

Town of Norton
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 25, 1994
Revised

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

Call to Order: 7:33 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

Old Business

Line item 141-520 on the FinCom explanation sheet should read revaluation and field assessment.

Jack Nicolas made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 13, 1994. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 6 in favor and 1 abstention (Donna Summerfield).

Tim Phelan made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 14, 1994. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 5 in favor and 2 abstentions (Donna Summerfield, and Jack Nicolas).

Water/Sewer budget: In Walter's recommendation there is an Account Clerk and adding a Technician but leaves the mechanic as half-Water and half-Sewer Department. It leaves a shift difference but not a personnel difference. The Article for the Special Town Meeting has a Foreman's position changing to an Assistant Superintendent--which will be a non-union position. There are 2 legal issues that have come up since February. There was a discussion on joining the Water and Sewer Departments together. This would cause higher rates---Water is put in by developers with Sewer--State and Federal funds have been used to put in sewer lines. Paul Helmreich moved to take line item 440 Sewer Department off the table. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved 440-510 for \$36,386. Seconded by Tim Phelan. This was tabled for a few minutes to clarify an issue.

Paul Helmreich moved 410-511 Other Personal Services for \$0. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved 440-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$113,100. Seconded by Michael Fiore. (Deletion of pick-up truck.) Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved 440-510 Personal Services for \$36,386. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. This would move a half-time person to Sewer. Vote: unanimous.

The total funds leftover at this point: \$154,894.

Jack Nicolas disagreed strongly with rising to the levy limit this year. He feels that the general consensus is that people do not want to pay for the future now, so he does not want to go up to the levy limit. Paul

Helmreich would like to see the leftover funds be put into the Capital Improvements Fund. There are going to be many needs for this Capital Improvements Fund. It is prudent fiscal management to put money into a savings account. There is a whole level of services that we haven't gotten to yet.

Jack Nicolas made a motion to recommend the budget as it is, without any changes. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Paul Helmreich amended the motion on the floor to place \$154,894 for Article 20--Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Paul Helmreich: When you have a chance to add to your reserve then you must add to it. It will then be there for you during tough years for operating costs.

Jack Nicolas argued that the budget has increased about 14% this year and that we are spending too much. Paul Helmreich argued back that we are not profligating spending, we are restoring services we have not had in a while--we are still behind in some of the services. Vote on the amendment: 4 in favor (Jackie Desrochers, Michael Fiore, Paul Helmreich and Tim Phelan) 2 opposed (Donna Summerfield and Jack Nicolas) and 1 abstention (Julia Sweet).

Vote on the main motion of \$154,894 to be placed in Article 20, Capital Improvements Fund--this may be adjusted before the Annual Town Meeting: 4 approve (Jackie Desrochers, Michael Fiore, Tim Phelan and Paul Helmreich), 2 opposed (Donna Summerfield and Jack Nicolas) and 1 abstention (Julia Sweet).

Paul Helmreich moved to recommend Article 19 for the sum of \$0. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to take Article 14 off the table. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved \$773,265.71. Seconded by Jackie Desrochers. Paul Helmreich moved to table this again. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Vote: 5 approved and 2 opposed (Tim Phelan, and Jack Nicolas).

Paul Helmreich moved Article 12 for \$12,000. Seconded by Michael Fiore. This is for updating 4 computers and 2 printers. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved \$247,000 to Article 11. Seconded by Jackie Desrochers. Jack Nicolas made a motion to accept \$14,000, Municipal Building/Parking Lot Resurfacing. Vote: 4 approved (Jackie Desrochers, Julia Sweet, Donna Summerfield, and Paul Helmreich) and 3 opposed (Mike Fiore, Jack Nicolas and Tim Phelan). Municipal Building/Handicapped Accessibility \$6,000. To lower countertops, appropriate signs, and some bathroom work. Vote: unanimous. Police Department/Cruiser \$18,500. Vote: unanimous. Police Department/Radio System \$40,000. High frequency radio system--2 base units, (1 communications, 1 police) 9 mobile and 6 portable for policemen. Vote: 5 in favor and 2 oppose (Jack Nicolas and Tim Phelan). Fire Department/Chief's Car \$18,500. Vote: unanimous. School Department/Asbestos Removal \$20,000. Vote: 5 approve and 1 abstention (Jack Nicolas). School Department/Mini-Bus \$30,000. Vote: unanimous. School Department/Two Vans \$40,000. Vote: unanimous. Highway Department/Roof Repair-Highway Garage

\$60,000. Costs \$5/sq.ft. to fix Highway garage roof. This is a Town owned building so we must repair the building. Vote: unanimous.

Jack Nicolas moved Article 18 for \$25,000. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous.

Donna Summerfield moved to adjourn. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary