

**TOWN OF NORTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
May 23, 2005**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore

**Present:** Michael Fiore, Angel Doyle, Paul Helmreich, Donna Summerfield, Lee Tarantino, and Philip Zawasky. Thomas Deluca was absent; Jacqueline Desrochers arrived at 7:47 p.m.

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**1. Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of March 28, 2005

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to approve March 28, 2005 Minutes of Finance Committee as amended (amend: Angel Doyle was absent and Donna Summerfield was present; also add Mike Thomas as present). Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous, except for Ms. Doyle abstaining. MOTION CARRIES.**

Minutes of March 30, 2005

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the Finance Committee Minutes of March 30, 2005 as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Minutes of April 27, 2005

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the Finance Committee Minutes of April 27, 2005 as written. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous, except for Ms. Summerfield abstaining. MOTION CARRIES.**

Minutes of May 2, 2005

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the Finance Committee Minutes of May 2, 2005 as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous, except for Ms. Summerfield and Mr. Zawasky abstaining. MOTION CARRIES.**

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A thank you to Christine McSweeney, Finance Committee's former Recording Secretary, for her years of dedication to FinCom. It was noted a thank you letter would be sent to her.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to send a letter of appreciation to Christine McSweeney. Second by Ms. Summerfield. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Warrants/Special Town Meeting:**

There were two Articles to discuss:

1 - \$800,000 circuit breaker money was discussed and instead of putting it into rollover put into free cash; capture money this fiscal year for contractual teacher requirements. This is a one-time special education stabilization fund put into at Town Meeting.

2 - Operating budget F06 amended; to take out and put into general budget/school.

Ms. Doyle spoke of \$800,000 coming in 2005; it was discussed that Mr. O'Neil of School Committee may be planning on using another \$800,000 of circuit breaker money the following year. Discussion ensued on amounts changing, etc. Ms. Doyle said concern was School Committee may be planning on \$800,000 each year.

2007 was discussed; budget prep. will make hit harder in 2007.

Mr. Tarantino asked to find out if circuit breaker money was used or not used yet this year. He asked if it was in budget already. Mr. Tarantino said he wants to ensure there are no misconceptions (his belief was that circuit breaker money is gone; spent).

Mr. Kimball explained budget and circuit breaker. He said lay off notices had to go out on June 15, 2005; so Town Meeting needed prior to June 15th; \$800,000 circuit breaker to be added and "pink slips" not needed.

Mr. Kimball explained '06 being a "band-aid fix" on school. Not adding additional staff; losing staff and stress that on town side of government.

Discussion on reserves being gone.

Mr. Helmreich said a majority vote needed for Article 1; Article 2 needs a 2/3 vote. He urged those who support this to attend Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Helmreich said in late fall (Nov./Dec.), a decision to be made by Town Manager and FinCom (override and how much money). Formal enactment could be springtime. Discussion ensued on preparation.

Mr. Kimball said Ad Hoc Budget Committee is working on options s(i.e., town-owned land; revenue from Red Mill Village).

Mr. Kimball stated he spoke to Rep. Poirier about having a small group of communities sit down to work on this. Cap on lottery funds recently been rescinded Rep. Poirier said and possibly some additional influx of cash for Ch70. A realistic number is needed and need facts and number before an override.

Mr. Fiore said state aid number is important too.

Mr. Helmreich said they can plan as much as they can but cannot get an exact figure. Percentage gets decreased from state as Norton becomes more affluent.

Mr. Fiore said Norton is at minimum per pupil expenditure.

Mr. Tarantino said Norton is holding Norton back; override is way to do that. He said if override is for \$5M, but only need \$2.5M, don't tax whole \$5M. State aid was discussed.

Override was discussed and where money is needed needs to be specified.

Mr. Helmreich said general override is just an override and could do specific override for a purpose. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball said to be concerned if property values start to decrease. No new homes currently being built.

Mr. Kimball stated he needs to be convinced the Town needs an override.

Ms. Summerfield discussed bringing back some school programs, even if programs have a one year commitment.

Mr. Fiore said this would be up to School Committee/Dept.

School Building Assistance was discussed.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to recommend Article 1 (sum of approximately \$800,000 into "Free Cash" account). Second by Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

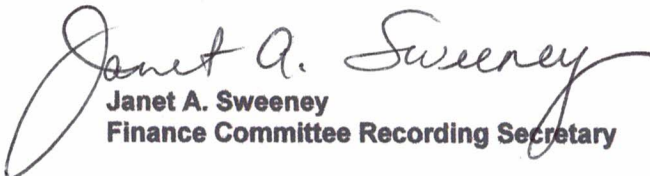
Mr. Kimball stated the Board of Selectmen did take votes on both Articles and it was unanimous on both articles.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Article 2 (amending F06 operating budget). Second by Mr. Thomas. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by,



Janet A. Sweeney  
Finance Committee Recording Secretary