

**Finance Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.  
Municipal Center - Selectmen's Meeting Room**

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Call To Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Chairman, Mike Thomas; Vice-Chair, Paul Helmreich; Jackie Desrochers, Tom DeLuca, Angel Doyle, Donna Summerfield, Lee Tarantino, and Philip Zawasky. Mike Fiore arrived at 8:10 p.m.

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**1. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Tarantino to accept the Finance Committee Minutes of March 8, 2006 as written. Second by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: Abstaining Votes by Ms. Summerfield and Mr. DeLuca and all other Committee members voted yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

**2. New Business**

**Highway Dept.**

Mr. Silver spoke of the wages number: \$491,243.00 (up \$52,000 because of pay raises and 50% of new position's cost).

Mr. Helmreich said "cemetery" decreased; dropped \$5,000 and asked Mr. Silver to ensure this is correct and not some glitch.

Mr. Purcell said through February cemetery wages were \$25,728.00. Highway overtime was \$4,942.61.

Mr. Silver referenced snowplowing and said salt and sand increased. He uses Iceband Magic that is excellent for environment. He uses 5,000 gallons a year at 99 cents per gallon.

**No Action taken by Finance Committee.**

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Saturday meetings were discussed: 9 a.m. on April 1st and April 8 to noontime. Also, if needed, to have meetings on April 22 and/or 29 if needed.

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**Norton Public Library:**

Ms. Elaine Jackson, Head Librarian, made presentation. She introduced other staff members in audience: Lee Parker, Herb Ellison, Bob Berg and Lisa Daley.

Ms. Jackson said they are not sufficiently funding the library. Several areas need improvement and Town Manager has not approved these increases. They would like Youth Librarians' assistant to move from 20 to 30 hours per week and there is much detail to her job (ordering/processing/many other duties).

Ms. Jackson said they would like the substitute line to increase. They would also like to pay staff to attend staff meetings.

It was discussed that state aid is \$25,000 per year.

Ms. Lee Parker, Youth Services Librarian, spoke of her assistant and said she has 20 hours and five of those hours used on circulation desk; looking for increase to 30. Children's/Youth area of library quite busy.

Mr. Zawasky asked if people were coming from other towns (i.e., Taunton) using programs, library, etc. Ms. Parker said she was not sure of out-of-towners but they do need to serve them. She said she would get back to FinCom on the answer to that issue.

Ms. Parker said she does try to write grants.

Mr. Helmreich said they do a wonderful job at the library and said given fiscal constraints it is a difficult time. He said Norton library youth program is several times richer than other towns' programs.

Ms. Parker said this is the library's strength and families expect it and demand is there with new families moving in.

Mr. Thomas asked if Norton is subsidizing other towns with its program?

Treasurer of library, Herb Ellison, said money from State is \$25,000 per year as library meets minimum requirements and part of network. Norton is getting a bargain. It was stated Norton residents are offered first priority in many cases.

Mr. Thomas commended the library for all they do and the programs. However, he said the Town's resources are currently very limited and budget in dire financial straits.

Mr. Fiore stated this was the wrong time to increase hours; part of substitute increase to allow staff to attend staff meetings; and asking at wrong time to pay employees to attend staff meeting. Mr. Fiore said the treasurer is a paid position and asked if other Board members are compensated? He said maybe a concession could be made in good faith to not be paid.

Mr. Ellison said this position has been a paid one for 44-45 years. In most libraries it is a staff position and salary is very small. He said he would not volunteer for such a large budget.

Mr. Tarantino said 1) he felt every department can come in with budget they want and feels they should not be chastized; 2) this is their career; 3) library does an excellent job and it should not be looked at frivolously and also Town Manager appears to be in much agreement with figures (only \$14,000 difference).

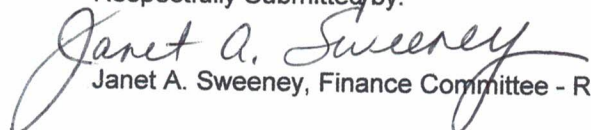
\$418,000 is mandated number; \$434,422 is Town Manager's recommendation. This is a 8.7% increase library is asking for and Town Manager with a 5% increase.

Mr. Fiore asked what the travel expense was for? Ms. Jackson responded this expense was for going to meetings; Middleboro is main office. Discussion followed.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Zawasky to Adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Second by Mr. Tarantino.  
Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Janet A. Sweeney, Finance Committee - Recording Secretary