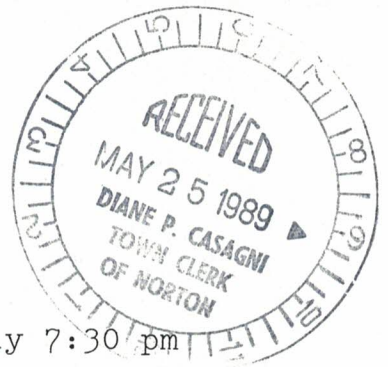


FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 1989



The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 pm

Present: M. Brown, E. Hamilton, P. Helmreich, B. Kimball,  
L. MacLean, R. Nugent, D. Ward, J. Desrochers

B. Andrews notes Federal Statue in regards to SARA Title III requirements. To date the Town has spent \$9,000 to conform to regulations. Norton has received an A+ rating. Within the next 35-40 days, the Town must have an emergency exercise involving all departments.

Departments will incur expenses due to call in of men for Police, Fire, Highway overtime. The Town is now overdue in regards to time frame set by State.

\$28,000 estimated cost of area Towns. To comply with requirements, Towns and cities have had to close the Centers. If the Town does not comply, it will be cited and fined. Town will need to evaluate exercise and type final report.

Departments were not advised of the date.

STM #1

Bylaw contingent upon election of Charter.

To override/replace Charter section 4.1, Chap 5-8 b & c in accordance with section 4.1. Once elected, Charter can only be changed by bylaw. Chapter 8 is not part of the Charter.

B. Andrews and J. Schneider notes that the Board of Selectmen object to:

- no public hearing on Section 8 and cannot amend

- submitted to Selectmen at the last minute not allowing revisions

- problem with the transitional appointment by screening Committee

- The Board of Selectmen should have the final appointment of the candidate

- 30 day time period was unsatisfactory time period especially in the Summer

- No trial period provision for the Town Manager

Bylaw will also remove bachelor's degree qualifications. Will add qualifications set by the Selectmen.

P. Helmreich notes screening process is not unusual in business and academics.

Discussion of the Selectmen's knowledge on what type of individual is needed for Town Manager.

Review of qualifications and need of schooling vs experience discussed.

C. MacDonald, resident, notes the screening committee cannot force a candidate on the Board of Selectmen who can dismiss the individual. He notes the problem with no specified length of term.

Discussion of Board of Selectmen forced to pick from screening committee candidates.

J. Fernandes notes:

- deadline to complete Charter for election
- Committee did hold public hearings on Sections 1-7
- notes executive secretary was excluded from running
- the reasoning for the 30 day period is to shorten any delay
- Moderator fills 5 positions on screening committee but there is no merit that he influences committee members
- screening committee is a part of many other Charters
- To allow all candidates a fair chance
- screening committee will choose 3-5 candidates for the Selectmen to choose from
- indefinite hire reasoning by Counsel which states that the Town Manager serves the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen when no longer satisfied can dismiss the individual
- The Charter Commission gave the Board of Selectmen their assurances

J. Fernandes states that the Charter Commission would support a better proposal but article 1 is not an improvement.

B. Kimball notes problem with article not stating the screening committee breakdown and notes the need for independent people.

B. Andrews notes the article will keep appointing authority where it is presently with the Board of Selectmen. He notes he is not in favor of the Charter. He also notes the difficulty with dismissing an individual once employed.

P. Helmreich notes the Board of Selectmen does not have to have a screening committee per article. Therefore, he feels that if the Finance Committee wants a screening committee composed of various individuals, they cannot support article 1.

C. MacDonald notes that a 7 member Board would be less likely to be influenced.

J. Fernandes notes problems of Board of Selectmen influences and the recall of the Moderator

P. Helmreich notes all does not apply but in the transitional period.

J. Schneider notes the Charter cannot be changed until bylaw is voted upon.

B. Andrews notes the Finance Committee's past problem with the Charter and the change to preserve the Finance Committee's authority. Therefore, the same with the Selectmen's authority of whom are elected by the Town's people to do this job/duty.

J. Schneider notes Board of Selectmen always in the past have appointed a screening committee and they had the right to reject all proposed candidates and ask for readvertising and review which is not allowed under the Charter.

J. Fernandes notes that if the 30 day limit was not included the Board of Selectmen could ask to readvertise-reinterview many times until their candidate was in the finals.

Southeastern Regional, STM#2

C. MacDonald notes the School is asking for establishment of a stabilization fund to allow flexibility within budget once budgets are submitted. Fund would allow a build up/reserve



for improvements/capital expenditures. Funds would come from surplus revenue/monies received from services due to good management. No funds for stabilization would be included in the budget. Currently excess funds, over 5% of budget, are returned to the Town by offsetting the Town's assessments. Improvements/purchases are now a bond issue in the budgets. Stabilization purchases would not be included in the budget and therefore would allow better money management.

B. Kimball notes Self Help article 3. Spoke to Town Accountant and legal counsel. Monies can be appropriated and paid in this fiscal year. If appropriated with available funds, would cause no problem with Town Accountant.  
Consensus-appropriate and pay within this fiscal year.

B. Kimball notes Chief Keene's policy change to have 4 cruisers on all shifts has been in effect for the past  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years.

B. Kimball notes that the Fire Department may ask for reconsideration of Chartley sheds and may submit additional information. Scheduled for 4-19-89.

Water and Sewer Commissioners are scheduled for 4-19-89.

If STM articles are approved by the Planning Board, the Town Advisory Committee will be scheduled for 4-26-89 at 7:35.

B. Nugent moves that the minutes of the meeting of 3-29-89 be accepted.

D. Ward seconded

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 pm until 4-19-89 at approximately 7:30 pm