- John Donohue Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

Vice President Simmons read the Legal Ad into the record:

TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH
TOWN COUNCIL & BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
PUBLIC HEARING on CITIZENS PETITION
MARCH 10, 2025

The Town Council & Board of Public Works will hold a Joint Public Hearing in the JoAnn Cathcart Conference Room in Town Hall located at 43 South Washington Street, on **MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 at 7:00PM**, on the following Public Hearing - A Citizens' Petition has been submitted by Town Councilor Mark Gould to North Attleborough's Town Council, to hold a Public Hearing and take action on said petition as follows: "**Petition to Inform Community on Town Water Condition and Remediation Efforts**- We petition the North Attleborough Town Council to hold a Public Hearing and DPW to present to the Council and the public an update and written report on the condition of the water, steps being taken, and progress being made to bring the water in compliance with the Federal EPA Regulation of 4 parts per trillion of PFAS. Further that DPW present a written quarterly report and quarterly public update to the Council until the water is certified to be in compliance with the Federal standard of 4 parts per trillion of PFAS."

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Council Costello	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Shanahan	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes
Vice-President Simmons	Yes
President Pare'	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor St. Pierre	Yes

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

A motion was made for the Board of Public Works to open their Public Hearing.

Motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Mike Thompson	Yes
Donald Cerrone	Yes
Tony Rinaldi	Yes
John Donohue	Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

DPW Director Mark Hollowell was in attendance to address the Town Council and answer any questions that Councilor Gould and the Town Council may have had. He updated them on:

- PFAS
- Water in Town is in Compliance with the DEP at this time
- DEP Testing and new regulations
- Federal Earmarks
- Interest Rates for the reconstructions of the wells
- Adamsdale Well
- Mckeon Well
- Hillman Well will be completed in the Fall of 2026
- Design for Whiting Street Well, the last well to be completed.
- DPW Website which is updated every month and extremely informative. Residents are encouraged to look here for any information regarding the water conditions in the Town.
- DPW PFAS PowerPoint
- In 5 years all wells will be in regulation.
- All homes will be inspected to see if lead services are in their home. If Houses were built before 1986 probably have lead pipes.
- All wells in town are tied together and all of the water is blended.
- Water is tested every month and results are posted to our website.
- **By 2029 we need to be in regulation and we will be. The Town will be in compliance.**
- Board of Public Works meets twice a month and residents are encouraged to come to meetings so that they can be informed, ask questions, and get all of the answers they are looking for.

Residents were in attendance and some asked questions and expressed their concerns. DPW Director and Members of the BPW answered their questions.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Council Costello	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Shanahan	Yes

Councilor Donovan	Yes
Vice-President Simmons	Yes
President Pare'	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor St. Pierre	Yes

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

A motion was made for the Board of Public Works to close their Public Hearing.

Motion was seconded.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Mike Thompson	Yes
Donald Cerrone	Yes
Tony Rinaldi	Yes
John Donohue	Yes

Motion carried 4-0.

There was discussion amongst the Town Council, The Board of Public Works, and Mark Hollowell.

John Donohue of The Board of Public Works made a motion to adjourn.

Tony Rinaldi seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

a. CITIZENS PETITIONS- LEAD PETITIONER MARK GOULD

- i. Citizen’s Petition- Discussion of Special Home Rule Act to Reduce Senior Tax Burden in the Event of a Positive Vote for a School Debt Exclusion

Vice President Simmons read the Legal Ad into the record:

TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH

TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING on CITIZENS PETITION

MARCH 10, 2025

The Town Council will hold a Public Hearing in the JoAnn Cathcart Conference Room in Town Hall located at 43 South Washington Street,

on **MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 at 7:00PM**, on the following

Public Hearing – A Citizens’ Petition has been submitted by Town Councilor Mark Gould to North Attleborough’s Town Council, to hold a Public Hearing and take action on said petition as follows: **“Petition to Reduce Taxes on Seniors if High School Vote Passes-** We petition the North Attleborough Town Council to hold a Public Hearing and take action on said petition as follows: “To direct the Town Manager and for the Town Council to adopt a Special Act to take effect only if the debt exclusion vote passes to build a new High School. The intent is to protect seniors with low income or assets from having taxes increase to an unmanageable level to protect seniors’ health and homes.”

