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**TOWN OF NORTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 1, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m. by Chair, Paul Helmreich

Present: Donald Brown, Michael Fiore, William Gouveia, Paul Helmreich, Donna Summerfield, and Michael Thomas. Philip Zawasky arrived at 7:50 p.m. and Jacqueline Desrochers arrived at 8:15 p.m. John Luti, was absent.

MINUTES

There were no minutes to review.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Members of the Board of Assessors were present. Discussion on Article 12: Figure of \$92,400 for reval and additional service of \$7,500 to appraise personal property. Ms. Linda Libbey was introduced as new assessor since February 2002. The Board of Assessors are working with a professional company to arrive at accurate figures in Norton. Ms. Libbey will explain to businesses what personal property actually is.

Mr. Gouveia questioned if this task would be worth doing? The Board of Assessors said they would get a clean database and start fresh. Mr. Helmreich said he thought they should be doing this and have professional service do it for a more accurate database and less future problems. He said he thought it was a worthwhile expenditure. The Board of Assessors were thanked by the Finance Commission for coming in.

WORKSHEET DATED 4/1/02

Mr. Helmreich said he and Mr. McCabe reviewed 4/1/02 Worksheet and concurred on it. He said the new revenue figures would be \$37,116,170. Mr. Helmreich reviewed Worksheet with Committee.

Discussion ensued on increase of health insurance and majority of school employees (about 2/3) with health insurance. Mr. Helmreich proposed \$52,900 less to school committee. Discussion continued on school funding/budget.

Discussion centered on a proposed 10% cut in state aid.

Mr. Helmreich said he has no problem going to Town Meeting using amount for stabilization. Discussion on stabilization fund ensued.

Mr. Helmreich spoke of possibility of no increases to unions. Selectmen Kimball said 10% factor is real number Town should be striking for, however, numbers are still preliminary. He said Fire Dept. is only union that is ratified. Discussion on cuts ensued.

The Cherry Sheet was discussed. Mr. McCabe said it appeared no one would touch the lottery. Mr. McCabe stated a 10% cut for other towns is not that big.

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(Revised by Christine McSweeney per Paul Helmreich's comments)

MOTION was made by Mr. Gouveia that we go to Town Meeting with budget with 5% red in state aid with intent of funding 5% with monies from stabilization and with cuts we have currently shown. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Gouveia said the Finance Committee should talk to new moderator for clarification of passing by 2/3; possibly another way to do it.

MOTION was made by Mr. Brown that School Dept. should be given new number but should also understand caveats and it hit with additional cuts, they need to be prepared. Also, to inform School Dept that target numbers were lowered by \$52,394. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous; except for Ms. Summerfield voting in opposition. **MOTION CARRIES.**

As a result of further discussion, Mr. Helmreich indicated that he would request the Town Manager and the School Supt. To prepare impact statements regarding Town Government and the School System, should the Town fail to transfer the proposed funds from the Stabilization Account.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Helmreich asked Mr. McCabe to schedule Planning Board to come before Finance Committee on April 17th.

Finance Committee still needs to hear from Southeaster Regional

School Committee to come in on April 10th

Mr. Gouveia asked about ballot questions. Mr. Helmreich said as far as he knew the Finance Committee did not need to take a position. Discussion ensued. Mr. McCabe offered to get an Opinion from Town Counsel regarding the ballot issue.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to adjourn at 9:00pm. Second by Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Janet Sweeney

Substitute Recording Secretary to the Finance Committee

Edited by:

Christine McSweeney

Secretary to the Finance Committee