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Town of Norton
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
March 16, 1994

MAR 31 1994

NORTON TOWN CLERK

Attendance: Phil Zawasky, Chair; Tom Deluca, Vice Chair; Donna Summerfield, Julia Sweet, Paul Helmreich, Tim Phelan, Michael Fiore, Jackie Desrochers, and Jack Nicolas.

Call to Order: 7:34 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

Old Business

School Committee meeting needs to be changed, the April 11 date was not a good time for the Superintendent. The new date is Wed. April 13, 1994 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

The S.E.R. Voc. Tec. School's budget was handed out so it could be reviewed for the meeting on March 23, 1994.

Paul Helmreich moved to accept the Minutes of March 9, 1994 with the addition of the attendance for that night. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 6 approve, 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

New Business

Articles for Special Town Meeting

Article 11: After the word Map, include the number 26; after the word Parcel include the number 79-01; and where it says "namely soccer fields" add and certain agreed to's.

Article 12: A non-exclusive lease means the soccer people can use the fields but they cannot exclude anyone else from using them; they will have priority though. Make this change to the draft, where it states "Appropriate \$90,000 from Free Cash to construct and equip playing..." change it to read "To transfer \$90,000 from Free Cash to the Conservation Commission for the purpose of constructing and equipping playing fields..."

We have approximately \$600,000 left in Free Cash right now.

Tom Deluca, Vice Chair moved to take Articles 3 & 4 off the table. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous.

Article 3: Paul Helmreich moved to transfer from Free Cash 1/3 of the available sum for the Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair.

Vote: unanimous.

Article 4: Paul Helmreich moved to transfer from Free Cash 2/3 of the available lump sum to Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: 7 approve, 1 abstention.

The Town Manager had summary figures for Articles 5, 6, and 9 combined. Two out of the three numbers are right. Total of those Articles comes to \$46,150.

Tom Deluca, Vice Chair moved to move onto Article 7. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Article 7 deals with Union raises, it is the largest union. Looking for 3% increases and some incentives. Tom Deluca, Vice Chair raised concerns as to our ability to continue to pay these increases out of Ambulance Fund in future years. Town Manager said yes. Jack Nicolas made a motion to approve Article 7. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: 7 approve, 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Tom Deluca, Vice Chair moved to approve Article 8. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Article 10 Clerical Union: 3% contract with a grade system to help provide a career path. Five step spread. Jack Nicolas moved to approve Article 10. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous.

Town Budget Review

Inspection Dept. (241): Under Personal Services they want to return a secretary from half-time to full-time. Used to have 1½ support people, now they are down to half a position.

Sealer of Weights & Measures (244): Opening of Roche Bros. this year.

Communications (290): Personal Services requested to add a fifth full-time dispatcher. Walter believes we can be more effective with a voice mail system and direct calls automatically. Under Expenses: voice mail system, telephone equipment and lease lines, \$30,000 on-going phone expense. Tom Deluca, Vice Chair asked about \$11,355 capital outlay. Radio console repair, dictaphone, digitizer clock, and a new box alarm system. Estimated cost of voice mail is \$9,000.

Dog Officer (292): Hours changing from 30 hours a week to 40 hours. Paul Helmreich suggested the position to re-titled Animal Control Officer.

Tree Warden (294): the \$300 is for advertising and printing expenses. Paul Helmreich feels still better to appropriate the money for this even if he hasn't spent the funds from last year yet. Walter Lindberg recommends that we consolidate this position with highway department.

Highway Department (420): There is a hearing set for March 31, 1994 for Selectmen. It is a public hearing with the purpose of discussing the joining of the highway department with Cemetery Department. Paul Helmreich has reservations not about the merger but the staffing. He feels we should keep the Cemetery Commissioner because we need to know the operation of that department. Adding more duties without adding more people. Point where we stretch the staff too much. Walter has discussed this at length and he feels that if he has to come back to the committee next year then he will ask for a new position be put in place, he insists that he will not let things get behind.

Snow Removal (423)

Street Lights (425): Each year new streets are added and new lights on these streets. We use energy saving bulbs in the lights. Walter will be taking advantage of a service that analyzes the needs of the town and comes up with ways to save money on these lights.

Rubbish Collection (433)

Solid Waste Advisory (436): Suggest a date to have them come in and speak with us. Wednesday, March 23, 1994---late.

Sanitary Landfill (438)

Sewer Department (440): Personal services is much different--ask Walter what his totals are.

Tim Phelan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 pm. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia C. Mello

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Recording Secretary