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Council Costello	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Shanahan	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes
Vice-President Simmons	Yes
President Pare’	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor St. Pierre	Yes

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

Councilor Gould presented a PowerPoint Presentation on "Helping Seniors Make Ends Meet and Stay in Their Homes." He reviewed the following:

- Supporting Seniors, Strengthening Community
- Existing Exemptions for Seniors
- Cost of Existing Exemptions for Seniors
- New High School Project
- Senior Exemption Proposal
- Senior Exemptions Cost Estimate
- Other Assistance for Seniors
- Example- Circuit Breaker and Senior Exemption
- Other Assistance for Seniors
- The Senior Means-tested Real Estate Property Tax Exemption
- What Does "Means-Tested" Mean?
- What are the criteria for this Senior Exemption?
- How does it work?
- Home Room Petition (AKA Special Act)
- Other Communities
- Timeline
- Equity for Seniors

Residents were in attendance to voice their opinions and express their concerns. Concerns included:

- Seniors would like to remain in their homes, they just hope they will be able to afford it if the New High School Building Project Passes
- Additional amount in their taxes is really going to hurt the seniors
- Can we Freeze the Tax Rates?
- Seniors at some point need a stop. The increase in their taxes has to stop.
- How do we afford an additional \$1,000.00.
- We support the schools! We just don't know if we can afford it.
- Can we have assurance or a good proposal before the High School vote in June?
- Everyone is encouraged to go to the MSBA Website and learn more about the MSBA Project.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote Was Taken:

Council Costello	Yes
Councilor Gould	Yes
Councilor Shanahan	Yes
Councilor Donovan	Yes
Vice-President Simmons	Yes
President Pare'	Yes
Councilor Slobogan	Yes
Councilor St. Pierre	Yes

Motion carried. 8-0 UNANIMOUS

There was discussion amongst the Town Councilors. All were in agreement that Councilor Gould's Measure that was brought forth really got this issue moving. All would like to explore more options and see what can be done to help as many residents as they can. The Town Council is not sure that they will have something on the table before the vote in June but will try their best.

Vice President Simmons was not in favor of tying this to the vote for the new High School. We need to bring in new growth to lessen the burden on Seniors. This should be further reviewed in a non- rushed approach.

Councilor Gould had amended this measure, and it is no longer tied to the High School Building Project.

Councilor Gould made a motion to approve **Measure 2025-047**- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption of \$1,000 as **AMENDED**.

The motion was not seconded.

Motion did not carry.

Vice President Simmons made a motion to amend Measure 2025-047- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption of \$1,000.00 to include a Broader Discussion for Senior Tax Proposals.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

Vice President Simmons made a motion to refer Measure 2025-047- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption of \$1,000, to include a Broader Discussion for Senior Tax Proposals as AMENDED to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and consideration.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

Vice President Simmons made a motion to extend the meeting time to 10:30PM.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

1. Measure 2025-047- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption for the proposed new high school building project.

Measure 2025-047- To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption for the proposed new high school building project.

This special act is designed to provide targeted property tax relief to seniors and help them continue to thrive and be able to afford to live in North Attleboro and additionally provides an added measure of protection from tax increases. The act is entitled: An act authorizing the city known as the Town of North Attleborough

to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption.

There have been many communities in the position that North Attleboro finds itself in, cognizant of the tax burden of its senior citizens with rising assessments and taxes for those on fixed incomes. In recent years many communities have adopted special acts in order to shield their aging population that has contributed to the town for decades but finds itself in an untenable financial situation with rising health care costs, medicine, food, and general costs of living that have **outpaced their fixed income.**

This special act, as many other special acts passed by other communities, is pegged to the Massachusetts Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit criteria that are substantially as follows and are more completely set forth in the attached proposed special act. This special act would compliment the Circuit Breaker credit and add a layer of protection to Senior Citizens whose income doesn't exceed:

\$72,000 for a single individual who is not the head of a household; \$91,000 for a head of household; \$109,000 for married couples filing a joint return; These amounts are adjusted annually and tied to the CPI; And other asset and residential criteria as specified in the attached special act.

Motion: To authorize the Town Manager to petition the Massachusetts General Court for a special act in the form set forth in the special act as amended entitled: "An act authorizing the city known as the Town of North Attleborough to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption", authorizing a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption; provided, however, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of this requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

IX. Confirmations

- a. None at this time

X. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Finance

- i. Measure 2025-050-Authorization to Repurpose \$50,000.00 from remaining funds from Completed Capital Improvement Projects to fund Public Relations Support from North TV

Measure 2025-050-Authorization to Repurpose \$50,000.00 from remaining funds from Completed Capital Improvement Projects to fund Public Relations Support from North TV

Purpose:

To see if the Town Council will approve the repurposing of \$50,000.00 from the following Articles to retain North TV as a public relations support firm. This request is a repurposing of existing remaining funds from Completed Capital Improvement Projects, and requires no additional funding from the budget.

30220447 587007 - Shift Command Vehicle - Amount in account is \$6,218.29 - using \$6,108.30

30650332 585100 - Big Red Bus Replacement - Amount in account is \$25,311.28 - using \$25,311.28

30650400 587000 - Pickup Truck - Amount in account is \$12,848.90 - using \$12,848.90

30650417 548008 - Red Bus Accessories - Amount in account is \$5,731.52 - using \$5,731.52

Justification:

1. Crisis Management: In times of crisis, such as natural disasters, public health emergencies, or other critical situations, North TV will help manage communications, ensuring accurate and timely information dissemination to the public and media.

2. Community Engagement and Awareness: North TV will assist in creating and executing campaigns to inform and engage the community about municipal projects, policies, and initiatives. This can include public health campaigns, environmental initiatives, new policy implementations, or information regarding potential debt exclusion votes.

3. Reputation Management: North TV will help manage the municipality's reputation by highlighting positive initiatives, managing negative publicity, and shaping public perception.

4. Event Promotion and Management: For Town-sponsored events like parades, commemorations, or public meetings, North TV will help with promotion, and engagement in the community.

5. Strategic Communication: North TV will assist the Town in the development of a strategic communication plan in order to communicate effectively with our constituents. This includes identifying key messages, target audiences, and the most effective channels for communication.

6. Social Media Content Management: In the digital age, maintaining an active and positive presence on social media is crucial. North TV will assist in managing social media accounts, creating content, and engaging with the community online.

7. Branding and Image Building: North TV will develop and promote a positive and attractive image of the Town.

8. Change Communication: When implementing new policies or undergoing organizational changes, effective communication is key to ensuring public understanding and support. North TV will assist in the planning and executing of our communication strategies.

Communications Officer Taylor O'Neil was in attendance to review with the Town

Concil all that has been accomplished in the last year. She presented a PowerPoint Presentation- North TV Public Relations Contract

Over the past year, North TV has played a crucial role in enhancing our town's visibility and transparency. Through their public relations services, we have successfully launched several exciting initiatives, including on-demand videos that showcase our Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), events, and other key town initiatives. Since October, we have recorded 500 impressions on Vimeo alone, and our audience has devoted over 5,000 hours to viewing our content, which includes important updates on the CIP and the Tax Classification Hearing. Although we shared several videos prior to October on social media and North TV's YouTube channel, we lacked reliable metrics for that period. However, the data we've gathered since implementing our current strategy clearly demonstrates an upward trend in **engagement and outreach.**

By choosing North TV, we have saved an impressive \$27,000 that would have been spent on a local public relations firm for the same nine videos. North TV has not only produced these videos but has also provided unlimited edits, created clips from our meetings, and helped us launch our podcast. This comprehensive support has far **exceeded our expectations and offers unparalleled value.**

We successfully debuted our first podcast, Town Hall Talks, which highlights and acknowledges the individuals working behind the scenes at Town Hall and beyond. Currently, our podcast averages approximately 20 listeners per episode and has **accumulated over 45 hours of consumption.**

