



TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
April 17, 1996

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: 7:35 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

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

Absent: Cornelius Linehan and Michael Thomas.

NEW BUSINESS

Water/Sewer Department (440): Salaries in the water department are based on union contracts with the exception of the superintendent. The superintendent is asking for a 5% raise. Superintendent Dan Callahan reviewed the water budget for the committee.

They are increasing their education funds from \$4,000 to \$6,000 so that they can educate more about the sewer. Distribution operators all attend class to keep in compliance. Tank and well maintenance has gone up 75% because they are budgeting for tank repairs before emergencies occur.

The water rates will be remaining the same this year.

Sewer Budget: Repair and maintenance on vehicles will be down by \$1,000. Engineering has increased for unforeseen circumstances that may happen with the wells. Chemicals budget has been reduced by \$2,500. The chlorine will be reduced because it does not provide enough of a benefit.

They are budgeting approximately \$124,000 for Norton's use of Mansfield's sewerage treatment plant. This is basically the same amount as last year. The sewer department has paid every bill that they have received from Mansfield on time and in full. A few weeks ago we paid our encumbrance but it may have been \$12,000 short; this is because we were never billed for this before. This bill was then forwarded to BayBank Middlesex because it is their bill for their property. The town has not received payment to date.

Mansfield is seeking collections dating back to 1990. The bill is \$86,000 for FY '96 (\$12,000 which is the town's share of the bill, \$74,000 is BayBank's).

The Tweave study has not come in yet so Callahan did not want to comment on the subject. He did say that he thought the report would be favorable.

The water/sewer department will have 8 Articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. One of the Articles will be to cover the \$86,000 debt to Mansfield for FY '96. One of the articles will be a zoning article continued from last year (delineate Zones 1, 2, and 3) which involved accepting a by-law with zoning changes. Two of the articles will deal with the purchase and renovating of the Barrowsville Fire Station and the necessary funds. An article will request from capital improvements a utility truck for \$80,000. This truck carries all the equipment for emergency repairs; it is state of the art. The actual cost of the truck will be \$67,000 - they submitted the article before they knew the price of the vehicle.

The sewer department is expecting a surplus of about \$150,000 this year.

Nicolas suggested the superintendent send the committee a breakdown of what the sewer department will be getting for the \$350,000 in repairs and reconstruction to the Barrowsville Fire Station.

Well #6 should be on-line on May 22, 1996.

OLD BUSINESS

Deluca asked for an explanation of the closing of the Special Town Meeting on April 8, 1996, without allowing the petitioners to move their article. The committee discussed at length the events and circumstances that occurred at the end of the meeting. Ways to prevent this from happening again was also discussed. On Monday, April 29, 1996, the selectmen will be meeting with the planning board to discuss the town's growth and the issues that are affected by the growth. The petitioner has been kept informed about the "growth management meeting" which she is welcome to attend.

Sewer Department (440): Line item 510 Personal Services should read \$39,314 not \$37,697. The bottom line should be \$199,939. Deluca made a motion to approve line item 440-510 for \$39,314; seconded by Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Deluca moved line item 440-511 for \$0; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Deluca moved 440-570, Other Charges and Expenses for \$160,625; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Library (610): Deluca moved \$221,000 for 610-570 Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Nicolas. The chairman agreed with this amount. This was discussed by the committee. Helmreich made an amendment to \$235,019; seconded by Summerfield. Vote on amendment: 4 in favor and 5 opposed. The amendment failed. Vote on main motion of \$221,000: 6 in favor and 3 opposed.

Fire (220): Deluca moved the figure \$1,104,819 for 220-510; seconded by Nicolas. The committee discussed the chief's request for opening Chartley station and hiring 4 new half-year positions. Deluca amended the figure to \$1,107,863, according to the town manager's recommendation; seconded by Nicolas. Vote on amendment: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Summerfield). Deluca moved 220-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$86,800; seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Emergency Medical (230): Helmreich moved \$34,700 for account 230-570 Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

The town manager reviewed the remaining accounts that the committee has not yet voted and the outstanding issues that prevent them from being completed at this time. Many of the accounts are waiting for union contracts to be negotiated.

MISCELLANEOUS

The town manager reminded the committee that a public hearing should be scheduled for some time in May. This hearing is usually done in conjunction with the school committee.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Monday, April 22, 1996

- Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Board of Health
- S.E.R. Budget with Charles McDonald

ADJOURNMENT

Deluca made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Barrett. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary