



TOWN OF NORTON

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting
November 21, 1994

CALL TO ORDER: 7:33 p.m. by Chair, Jack Nicolas.

Roll Call: Jack Nicolas, Chair, Mike Fiore, Vice Chair, Tim Phelan, Julia Sweet, Michael Thomas, Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, and Paul Helmreich. **Absent:** Tom Deluca and Bill Gouveia. **Others Present:** Walter Lindberg, Town Manager, Selectmen Ron Almeida, Ken Zanoni and Patty Graney.

MINUTES

Fiore made a motion to accept the Minutes of October 12, 1994. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: 5 in favor and 1 abstention (Summerfield).

Fiore made a motion to accept the Minutes of October 24, 1994. Seconded by Summerfield. Vote: unanimous.

RECAP OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

There was a correction in the tax levy amount resulting in the tax rate coming in \$0.01 lower than last year. The Chairman ran through the numbers for the Selectmen at their October 27, 1994, meeting.

FREE CASH CERTIFICATION

Free cash was certified about two days before the meeting. This free cash is an amount certified for Fiscal Year 94 -- year ending June 30, 1994. You use this in planning for Fiscal Year 1996.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Chairman discussed creating a financial template - a working document- to help plan for the future. Thomas made a motion to move forward with this discussion. Seconded by Fiore. Vote: unanimous.

The Chairman expressed his ideas for broadening some of the categories that they will be working with. The Town Manager also suggested adding reserves, stabilization, and capital Improvements to the list.

Some areas that will be looked into to develop the plan will be: the capital projects list, population growth data, new growth data, and school data.

Selectman Ken Zaroni made a short presentation of his ideas that could help the Finance Committee.

The Chairman stressed that this project will be used only as a tool for the Finance Committee to help make decisions about capital improvements and other budget processes in the future. He would like the Committee to start working on the actual template that they can develop and update.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 28, 1994, at 7:30 p.m. at the Selectmen's Meeting Room. The agenda will be continued discussion and planning for the future of the Town.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

The Town Accountant, Muriel Robbins, came before the FINCOM requesting they transfer \$3,654.90 from the Reserve account to fund a part-time Account Clerk to work 12-18 hours per week for the rest of the fiscal year. There was a long discussion with the Town Accountant, the FINCOM, and the Selectmen who attended the meeting. A discussion on whether or not to use the "floater" in the Selectmen's office was also discussed at length.

Helmreich made a motion to have the Finance Committee move \$3,654.90 from the Reserve Account to fund the position. Seconded by Fiore. Phelan made an amendment to change the amount to \$2,358.00, this would be for 20 weeks. Seconded by Summerfield. Vote on the amendment: 1 in favor (Nicolas) and 7 opposed. Vote on the main motion: 4 in favor and 4 opposed. The motion failed for lack of a majority.

Helmreich made a motion to move \$600 from the Finance Committee Reserve Account to the Health-Animal Inspector account. Seconded by Fiore. Vote: unanimous. This money is to fund cages and a stungun--used more often now because of the higher incidence of rabid animals.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures Department requested \$1,500 for new weights because the old ones were not certifiable. Helmreich moved to TABLE this request until further information is available. Seconded by Fiore. Vote: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Fiore made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Phelan. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Mello

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Recording Secretary