A standout achievement of our collaboration has been the removal of the government channel's paywall. This change allows residents to livestream meetings or watch them at their convenience, fostering a greater sense of community involvement. Feedback indicates that many community members now choose to engage with our meetings virtually, using the livestream as another source of information about town affairs. Given the substantial benefits we have experienced, which include enhanced community engagement, significant cost savings, and a strong commitment to transparency, I strongly urge the board to renew our partnership with North TV. It is vital that we continue to invest in this relationship to further empower our residents and **strengthen our community connection.**

Videos completed:

- Town Election 2024 video with Neil Lambert (3:36)
- Town's 9/11 Ceremony (1:55)
- NAFD's new shift commander vehicle (1:40)
- Tax Classification Presentation Summary (2:06)
- Third Annual Leftover Turkey Trot (1:54)
- Richards Memorial Library Ribbon-Cutting (2:17)
- Jessie Macomber's 20 Years of Service (1:48)
- Fire Recruitment Video (IN EDITING)
- Stop and Shop Certificate Presentation (IN EDITING)

Video Clips Pulled:

- Town Council Budget Presentation (5:48)
- Community Feedback to Citizens Petition (10:30)

- Future of the Webster Mill property (6:15)
- Potential stipends for NA board, committee & commission members (11:19)
- DPW Director PFAS Update to Town Council on June 24 (4:00)
- Director of Public Facilities Tim Chouinard Update on June 24 (2:55)
- DPW Boil Water Emergency Update on Aug. 13 (3:57)
- Regional Opioid Discussion (2:20:20)

Podcast - Town Hall Talks

- Assessments in North Attleborough (22:27)
- Richards Memorial Library (21:12)
- Memorial Day (29:23)
- FEMA Flood Assistance (36:19)
- Ready for the Storm: Emergency Preparedness for Hurricane Season 2024 (27:04)
- Paving the Way: Roads and Public Works in North Attleborough (29:58)
- *Bonus Episode* Community Conversations Recording (40:34)
- Meet Officer Nelson: North Attleborough's Fire K-9 Officer (20:01)
- Exercising Your Civic Duty And Right To Vote In Upcoming Elections (32:03)
- Exploring What Makes North Attleborough Great: North Attleborough's Parks and Recreation (27:42)
- Supporting Our Community: North Attleborough's Partnership with William James College Interface Referral Service (25:18)
- North Attleborough Senior Technology Program: Bridging Generations Through Technology (20:23)

Future Outlook

Our first year has been a crucial period of exploration and learning as we adjusted to the exciting new channels at our disposal. If given the opportunity to renew our contract, we are committed to standardizing and significantly expanding our video and podcast initiatives.

To enhance our impact, we will implement a biweekly schedule for podcast recordings, with episodes recorded on the first and third Monday of each month. This consistency will not only ensure regular content delivery but will also amplify our visibility and engagement with our audience.

We are also eager to broaden our video initiatives, empowering more individuals to utilize this service to their advantage. We are currently developing a content calendar for our video projects, allowing us to strategically plan and release timely and relevant content. We are particularly excited about the prospect of collaborating with organizations like the Cultural Council to produce a compelling video series that highlights the vibrant stories of community members in North Attleborough.

North TV Director Peter Gay was in attendance to answer any questions that the Committee may have had. Mr. Gay presented a Cost Analysis Presentation to the Town Council. This presentation showed the financial benefit of having a contract with North TV as opposed to a Private Public Relations Firm which would cost close to \$100,000.00, double the cost that the Town is paying now.

Vice President made a motion to allow Mr. Kieltyka to address the Council.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Kieltyka read a letter to the Town Council stating his objection to this request. Mr. Kieltyka does not think that the Town should have a Public Relations Officer and that this position should be eliminated. Additionally, Mr. Kieltyka does not agree with the Town continuing to have a contract with North TV as it may be prohibited under North TV's 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization. He does not think that funding a Public Relations Officer and contracting with North TV should be paid for by taxpayers of the Town.

Councilor Gould feels that this request raises ethical and financial questions by using taxpayers money in the amount of \$50,000.00 for propaganda.

