



# TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting  
March 18, 1996

NORTON TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:33 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

**Roll Call:** Michael Fiore, Chair; Michael Thomas, Vice-Chair; Thomas Deluca, Jackie Desrochers, Paul Helmreich, Cornelius Linehan, Christine Meyer, Jack Nicolas, Jonathan Rowe, and Donna Summerfield. **Absent:** James Barrett.

## **MINUTES**

Thomas made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 11, 1996. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: 5 in favor and 3 abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY '97 Budget Review**

**Selectmen (122):** The difference between this year's budget and next year's is a 5% increase for the secretary. Deluca moved \$24,835 for Selectmen 122-570, Other Personal Services. Seconded by Nicolas. Vote: 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Nicolas), and 1 abstention (Helmreich).

Deluca moved \$13,425 for Selectmen 122-579, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: 9 in favor and 1 abstention (Helmreich).

The sealer of weights and measurers made a presentation to the committee stating his reasons for increasing the department budget from \$250 to \$1,500. He stated that the \$250 does not pay for expenses. He stated that the 3 gas stations alone can take approximately 3 days each to certify. All the scales in town must be certified every year. If the sealer has a problem with an establishment then he calls in the State and they take care of fining the establishment. There are about 85 scales in the town, not including pumps that have to be certified. The sealer gets a flat fee for the whole year, this includes his mileage.

Town Manger (123): He is still waiting to get evaluations from the selectmen regarding his increase.

Finance Committee (131): Deluca moved \$6,400 for line item 131-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Reserve Account (132): Helmreich moved \$100,000 for line item 132-502, Reserve Account; seconded by Linehan. The committee discussed the problems that arise from having a large sum of money in the reserve account. Vote: 8 in favor and 2 opposed (Summerfield and Rowe).

Accounting (135): Deluca moved \$83,330 for line item 135-510, Personal Services; seconded by Nicolas. This includes 5% for the town accountant, assistant town accountant and clerk. Nicolas made a motion, seconded by Deluca, to TABLE account 135. Vote: unanimous.

Deluca made a motion, seconded by Thomas to TABLE Assessors (141). Vote: unanimous.

Legal Services (151): The town pays a flat fee of \$50,000 and are using no outside legal services so the town manager is comfortable with this amount. Nicolas moved \$75,000 for Legal Services 151-520, Purchase of Services. Seconded by Deluca. Helmreich moved to keep it at \$100,000; seconded by Linehan. This is because he feels that there is always a case that comes up that ends up needing outside counsel (i.e. liability case). Vote on amendment of \$100,000: 4 in favor (Helmreich, Thomas, Linehan, Myer), 5 opposed and 1 abstention (Summerfield). Vote on original motion of \$75,000: 8 in favor, 1 opposed (Linehan) and 1 abstention (Summerfield).

Data Processing (155): The \$3,000 increase includes an increase in licensing fees. Linehan made a motion to support Data Processing 155-570, Other Charges and Expenses for \$26,000; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Tax Foreclosure (158): Helmreich moved \$50,000 for item 158-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Election Registration (162): Helmreich moved \$400 for line item 162-510, Personal Services; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Thomas moved \$15,950 for 162-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Linehan. This number reflects the increase in the number of elections that will take place in FY '97. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas moved \$0 for 162-579, Other Expenses; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

SERPEDD (176): Helmreich moved \$2,140 for 176-560, Assessment; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Zoning Board of Appeals (177): Helmreich moved \$1,800 for 177-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Linehan. Vote: unanimous.



Town Reports (195): Nicolas moved \$4,500 for 195-520, Purchase of Services; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas read to the committee a statement he will have included in the 1995-1996 Town Report regarding the finance committee.

Postage (199): Helmreich moved \$24,000 for 199-520, Purchase of Services; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Sealer of Weights and Measures (244): Linehan moved \$1,500 for line item 244-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Dog Officer (292): Nicolas moved \$15,260 for 292-510, Personal Services; seconded by Linehan. Helmreich moved to TABLE; seconded by Thomas. There are some changes that may take place in the next few years that the committee should know about. Nicolas and Linehan withdrew the motion.

Tree Warden (294): Nicolas moved \$300 for 294-570, Other Charges & Expenses; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

School Cafeteria (302): Deluca moved \$0 for 302-571, Operating Expenses; seconded by Nicolas. This has been incorporated into the school budget. Vote: unanimous.

Street Lighting (425): Nicolas moved \$58,500 for 425-520, Purchase of Services; seconded by Deluca. The town manager feels this should be sufficient for any new streets. Helmreich wanted to wait on this vote. Vote: 5 in favor and 5 opposed (Helmreich, Linehan, Thomas, Deluca, and Summerfield). Linehan made a motion, seconded by Thomas, to TABLE account 425-520. Vote: unanimous.

Nicolas suggested having the solid waste advisory committee come before the board and make a presentation to the committee.

Cemetery (491): Nicolas moved \$0 for 491-510, Personal Services; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas moved \$0 for 491-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Public Health Nurse (522): The increase in this budget is for inoculations. Nicolas moved \$4,015 for 522-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Veterans Agent (543): Helmreich moved \$11,276 for 543-510, Personal Services; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved 543-570, Other Charges & Expenses for \$508; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved \$80,000 for 543-579, Other Expenses; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Maturing Debt (711): Helmreich moved \$0 for 711-520, Purchase of Services; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous. Other Charges & Expenses include banking charges, permanent debt and short term debt. Nicolas moved \$250,295 for 711-570, Other Charges & Expenses;

seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas move \$1,500 for 711-579, Other Expenses; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas moved \$600,000 for 711-590, Debt Service; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Interest (750): Nicolas moved \$80,000 for 750-590, Debt Service; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Unemployment (911): Helmreich moved \$12,000 for 911-570, Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Deluca. The account is getting low in funds. Vote: unanimous.

### **NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

- Budget Review

Monday, March 25, 1996

- Bond Counsel
- School Committee

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Deluca made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Summerfield. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.



Patricia C. Mello  
Recording Secretary