



TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting
April 3, 1995

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08 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 27, 1995. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: 6 approved and 1 abstention (Helmreich).

NEW BUSINESS

Communications (290): The department is requesting a budget total of \$195,152, while the town manager is recommending a total of \$189,540. The key difference is that the communications department would like to add another full-time dispatcher bringing them to 4 dispatchers, a supervisor, and some part-timers. The town manager's projections use the part-time workers more often to fill in for sick time whereas the communications supervisor has found that full timers usually take the overtime.

There are salary increases of about \$3,400 due to contractual agreements with the A and B unions. If they hire a new dispatcher then they will go on a schedule of "4 on 2 off" much like the police department does. By hiring an extra dispatcher they would lose some flexibility but gain stability in the department.

The State is mandating 40 hours of basic training classes for all dispatchers along with another 40 hours of emergency medical classes. The training is to insure that all dispatchers (full or part-time) are well trained to handle emergency calls.

Under expenses \$5,000 is for voice mail and replacement equipment, the rest of the budget is the same as last year's.

Inspection Department (241): Personal Services has gone ^{down} ~~done~~ because there is a new building inspector and the secretary is no longer out on sick leave. There are adjustments for union contract costs. Mileage costs have gone up because in the past only one person was claiming it and now they are playing catch-up. The wiring and plumbing inspectors are the principal people that collect the mileage.

Sealer of Weights & Measures (244): The amount is staying the same as last year. Fees and fines were discussed.

Dog Officer (292): There is a contractual increase in the salary. The dog officer has to pay for the disposal of cats now, we did not have to pay in the past. The officer has a new van and a pager.

Tree Warden (294): Keeping the budget the same as last year. This money is used for advertising hearings, it is not a stipend.

S.E. Reg. Voc. Tech. (306): The decrease in the request is a function of a decrease in enrollment and not a decrease in tuition fees. Tuition last year was 75 students, next year it will be 68. There are no minimum quotas that have to be filled.

County Ag. (308): The school wants to charge back more to the communities. The increase this year is due to the charge back and not an increase in tuition. There are currently 12 students attending the school at \$640 each, next year it will be \$690/student.

Highway (420): There is a \$30,000 increase in the personal services line which is due in part to the absorption of the cemetery department last year. Two employees in the department passed probation and passed the CDL so they can drive the heavy trucks. Their salaries will now be brought up to the union contract salary range.

There is a new tipping fee of \$5,000 to dispose of trash, and \$3,000 for drug testing.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

- Solid Waste
- Library

ADJOURNMENT

Fiore made a motion, seconded by Deluca, to adjourn. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia C. Mello".

Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary