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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Town of Norton  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 23, 1994

Attendance: Phil Zawasky, Chair; Tom Deluca, Vice Chair; Tim Phelan, Mary Jo Hackett, Bill Gouveia, Paul Helmreich, Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, and Michael Fiore.

Call to Order: 7:32 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

Old Business: April 13 meeting with School Committee will be strictly for FinCom and not a public hearing.

New Business

Planning Board Budget Review (175), Mr. James Kelley

Department requests a full-time planner with a full-time secretary (35 hrs) for a total of \$45,062 under Personal Services. They are asking that the full-time secretary be continued into next fiscal year. (Full-time planner earns \$32,860 plus union increase for Management A - 2%. Full-time secretary earns \$12,194 year plus union increase.)

Town Planner is working on elements of the Master Plan and other sub-sections that must be completed in order to get closer to completing the Master Plan. They are working with Mansfield in joint sessions for Great Woods area to put together a development that is satisfactory to Norton and Mansfield.

Processing the paper work is one of their top concerns. They have a large back log dating back before the secretary came on board. It is necessary for a full-time person to take care of this. The department functions efficiently with the full-time secretary. There are many Town and State requirements that must be followed--if the position of Town Planner was dropped there would not be a professional overlooking the procedures and things would go crazy.

There are two sets of office hours they keep. One in the morning and one in the afternoon. People who call the Planner are urged to make appointments with the secretary so that all the necessary preparations are taken care of first. Dealing with the public is different issue than dealing with the professionals coming in to discuss big projects. The State is changing many regulations right now. Our Town Planner is considered the best in the area.

Paul Helmreich asked about the increases on the expense side of the budget. The biggest change is the line item for engineering--have to do the inspections so they pass the charges on to the engineering fund. Increases in office supplies and ink cartridges.

Memorial and Vets (692)

Increase in budget is for cost of flags and markers. The current money is not enough for this task already.

SERPEDD (176)

Cost is \$2200 per student in Norton. Cost per student is based on economy, family income, ability to pay and tax base of the town.

Solid Waste Advisory (436)

Catherine Howland

1. Mandatory curbside recycling.
2. \$6,000 to maintain current recycling center.
3. Funding mechanisms (a) through tax base (b) funding with a two-tier system. Fee a household would be required to pay along with a "special" bag purchase. The purchase cost of the special bag is actually paying for the dumping of your garbage.

Bill Gouveia urged the Solid Waste Advisor to seriously consider a flat fee system. Paul Helmreich supported this. Tom Deluca, Vice Chair suggested the advisor to have dollar amounts ready for the Town Meeting because the public will want to know how much it will cost them.

Walter Lindberg, Town Manager held to his recommendation for a half-time support person on the Planning Board. He feels he is not anti-Planner but is responding to numerous calls and complaints from business people who say the Planner is not available to them. He would like the board to have more access to the public and other town agencies.

Paul Helmreich suggested that they may need a Planner and an Administrative Assistant--this would mean more money. The assistant would be upper level and would be a resolution to staffing problems. This was discussed at length.

Mr. Kelley: Professional representatives of a developer should make an appointment with Planning Board. Most people don't know who to go to when they have a question. Most problems are zoning questions. They are in the business and should know better. It is not the Planning Board's place to answer zoning rules. Planning board must walk a fine line.

Bill Gouveia made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia C. Mello*

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Recording Secretary

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