Councilor Gould invoked his Charter Privilege on this measure. Invoking this Charter Privilege stopped all discussions, and this measure will be moved to the March 24, 2025 Meeting.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to refer Measure 2025-050- Authorization to Repurpose \$50,000.00 from remaining funds from Completed Capital Improvement Projects to fund Public Relations Support from North TV to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and discussion.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

b. Economic Growth & Sustainability

Nothing to report at this time.

c. By-Law

Nothing to report at this time.

d. Rules

Nothing to report at this time.

- e. MSBA – School Building Committee

MSBA Process Review and Proposed School Design

Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKeon and NAHS Principal Peter Haviland were in attendance to address the Council. Together they presented an Education Plan PowerPoint presentation.

- f. School Committee Representative

Nothing to report at this time.

- g. Communication, Public Participation & Engagement

Nothing to report at this time.

- h. Local Emergency Planning

Nothing to report at this time.

- i. Audit Review Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

XI. Old Business

- a. None at this time

XII. New Business

- a. Measure 2025-053- Authorization to repurpose funds in the amount of \$7,960.00 to repair Fire Headquarters HVAC System

Measure 2025-053- Authorization to repurpose funds in the amount of \$7,960.00 to repair Fire Headquarters HVAC System

Previously the Town of North Attleboro appropriated free cash to fund two projects for the fire department, Emergency Management Equipment and Fire Alarm Wire Removal. Both of these projects came in under budget and we are in need to re-purpose the majority of the remaining funds to repair the HVAC system at Fire Headquarters.

7 years ago the North Attleboro Fire Department installed an HVAC/Mini Split system for the 2nd floor office/living space. Over the last year we have been experiencing issues related to the functionality of the system and it has been determined that the line sets for the system have holes in them due to corrosion of the pipes. According to the HVAC company the corrosion was caused by the coating on the pipes which unfortunately is happening to many systems and there is no warranty or recall and the only solution to fix the system is to replace all of the line sets on the affected side of the building.

Project Cost: \$7960.00

Funding Source: Previous funded Capital Improvement Projects as outlined below.

Measure 2023-015 Emergency Management Equipment: Account # 30220315 585004: \$3845.28

Measure 2021-065 Fire Alarm Wire Removal: Account # 30220165 587009: \$5790.07

Chief Coleman was in attendance to explain this request and answer any questions the Council may have had.

Vice President Simmons made a motion to approve **Measure 2025-053**- Authorization to repurpose funds in the amount of \$7,960.00 to repair Fire Headquarters HVAC System.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

- b. Measure 2025-054-Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 59, § 50: Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption Guidelines for Municipalities in Massachusetts, including acceptance, criteria, and application procedures

Measure 2025-054 – Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 59, § 50: Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption Guidelines for Municipalities in Massachusetts, including acceptance, criteria, and application procedures

SUMMARY

- The exemption was created by St. 2023 c. 50, signed into law on October 4, 2023.
- It applies to residential unit owners renting to income-qualifying persons at affordable rates.
- Municipalities must vote to accept the exemption, with the first available fiscal year being 2025.
- Acceptance can be revoked after three years, also by vote.
- The exemption applies only to class one residential units, with no domicile requirement unless locally specified.

SCOPE OF ABATEMENT

- Exemption amount is locally determined, not exceeding the tax due based on assessed value.
- Residential unit owners must rent to income-qualifying persons at rates set by the municipality.
- Occupants' income must not exceed 200% of area median income, as defined by HUD.
- Units must be rented annually to qualifying persons for the entire fiscal year.

APPLICATIONS TO ASSESSORS

- Applicants must submit STF 50 annually to local assessors, including signed leases and proof of income.
- Applications are due by the first actual tax bill's due date.
- Abatements granted will be charged against the overlay account, impacting annual overlay needs.

Councilor Donovan explained this measure to the Town Council.

Vice President Simmons made a motion to refer Measure 2025-054 - Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 59, § 50: Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption Guidelines for Municipalities in Massachusetts, including acceptance, criteria, and application procedures to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and discussion.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

XIII. Adjournment

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.