

# TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Minutes of the Meeting  
March 25, 1996

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant (7:00 p.m.)**

Article 1 has been agreed on for \$6,000. The town manager advised the committee that they will be authorizing the expenditure from an existing road account.

**New Middle School Building Committee** Re: Article 5 (7:00 p.m. special) and Article 1 (8:00 p.m. special). In attendance were: Gene Boyle, Town Moderator; Jill Clark, Collector/Treasurer; Maureen Pochello from State Street Bank; Jerry Haley from State Street Bank; Margaret Myers, School Committee member; and Maureen Gendrolis, School Committee Chairwoman.

Margaret Myers made a presentation to the committee stating the actions which have led up to this point and what is going on now.

In February they chose the architectural firm and have been busy ever since finding out what surveys must be done in order to complete the application forms (topographical surveys, waste treatment, traffic design studies, etc.). The project committee has designed an informative brochure which will be sent to all households in Norton before the town meeting in order to help educate citizens on all the issues and answering questions about the school project.

Ed Frenette of Symmes, Maini and McKee Associates (SMMA) made a visual presentation to the committee using design plans for both the Jackson property and the Barrows Street land. They configured an L-shaped building that will fit on both properties. The Barrows Street building will be a three story building with athletic fields in the back of the property. The Jackson Nursery site

has more useable land. The Jackson Nursery architects are eager to work with SSMA because it helps both of them to get more precise plans for the town meeting.

Committee members asked many questions including one regarding a waste treatment plant. It will cost between \$400,000 and \$600,000 to build a plant for the school and an additional cost of \$40,000/year to run the plant.

Jerry Haley spoke on behalf of the financing of the projects and bond issues. The town would start with short term borrowing then go to long term financing after 3-5 years. The town is allowed to borrow short term for 5 years. State reimbursement will probably start 3-5 years into the project. Level Principle Payment and Level Debt Service were discussed as acceptable ways of making payments.

Nicolas made a motion, seconded by Thomas, to take Article 5 off of the table. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved that they recommend Article 5 as worded in a memo\* from the town manager, to build a middle school for \$21,800,000. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

*\*Finance Committee Recommendation: The committee unanimously voted that twenty-one million, eight hundred thousand dollars (\$21,800,000) be appropriated for the purpose of constructing, equipping and furnishing a new middle school and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer is authorized to borrow twenty-one million, eight hundred thousand dollars (\$21,800,000) under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended; and that the School Committee shall appoint a School Building Committee, which shall be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out the project; and that pursuant to G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 19 all or any portion of the bonds issued under Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 may be issued on a level debt service basis as determined by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen.*

Nicolas made a motion to take Article 1 of the 8:00 p.m. Special off the table; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas asked if the committee can make a motion to recommend how they should finance the purchase. The answer was no. Nicolas moved to approve Article 1 as written\*. Seconded by Thomas. Nicolas' preference is that they try to take the bite in the early years. Deluca disagreed and said we should hang on to as much money as possible especially not knowing what the interest rates will be. Vote: 10 in favor and 1 abstention (Summerfield).

*\*Finance Committee Recommendation: The committee voted in favor that One million, four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) be appropriated for the purpose of acquiring and making site improvements to a parcel of land consisting of 77.86 acres, more or less, as shown on a plan dated April 28, 1995, described as Assessors Map 22, Parcel 22, and Assessors Map 22, Parcel 180, known as the Jackson Nursery, at 217 West Main Street, with the intention to use the land for park and recreational uses and other municipal and school uses, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer is authorized to borrow One million, four hundred thousand*



*dollars (\$1,400,000) under Chapter 44 of the General Laws; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out the project.*

Deluca made a motion to take Article 2 of the 7:00 p.m. Special off the table; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Deluca moved to authorize expenditure of \$6,000 for the taking of a piece of property; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

The committee decided to hear the petitioners for Article 2 of the 8:00 p.m. Special town meeting warrant.

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

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

- Town Accountant
- Police

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Nicolas made a motion, seconded by Deluca, to adjourn. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

*Patricia C. Mello*

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Recording Secretary