



# TOWN OF NORTON

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE TOWN HALL, NORTON

SEP 10 1996

NORTON TOWN CLERK

Minutes of the Meeting  
September 4, 1996

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:40 pm by Chair Michael Thomas

Present: James Barrett, Tom Deluca, Jackie Desrochers, Mike Fiore, Paul Helmreich, Christine Meyer, Jack Nicolas, Jonathan Rowe, Donna Summerfield, Michael Thomas

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**Police Chief, Benton Keene** was present to discuss the possibility of charging Norton residents for excessive false alarms. Every time an alarm comes into the station, 2 cruisers are sent to the scene. **Chief Keene** noted that approximately 75% of the alarms coming in are of a false nature. His original proposal was to charge a fee of \$25 for any residence experiencing false alarms in excess of 3 times per year. False alarms caused by severe weather conditions such as hurricanes would not count against the total of 3 per year allowed. **Paul Helmreich** questioned the total allowable number of 3. He feels it is too low. Chief Keene agreed to research the average number of false alarms caused by residents.

**Chief Keene** requested 2 Articles be in the September 30, 1996 Fall Annual Town Meeting which would accommodate the hiring of 2 additional officers to the Norton Police Force. The addition of 2 officers would bring the total number of police officers in the town up to 23, which is 2 less officers than the town had in 1990. Monies requested are to include \$44,200 for salaries and \$8,100 for expenses.

**The Norton Police Department**, represented by **Police Chief, Benton Keene; Sergeant, Matthew Crowe; Officer Michael McKenney; and Michael Wynn**, Dispatcher, was present to propose the building of a new police station. Norton's present facility consists of 6,000 square feet - the new facility will consist of 12,000 square feet. **Chief Keene** pointed out that under the present conditions, 2 of the 6 cells allocated for adults are used for other purposes - one of which is used as a rest room. Norton has no facilities for female officers, which is a matter the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will not be pleased about, according to **Chief Keene**. **Chief Keene** is asking for \$125,000 to do planning and design of the new facility. The total cost of the new police station is estimated at \$1.9M  $\pm$  5% (includes the \$125,000 for design). **Paul Helmreich** asked if some use could be made of the existing building. **Maximilian Ferro**, Managing Partner representing the firm of The Preservation Partnership (the proposed architect

for the new building), suggested the old building be renovated and turned into offices for the town hall. Two sites have been proposed for the new police station - one of which is in front of the Public Works building and another site which is located down a little ways from the Norton Library. The cost of renovations is not included in the \$1.9M. **Mike Fiore** asked how long the new building would support the needs of the town. **Mr. Ferro** feels 25-30 years is a realistic time frame. **Sergeant Matthew Crowe** invited the Committee to come and visit the present police station and see for themselves the existing problems and the potential for more problems. **Officer Michael McKenney** stated that service has increased in the town. He said the booking room is filled with equipment and that officers have been assaulted as a result of the present conditions. **Officer McKenney** feels safer in his cruiser than he does in the existing station. **Tom Deluca** is concerned that when we get to town meeting, we will be looking for more money. **Mr. Ferro**, the architect, says we will not. **Tom Deluca** also feels we should be looking at the whole \$1.9M - not just the \$125,000 to do the designs. **Paul Helmreich** feels we need to go to the town with the whole picture. **Jack Nicolas** feels we should only look at the \$125,000 in case situations change when we get to town meeting.

**MOTION** by Mike Fiore to have Mike Thomas, Chairman; and Paul Helmreich sign all accounts payable and payroll forms on behalf of the Finance Committee.

**VOTED** unanimously in favor

A draft of various Articles to be included in the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, September 30, 1996 were discussed as follows:

**Article 1**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount of \$2,500 for the purpose of maintaining and repairing the Aquatic Weed Harvester.

**Selectman Gouveia** suggested we give the weed harvester to the Winnecunnet Association. They have been caring for the equipment all along. It is too sensitive a piece of machinery to move; therefore it would not make sense to lend it out to other towns as was part of the original purchase agreement. He feels giving it to the Winnecunnet Association would be cheaper in the long run. **Town Manager Walter Lindberg** suggested we ask the Conservation Commission why the article is on the Warrant. He will try to get them to come to the September 11 meeting.

**Article 2**

Does not belong on the Warrant

**Article 3**

To see if the Town will appropriate the amount of \$10,000 for the purpose of funding a Water/Sewer Emergency Response amendment to the Union Contracts.

**Article 4**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate funds in the amount of \$420,000 for the purpose of designing a sewer system for the Lake Winnecunnet, Plain St., South Washington St., and Hill St. areas of the Town

**Walter Lindberg** suggests it will cost \$7M to build a sewer system **Tom Deluca** stated this amount would cost each household approximately \$17,500. **Walter Lindberg** stated the aforementioned monies do not allow for a site for dumping materials. He also stated that the Mansfield Plant is not available. **Bill Gouveia** feels we should pursue sewers, but not stick to one part of town. **Jack Nicolas** suggested a coordinated financial plan be presented. He feels we cannot support this article - it is not the whole picture.

**Article 5**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate funds in the amount of \$250,000 for a town wide sewer study (not a design plan).

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Donna Summerfield to adjourn meeting and was seconded by Jack Nicolas. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

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**NEXT MEETING: Monday, September 9, 1996 @ 7:30pm**

**Agenda:**      **Master Plan Study**  
                 **Water & Sewer**  
                 **Taunton Petitions**

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 11, 1996 @ 7:30pm**

**Agenda:**      **Conservation Commission**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
**Christine McSweeney**  
**Secretary, Finance Committee**