



TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting
April 22, 1996

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: 7:42 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

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

MINUTES

Thomas made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 3, 1996. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Barrett).

Thomas made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 8, 1996. Seconded by Barrett. Vote: 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Meyer).

Barrett made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 17, 1996. Seconded by Helmreich. Vote: 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Thomas).

NEW BUSINESS

Rubbish (433): Colleen Guigas, Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) handed out a report showing the progress of the town's trash/recycling program. She made a presentation to the committee pointing out the program's strengths and weaknesses. For the program to be self-sufficient they needed 75-80% participation but to date only have 65% participation. They will be asking the town for support for FY '97. This year the town supported the program with \$80,000; for FY '97 they will be requesting \$20,000 to support the program. Another \$20,000 will be raised by increasing the annual service charge from \$75 to \$84.

The reasons they believe the program has struggled to get more people to join are: change is difficult for some people, they have been sued twice since the program started, and they have had to strive to go from 8-9 trash haulers down to one. They also initially anticipated that the program would be mandatory for people to join. This did not prove to be the case. Billing was an obstacle. Abatements are a nightmare.

The contract with Waste Management is a 3 year contract with the possibility of a 2 year extension. Norton received a Grade A for recycling 48% of their waste. This score is one of the highest in the State.

Colleen reviewed the financial report that SWAC prepared. They are committed to the program because they feel it works and the people who use it, like it. They have worked with the town manager to come up with a realistic solution. They will raise the fixed fee amount to \$84 (a \$9 increase). They feel the bag fee is far too vulnerable to play around with raising the costs.

The finance committee asked many questions of Guigas and discussed the future of the program despite its success.

Solid Waste Advisory (436): \$5,500 is for the person who runs the oil waste site, scrap metal site, and compost site.

Bill Meuller, Chairman of the board of health answered questions for the committee. Under Sanitary Landfill (438) the budget has gone up for testing of the landfill for migrating gases (this is in part to receive our \$350,000 from the State). As of April 12, 1996, the State has made it mandatory to have a gas monitoring detection system and to monitor leach aid. Of the \$12,624 requested, \$3,700 will be a recurring expense each year.

Board of Health (510): The department request is for \$75,669. The health agents split 25 hours each. They are increasing the secretary's hours to 35/week. The public health nurse's salary rate has been raised significantly to keep up with surrounding towns. Her hours will increase by 1 1/2 (from 16 to 17 1/2) and her hourly rate will be raised \$3/hour. The secretary's position will be raised from \$8.21/hour to \$8.88/hour as part of a contract settlement. They are dropping their request for \$5,000 for a hazardous waste collection because the town manager will be requesting this amount on an article at town meeting.

S.E.R. Voc. Tec. (306): The town manager's estimate of \$165,000 was high. The hard figure for next year is \$148,189.

OLD BUSINESS

Adjustments

The town manager requested that the FinCom reconsider line item 122-570 because they voted the budget before the clerical union was done negotiating their contract. Lindberg would like the secretary's salary be adjusted to reflect the union agreement.

The highway superintendent is requesting a 5% raise in salary bringing his salary from \$42,800 to \$46,225. Under Other Charges and Expenses the \$3,100 is the annual membership to SERSG. There will also be a union increase.

Line item 910 Employee Benefits - Social Security and Medicare will need an additional \$10,000 added to the budget bringing 910-570 up to \$60,000.

Selectmen (122): Helmreich made a motion to reconsider 122-570; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved \$25,540 for 122-570 to adjust secretary's salary according to the union agreement (this is an 8% increase). Vote: unanimous.

Town Clerk (161): Helmreich moved \$25,136 for line item 161-510 Personal Services; seconded by Thomas. This is a 5% increase. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved \$29,931 for 161-511 Other Personal Services; seconded by Thomas. This is the result of a union contract settlement. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved \$500 for 161-520 Purchase of Services; seconded by Barrett. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved \$1,710 for 161-570 Other Charges and Expenses; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

S.E.Reg. Voc. Tech. (306): Helmreich moved \$148,189 for 306-560 Assessment; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

County Ag. (308): Helmreich moved 308-560 Assessment for \$9,660; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Highway (420): Helmreich moved 420-510 Personal Services for \$267,346; seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved 420-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$122,425; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved 420-580 Capital Outlay for \$80,000; seconded by Thomas. This is for local road repair. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved 420-581 Capital Improvements for \$3,000; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Rubbish Collection (433): Helmreich moved 433-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$330,000; seconded by Thomas. Helmreich made a friendly amendment stating "with the understanding that the town's contribution budget on this is \$20,000". Seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Solid Waste Advisory (436): Helmreich moved 436-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$5,500; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Sanitary Landfill (438): Helmreich made a motion, seconded by Deluca, to approve 438-570 Other Charges and Expenses for \$12,624. Vote: unanimous.

Helmreich moved to reconsider Employee Benefits (910) line item 570 Other Charges and Expenses. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved 910-570 for \$60,000. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous.

Desrochers moved to reconsider Finance Committee (131) line item 570 Other Charges and Expenses. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Desrochers requested reconsideration to give the secretary a 5% raise. Deluca made a motion, seconded by Thomas, to raise the

secretary's pay to \$8.88/hour to have parity with the other secretaries. This is an 8% increase.
Vote: unanimous.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

- School Committee presentation of school budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Thomas made a motion, seconded by Barrett, to adjourn. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.



Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary