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Town of Norton  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 13, 1994

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

Call to Order: 7:35 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

New Business: School Department

There were some line item changes--they settled a 2 year contract of 2.75% for each year for administrators and teachers. They re-instated a Language Arts coordinator and opened two teacher positions for computer courses. The bulk of the increases is included in the 2000 series (see handout for Norton Public Schools - Fiscal '95 Budget).

1000 series (Administration) there is a \$513 reduction from last year.

2100 series (Supervisors) there are increases of 2.75% due to contractual agreements and two additional personnel.

The base salary for a new teacher is \$22,573. The highest paid salaries require 13 years experience, a Master's Degree and an additional 30 credits--Salary \$43,470.

2400 series Library, many new expenses.

There are \$23,094 students in the school system right now. They project an additional 2,461 students each year. (There are as many students in grades 1&2 as there are in the high school).

2000 series Instructional series \$726,515 or 10.8% increase.

3300 series Transportation--We have 13 buses and 2 spares. This is the 3rd year of a 3 year contract. The bus maintenance is for 5 buses we maintain and use daily (one goes 250 miles per day). Total 3000 line is .78% increase over last year.

4000 series is \$16,962 or -1.51% decrease in budget from last year.

5000 series is \$500 reduction or 25% less.

7400 series To replace equipment is \$16,848 over last year's budget.

Athletic budget: a decrease from last year. Requesting \$42,431.03.

The condition of the fields was brought up and discussed for a time. The conclusion was that there is no room in the budget right now to put towards completely re-doing the fields. The school department's priority is educating the children and keeping the schools and their programs well maintained.

Mary Jo Hackett asked the School Representative what Capital Improvements they were asking for this year--\$20,000 for asbestos removal, \$40,000 for 2 school vans and \$30,000 for a special needs mini-bus. These don't affect this year's budget because this is for next fall. (File a schedule 19 in June/July 1995--you would charge back the school department in FY96 or the Town would absorb the costs.)

Old Business  
Budget Review

TOWN REPORTS (195)

Bill Gouveia made a motion to move \$4,500 to line (520) Purchase of Services. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

POSTAGE (199)

Bill Gouveia made a motion to move (520) Purchase of Services for \$22,000. Seconded by Mary Jo Hackett. Vote: unanimous.

POLICE (210)

Bill Gouveia moved line item (210) (510) Personal Services for \$57,901. Seconded by Tom Deluca. The committee wanted to vote on this salary amount because no contract has been signed as of yet. Vote on 210-510-5112 Police Chief Salary \$57,901: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved on 510-5110 Personal Services \$736,534. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Adding 2 officers gives us a detective and a night shift--a third officer would keep the station open all the time. Paul Helmreich would like to see more policemen on the force and get the police station open all the time. Phil Zawasky, Chair commented on how it would help get industry interested in this area. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved police 210-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$62,692. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Training new officers takes 16 weeks--we pay them for this time even though they are not here to work. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 210-572 Out-of-State Travel for \$0. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

FIRE (220)

Bill Gouveia moved Personal Services-510 \$55,709. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote on 220-510-5112 for Fire Chief's Salary: 8 approve and 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Bill Gouveia moved \$836,840 to 220-510-5110 Personal Services. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Bill Gouveia moved \$0 to line item 511 Other Personal Services. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 8 approve and 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Bill Gouveia made a motion for line item 570 \$57,800. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Bill Gouveia made a motion for 220-579 Out-of-State Travel \$0. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 8 Approve and 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

EMERGENCY MEDICAL (230)

Bill Gouveia moved 230-570 for \$29,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. This will eventually come out of Medical Supplies. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT (241)

Bill Gouveia moved \$69,977 to Personal Services-510. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Jack Nicolas offered an amendment of \$61,314. Seconded by Mary Jo Hackett. Bill Gouveia feels we are restoring positions responsibly. This is a



situation where it cries out because there is so much paper work between permits and forms. Paul Helmreich does not agree with Jack Nicolas, he is comfortable using funds from recurring sources of revenue. He feels they are only using annual funds and these services will be covered in future years. Phil Zawasky, Chair stated this is a revenue generating department therefore, the more efficient it runs the more money it will bring in. Bill Gouveia stressed that we must stop concentrating on cutting the budget and concentrate on services. Vote on amendment of \$61,314: 2 in favor (Mary Jo Hackett and Jack Nicolas) and 7 opposed. Vote on \$69,977: 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Mary Jo Hackett and Jack Nicolas). Bill Gouveia moved \$500 into line item 241-520 Purchase of Services. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Bill Gouveia moved to Other Charges and Expenses (570) for \$5,450. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. The increase is for Assistant Inspectors. These people are authorized to do certain types of inspections. Vote: unanimous.

#### SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (244)

Bill Gouveia moved line 244-510 for \$250. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved line 244-570 for \$0. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

#### COMMUNICATIONS (290)

Bill Gouveia moved Personal Services 510 for \$128,838. Seconded by Tom Deluca. There was a great deal of discussion on how much free time the supervisor needs in order to catch up and do her supervising work. She feels she needs 5 days a week, our budget will allow her 2 days. She is the only supervisor who has to be tied to the keyboard for a period of time in her work day. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 290-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$40,260. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

#### DOG OFFICER (292)

Bill Gouveia moved Personal Services 510 for \$14,768. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Julia Sweet made an amendment for \$10,528. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Walter Lindberg commented that we cannot replace the deal we have with the dog officer. It costs a great deal of money to have a kennel. He is working with Mansfield about sharing a kennel. Vote on amendment of \$10,528: 4 in favor (Mary Jo Hackett, Julia Sweet, Tim Phelan and Jack Nicolas) and 5 opposed (Mike Fiore, Jackie Desrochers, Tom Deluca, Paul Helmreich and Bill Gouveia). Vote on figure of \$14,768: 5 in favor (Mike Fiore, Jackie Desrochers, Tom Deluca, Bill Gouveia and Paul Helmreich). 4 opposed (Mary Jo Hackett, Julia Sweet, Jack Nicolas and Tim Phelan). Bill Gouveia moved line 292-570 for Other Charges and Expenses for \$8,380. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved lines 571 and 579 for \$0. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Mary Jo Hackett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 pm. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

*Respectfully submitted, Patricia C. Mello, Recording Secretary*