



## TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting  
February 5, 1996

NORTON TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:41 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

**Roll Call:** Michael Fiore, Chair; Michael Thomas, Vice-Chair; James Barrett, Thomas Deluca, Jackie Desrochers (8:10 p.m.), Paul Helmreich, Christine Meyer (8:10 p.m.), Jack Nicolas, Jonathan Rowe, and Donna Summerfield. **Absent:** Neil Linehan. **Others Present:** Walter Lindberg, Town Manager.

**MINUTES:** Helmreich made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 18, 1996. Seconded by Barrett. Vote: 8 in favor and 0 opposed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Snow Budget:** Our snow removal expenditures to date total \$93,109; our budget is \$55,000. The snow and ice bill which has already passed in the House, would provide us with an additional \$39,000 leaving us with a balance of \$900 in the budget.

**Tweave Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Study:** The town manager supplied the committee with a copy of a memo detailing questions the committee had concerning the plant. Water/Sewer Superintendent Dan Callahan was available to answer questions for the board. Helmreich moved to transfer \$7,500 from the reserve fund for the purpose of under taking this study. Seconded by Nicolas. Dan Callahan and the water/sewer commissioners feel this study is necessary and beneficial for the town. Vote: 6 in favor, 3 opposed (Deluca, Thomas, and Helmreich) and 1 abstention (Meyer).

**Special Town Meeting:** A special town meeting has been called for April 1, 1996. The selectmen may change that date to April 8, 1996.

**Debt Schedule:** Lindberg composed a four page document highlighting a debt schedule from 1997-2006; a levy capacity worksheet, tax levy limitation worksheet, and budget projections through the year 2003. The budget project sheet results showed that we could build the new

school, fix the town hall and by the Jackson property without going over budget. We could also do this without capping stabilization, without touching free cash, and without capping capital improvements. The finance committee members discussed and asked questions of Dr. Maurice Splaine, Superintendent of Schools, and the town manager. The bottom line -- we can afford to fund these 3 projects without needing an override.

The largest growth in the schools is at the elementary school level. A facility use study was done for \$15,000 and the result was an assessment that we build a middle school, renovate the high school, and renovate the current middle school as an elementary school. School Committee Chair, Maureen Gendrolius presented the reasons why the school committee is committed to filing the application for a new school this year instead of waiting until next year, which was their original plan.

The finance committee discussed some of the other outstanding projects that would have to be taken into consideration; the municipal building, the police station, and the Chartley fire station. These are future projects that will need to be funded as well.

Some of the committee members were concerned about why we need a special meeting. What is the actual need? What will the articles be? The selectmen will be discussing their priorities more at their meeting on Thursday. The selectmen have not decided if the Jackson property will be on the special town meeting warrant. The school committee does not need a designated school site to submit their application in June but they will need site approval by July so that the application can be approved by the State.

Fiore, Nicolas, Helmreich and any other interested committee members will be getting together to update their Project 2000 figures.

The special warrant should be ready on Wednesday, February 21, 1996. The Annual Town Meeting is June 3, warrant closes March 5, 1996, at 4:30 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Leonard Silvia, by-law review committee member, would like the finance committee to review their by-law (see handout) and report any changes they would like to see made.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 21, 1996, 7:30 p.m., Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Nicolas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

*Patricia C. Mello*  
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Recording Secretary