



TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting
March 27, 1995

NORTON TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: 7:34 p.m. by Chair, Jack Nicolas.

Roll Call: Jack Nicolas, Chair, Mike Fiore, Vice-Chair, Tim Phelan, Tom Deluca, Michael Thomas, Bill Gouveia, Paul Helmreich, Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, and Julia Sweet. **Others Present:** Walter Lindberg, Town Manager.

MINUTES

Fiore made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 20, 1995. Seconded by Helmreich. Vote: 4 approve and 2 abstentions (Nicolas and Thomas).

NEW BUSINESS

Police (210): Request covers 2 additional patrolmen (1 of them is fully funded by a grant for 3 years), the other one will be annualized. This will give them a total of 20 police officers.

The police chief is recommending an expense budget of \$17,481, while the town manager is recommending \$4,800. The town manager would like to do more research on the filing system and computer update to see what would be best for the town--possibly an integrated system.

The grant funds will go to the general fund when it is received. The police chief is keeping his overtime budget the same as for last year with hopes that the new officers will reduce the need for overtime.

Under "Other charges and expenses" - Uniforms/clothing \$15,200: this includes \$50 increases in each officers allowance and includes the 2 new officers (this allowance goes up \$50 each year for 3 years as part of their contract).

The police department has requested money through the drug forfeiture account (money seized from drug raids) in order to fund the computers for the cruisers.

The salary budget is about \$32,000 overdrawn this year based on the disability of two officers and \$2,000 short under college expenses for an officer (over \$15,000 could be reimbursed from those figures). This money would have to go into the general fund. There are 14 weeks remaining they are trying to save \$300/week from overtime to cover themselves until the end of the fiscal year.

The police department and the town manager will be coming to the finance committee for a transfer from the reserve account. At the October town meeting they voted \$40,000 for the console update but the system ended up costing \$44,961.

Fire (220)

The fire department is requesting a budget total of \$1,177,763, while the town manager is recommending \$1,126,803---the town manager is not recommending hiring new firefighters in order to open the Chartley Station.

As of April 4, 1995, there will be a new firefighter to replace the firefighter that past away earlier this year. The department currently has 20 call firefighters. It is not possible to use them to man the Chartley station because of contractual agreements. The chief would like to open the Chartley station.


The overtime for this year at \$59,256 is already spent or will be used up by the end of the fiscal year. The chief predicts he will need a total of \$96,320 for overtime next year - that is \$37,000 more than last year's figure.

A committee member suggested there may be a time coming soon that we will have to open the Chartley station -- it will become a necessity -- and they should keep that as a mind-set.

Contingency funds were discussed because there are always things that come up -- people get sick, hurt unexpectedly etc... The finance committee reserve account could be used as the contingency keeper or they could build this into some budgets. The pros and cons of having this type of account was discussed further.

Emergency Medical (230): The request is for \$32,700. This is up \$1,100 for repair of equipment and vehicles. Office supplies are medical related office supplies. The new ambulance comes with 2 mobile phones, this is for EMS unit instead of a radio. Infectious disease control they must continue to meet qualifications and quality standards.

Fiore made a motion, seconded by Deluca, to adjourn. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.


Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary

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