

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 1993



Present: T. DeLuca, J. Desrochers, M. Fiore, W. Gouveia, M. Hackett, P. Helmreich,
J. Nicolas, T. Phelan, D. Summerfield

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Chairman Gouveia began the meeting by stating that he was misquoted in the Sun Chronicle saying that he was opposed to Proposition 2 1/2 and that the Sun Chronicle, at his request, printed a correction. Chair Gouveia assured the Committee that he would never state the Committee's position unless the Committee as a whole took a position.

Commenting on his request to the Selectmen for a general outline of budget priorities and cost saving measures, Chairman Gouveia stated that the Selectmen provided him with budget priorities for five groups of departments: assessors/treasurer/collector, fire/police, highway, library, schools.

W. Gouveia next discussed Muriel Robbins December 1 letter to Selectmen requesting changing the payroll for all Town employees to a bi-weekly schedule. The Committee agreed that this was a good example of an effective cost savings measure and a motion was moved, seconded, and voted to send a letter to the Selectmen to consider any and all cost effective measures, including Muriel Robbins's suggestion. In favor: unanimous.

M. Hackett provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the search committee for the new Town Manager. She stated that the search committee is winnowing down the number of candidates to twenty and that the screening committee will conduct phone interviews and in-person interviews of the top twenty candidates.

Chairman Gouveia informed the Committee that \$800 was transferred out of the Town Manager's Account to cover search related expenses and that this account may run over as a result.

Turning to the main order of business, Chair Gouveia talked about the uncertainty of passage of the Education Reform Bill, gave the Committee a general outline of the bill, and opened the floor for discussion regarding next steps in the budget deliberations.

P. Helmreich informed the Committee that the Norton Town Charter states that the Town Manager must prepare a budget and that a public hearing on the Town Manager's budget must take place within 14 days after it is submitted to the

Finance Committee.

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Chair Gouveia suggested that the Committee ask Acting Town Manager Benton Keene to meet with the Committee on Wednesday, January 6, to talk about what he expects from the Finance Committee and to inform him of the Charter rule that the Town Manager prepare a budget. Chair Gouveia also suggested that at the January 6th meeting, the Committee and the Acting Town Manager try to come to an agreement about preliminary budget numbers to work with in preparing the FY 94 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

