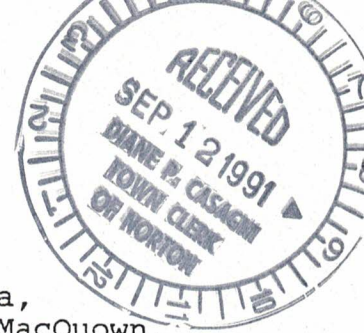


FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
June 3, 1991



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

P. Helmreich informed the Committee that he received the following communications from S. Lombard: 1) effective May 13, there is no smoking at any time or any place in the Town Hall Building; 2) the Town has shifted medical coverage from Blue Cross/Blue Shield Master Health Plus to North American Administrators which offers the same benefits at a lower price.

P. Helmreich received a notice that the Town's assessment from Bristol County Agricultural High School for the year will be \$27,000--one half due July 1st and the other half due November 1st. P. Helmreich said he assumes this cost will come from the School Department budget. He also noted that this assessment is based on ten Norton students attending the school.

P. Helmreich noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, and the warrant closes Monday, July 8.

P. Helmreich received a bill in the amount of \$2,276 for 2,000 copies of the Finance Committee Report for the May Annual Town Meeting. S. Lombard will be coming before the Committee requesting a transfer to cover his share of the bill.

P. Helmreich next discussed a report he received from the Massachusetts Municipal Association noting the House approved on a roll call vote a significant change in Proposition 2 1/2 by allowing the monies budgeted for the overlay account to be outside the 2 1/2 cap. This means \$300,000 will be outside the 2 1/2 cap. He also noted that the House repealed and did not pass the proposed charge of 10% for pensions for teachers which amounted to \$77,000. This could possibly allow for \$377,000 to compensate for further cuts in local aid.

P. Helmreich suggested sending all Town departments a warning letter to cut back spending by 4%. W. Gouveia suggested that every department set aside 4% of their budget on a separate line item to plan for a possible 4% cut in their budget. P. Helmreich said that the Committee cannot require departments to set aside 4% since the budget was approved at Town Meeting but that the Committee could recommend they set aside 4%. P. Helmreich noted that if there is a cut in the budget, amendments to the budget have to be voted on at a Special Town Meeting within the October Town Meeting.

W. Gouveia suggested that the Finance Committee write a letter to

the School Committee and the Town Manager recommending that 4% of their budget be set aside to possibly turn back to the Town in preparation for a cut. He suggested doing this as a worse case scenario to be prepared for what may happen and not asking for anyone to give money back. He also suggested that the Finance Committee also set aside 4% of the Reserve Fund and the Finance Committee budget.

A motion was moved, seconded and voted to draft a letter to all departments recommending they set aside 4% of their budget in anticipation of a cut. In favor: unanimous

Next, regarding the Police Chief's budget, P. Helmreich said he will ask the Police Chief to come before the Committee to discuss his transfer request of \$8,972 to the Police Department Expense Account to cover costs of equipment.

P. Helmreich said he will also ask the Fire Chief to come before the Committee to discuss more thoroughly his request for transfer monies due to a 3% shortfall in the Fire Department budget. He noted that the one legitimate claim on the Finance Committee's Reserve Account is the request to cover medical costs. P. Helmreich said he will ask Chief Burgess for documentation on medical costs.

B. Gouveia moved that the Finance Committee set aside 4% of the Finance Committee's budget and Reserve Fund. Motion moved, seconded and voted to set aside 4%. In favor: unanimous

P. Helmreich reminded the Committee that the next meeting will be Monday, June 24th.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.