

TOWN OF NORTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
April 3, 2002

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30pm by Chair, Paul Helmreich

Present: Paul Helmreich, Donald Brown, Donna Summerfield, Mike Fiore, Jackie Desrochers, Bill Gouveia, John Luti, Philip Zawasky, Mike Thomas

Absent:

MINUTES

There were no minutes to review.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Helmreich said he spoke to Superintendent DeMoura regarding April 1 actions and Dr. DeMoura understood actions, etc.

School Committee invited to attend April 10th Finance Committee meeting as well as Southeastern Regional (Mr. Hagar) to be present.

Tentative schedule was reviewed: no meeting on Patriot's Day; Planning Board to be in on April 17th.

WORKSHEET

Mr. Helmreich stated budget figure = \$37,116,170 Town Goal Target = \$12,221,602; School Target = \$20,179,793.

Mr. McCabe referenced ballot question and said he spoke to Counsel and was told it was not FinCom's responsibility. Mr. Helmreich said the Committee could discuss it if they wanted to spend time discussing the ballot question. Basically creating a fund, including but not limited to, purchase of land for Conservation and Recreation and could be funded up to 55%- matched by State.

McCabe said a summary by Town Counsel was prepared and he would provide the Committee a copy of that.

After discussion, Mr. Helmreich said the Committee could reserve some time to discuss at a future meeting.

SCHOOL BUDGET INFO

Mr. McCabe indicated that health insurance was a big expense; \$531,000 difference between last year and this year. Mr. McCabe said it seemed to him there was no problem meeting net school spending for next year and at most will be \$1.3M more. Discussion followed.

Mr. Helmreich stated the need to provide guidelines on "impact statement" to Town Manager and Superintendent and how is it apportioned; he said they could possibly do a 60/40 split.

Mr. McCabe asked the Committee to reconsider figure and subtract lottery. Mr. Helmreich said he was not sure if members would agree to that at this point.

Mr. Helmreich said Dr. DeMoura asked what percentage of \$698,000 he'd be responsible for; possibly 60/40. Mr. Helmreich asked Committee how many would support guidelines to Town Manager and Superintendent at 60/40 split re: \$698,000 school figure (informal question). Committee agreed to this split

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SCHOOL BUDGET INFO (cont'd)

Mr. Helmreich said he would like final action on proposal for budget reductions submitted to Committee of \$403,519 and asked if there were any amendments at this time. Mr. McCabe said no, not at the present time.

Mr. Helmreich referred to sheet on budget reductions and Committee reviewed sheet.

MOTION was made by Ms. Summerfield to reduce budget according to the proposed FY03 General Government Budget Restrictions, level funded state aid. Second by Mr. Fiore, Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Helmreich told Mr. McCabe it appeared the library reduction was counted twice; he said this means there is no change to library budget. The final figure should be \$396,072, with the library deleted from total.

MOTION was made by Ms. Summerfield to amend the figure previously voted to \$396,072, with library deleted. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. McCabe indicated that another \$50,411 had been added for Unemployment.

POSTAGE

Mr. McCabe said postage has a 3% increase effective new fiscal year but pre-sort to be considered at 3% as well. Mr. McCabe explained figure increases on postage = \$29,476.

MOTION was made by Ms. Summerfield to amend postage account to \$29,476. Second by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

MATURING DEBT

Mr. McCabe explained that a small additional sum may be needed. He said if the Committee can wait until the next FinCom meeting, he can advise specifically on this.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL

This figure goes from \$383,334 to \$404,841. The Regional Agricultural School assessment for next year will be level-funded \$14,210 with 14 Norton students. He said Mr. Hager will come in for April 10th for Southeastern Regional School. Mr. Helmreich said Southeastern Regional's total budget is up 12.08%

WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. McCabe said Article 2, Unpaid Bills, has no figure yet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Helmreich spoke of letter received from Chief Finch re: elimination of patrolman's position and said the Committee should have been copied on this letter as well.

Article 3: Chapter 90 Funds

Mr. McCabe referenced Article 3 = \$135,401.69

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to approve Article 3 = \$135,401.69. second by Mr. Brown. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

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Article 4: Salary Plan

Mr. McCabe said some of the recommended changes aimed at including 3% pay raises for non-union employees.

Mr. Helmreich said maybe this was not needed at the moment and questioned if it was a meaningful range. Discussion ensued.

Mr. McCabe said his objective was to amend classification and looked at low range to make it more realistic, however, maybe timing not right at moment.

Mr. Helmreich said "Office Administrator" should be underlined. Mr. McCabe agreed and said it was an oversight. Mr. McCabe said it was not in their best interest to go forward with this Article at this time and would suggest/assume move as no action at this time.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to move no action on article 4. Second by Mr. Fiore.
Vote: 4 in favor of Article; Mr. Helmreich voted in opposition; and Mr. Brown abstaining.**

Article 8: Board of Health Revolving Account

Mr. McCabe stated this was a very inactive account.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 8. Second by Mr. Fiore.
Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 9 re: Hazmat

Mr. McCabe said one firefighter involved and when accident occurs, he goes out.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 9. Second by Mr. Fiore.
Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES**

Article 10

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to move no action on Article 10. Second by Mr. Fiore.
Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 11: Quinn Bill

Mr. McCabe said the Board of Selectmen are proposing no action on this Article. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to move no action on Article 1. Second by Mr. Fiore.
Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES**

Article 12

Mr. Helmreich read the figure of \$99,900 and said an accurate database was needed.

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 12 in the amount of \$99,900. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Article 13

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to move no action on Article 13. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. MOTIN CARRIES.

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Article 14

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 14 in the sum of \$15,000 (Community School Program). Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: All opposed. **MOTION FAILS**

Article 15

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 15 in the sum of \$13,000. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 16

Mr. Fiore said he spoke to Mr. Marsan on Rec Committee and it will be explained at Town Meeting reason why not to move this.

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to move no action on Article 16. Second by Mr. Fiore.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to withdraw his previous Motion.

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 16 in the sum of \$250,000. Second by Ms. Desrochers. Vote: 1 in favor (Fiore); 1 abstention (Brown); 5 opposed.
MOTION DEFEATED

Article 17

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend \$500,000 from Water Surplus Account. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 18

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 18... \$250 from Water Surplus Account. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 19

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend the sum of \$77,000 from Water Surplus Fund. Second by Mr. Fiore. Vote: Unanimous, except for Mr. Thomas voting in opposition. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 20

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to move no action on Article 20. Second by Mr. Fiore.

Discussion ensued re: desalinization issue.

Vote: Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Article 21

Mr. Helmreich said they will discuss this on the 10th with School Committee.

Article 22

Mr. McCabe said the Board of Health, Town Counsel and Board of Selectmen would meet tomorrow on this Article (appointing authority issue).

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MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Helmreich said they need to discuss Bristol Agricultural School and need to vote on Southeastern Regional. He questioned if they should meet next Monday and it was decided the Finance Committee would not meet but would leave it posted and, unless the Committee hears differently, they will not meet.

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 2002

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Mr. Fiore to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Second by Mr. Zawasky.

Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney
Substitute Recording Secretary

Edited by Christine McSweeney, Recording Secretary,
per Paul Helmreich's comments/edits.