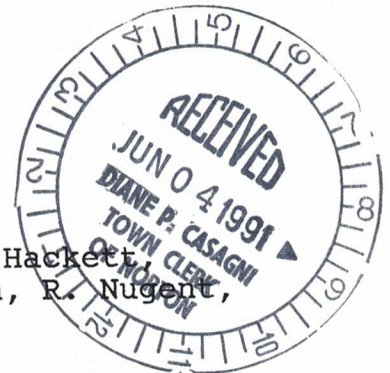


FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 1991



Present: M. Brown, J. Desrochers, W. Gouveia, M. Hackett, E. Hamilton, P. Helmreich, B. Kimball, C. MacQuown, R. Nugent, D. Ward

Others Present: D. Casagni, J. Clark, G. Bishop, E. O'Hearn, J. Freeman, M. Rousseau, and members of the Tri Town Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of April 1 approved with minor correction.

D. Casagni, Town Clerk, here tonight to discuss her salary which had always included fees she collected. She discussed the proposed reduction in her salary at a time when her duties are increasing. She asked the Committee not to support the by law returning fees back to the Town if her salary does not include \$1,179.00 which is the average amount she collected for fees over the last seven years.

Discussion and questions followed.

J. Clark, Treasurer/Collector, is also before the Committee to discuss her salary. She reiterated that her salary was negotiated in cooperation with the Town Manager in lieu of receiving fees. She next discussed the collection of fees and handed out a sheet listing the salaries of the Town Collector/Treasurer of surrounding towns. She requested that the Finance Committee reconsider putting fees back in her salary, reduce her salary to what it was before, to not support the new by law on Town Meeting floor, and allow her to do her job and collect from the delinquent tax payers.

Discussion and questions followed.

Next, P. Helmreich called on Ellen O'Hearn of the Planning Board to review Articles 33 through 44 on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 33

E. O'Hearn said the majority of the members of the Planning Board do not recommend this article because of a philosophical objection to its present form. She stated that this article is not ready to be acted upon because it will affect other by laws. B. Kimball requested that E. O'Hearn provide the Committee with a list of the by laws that would be affected.

Article 34

E. O'Hearn stated that a majority of the members of the Planning Board object to increasing the Zoning Board of Appeals from 3 to 5 members. She said the Board feels that 3 members in its current form are doing an admirable job and there is no need to increase membership. J. Freeman stated that the minority feels

democracy is better served by an 80% vote versus a 100% vote because it allows for dissent without taking it out on the applicant.

Article 35

E. O'Hearn stated that this article was suggested by the Building Inspector for uniformity. She said the article is back again because of procedural problems.

Article 36 and 37

E. O'Hearn stated that these articles are back again because of procedural problems.

Article 38

Concerning site plan review approval, E. O'Hearn stated that the majority of the members of the Planning Board would like the site plan review to have a public hearing as a courtesy to the public. J. Freeman, speaking for the minority, stated that the site plan review is just that--to see if the zoning by laws are complied with. He said the minority members do not think this article is necessary because it causes confusion and the minority members urge the Committee not to recommend this article.

Article 39

E. O'Hearn stated that the only change is in the wording, i.e., public utilities, added to broaden the use of regulations. The majority of the Planning Board recommends this article.

Articles 40 and 41

E. O'Hearn stated that the words public utilities and public services were added to the wording of this article. She said the majority of the Board members do not recommend this article because of concern for the impact on the wetlands. Discussion of the proposed pumping stations followed.

Articles 42 and 43

P. Helmreich noted that if Article 44 is passed, then articles 42 and 43 not necessary. Discussion moved to Article 44.

Article 44

E. O'Hearn said that the Planning Board will give out hand outs at the Town Meeting explaining that the Board supports all three articles--Articles 42, 43, and 44. A member of the Tri Town Chamber of Commerce stated that his organization is going to prepare friendly amendments to Article 44 and pass out at the Town Meeting. The Planning Board does recommend the by law but with minor concerns. Discussion followed on non-conforming signs.

Next, G. Bishop came before the Committee to request that the Committee not support the Town Manager's proposal to eliminate the Recreation Department. He stated that he will take a cut in hours and will accept any amount of money to maintain the recreation program. He also reviewed his accomplishments and stressed the need for a recreation program--stating that no area town has completely eliminated their recreation department.

P. Helmreich thanked G. Bishop for coming and moved to the next order of business. P. Helmreich stated that he will call Carl Jacobs to get information on the Plain Street Project. B. Kimball suggested that the Chair contact Town counsel as well.

Concerning the computer bill (Article 12), P. Helmreich noted that the lease payment is exactly the same amount. However, he said that there is a second lease agreement for equipment in J. Clark's Department for printing bills.

A motion was moved, seconded and voted to take Article 12 off the table. In Favor: unanimous

A Motion was moved, seconded and voted to recommend the figure of \$47,900. In Favor: 8 (Kimball, Ward, Gouveia, Hackett, Nugent, MacQuown, Desrochers) Abstained: Hamilton
Motion carried

P. Helmreich next informed the Committee that the secretarial position in the Planning Board must be made available. Union agreement prevents one person from holding both the secretarial position in the Conservation Commission Department and the secretarial position in the Planning Board as a single full-time job.

P. Helmreich next turned to discussion of the reduction in hours for the second person in the Cemetery Department. He noted that you cannot use the Hicks Fund for part-time help if the regular employee's full time has been cut.

P. Helmreich also stated that he would like the Committee to consider hiring back the half-time secretary in the Town Manager's Department.

Next the Committee discussed the Selectmen's negotiation of the Police Chief's salary contract, noting the 6% increase in salary and the generous increase in benefits at a time when the Town Manager and the Finance Committee are recommending level funding of salaries.

A motion was moved, seconded and voted to reconsider Department 210 (Police), line item 510. In Favor: unanimous
A Motion was moved, seconded and voted to table Department 210 (Police), line item 510. In Favor: unanimous

A motion was moved, seconded and voted to reconsider Department 220 (Fire), line 510. In Favor: unanimous

A motion was moved, seconded and voted to table Department 220, (Fire), line 510.

The Committee agreed to table the Police Department and Fire Department salary lines until the Committee receives information from the Town Manager listing employees and their salaries.

The Finance Committee next discussed requesting the members of the Board of Selectmen to come before the Committee to discuss the negotiated contract for the Police Chief. The Committee also discussed whether or not filing the contract after the three day period is a violation of the Town by law; and if it is a violation, the Committee has an obligation to the citizens of the Town to carry out an investigation of this violation.

A motion was moved, seconded and voted to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that they come before the Committee on Monday, May 6, at 7:40 p.m. to discuss possible contract negotiation and filing violations. In Favor: unanimous

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.