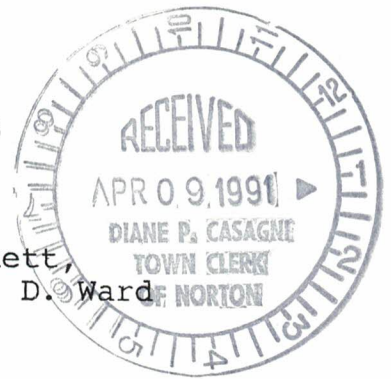


FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 1991



Present: M. Brown, K. Eagan, W. Gouveia, M. Hackett, E. Hamilton, P. Helmreich, B. Kimball, R. Nugent, D. Ward

Minutes of February 20 were approved.

P. Helmreich noted that tonight's meeting agenda is the continuation of reviewing the Town of Norton budget with the purpose of providing fiscal advice to the Town Manager. He reiterated that this meeting is a working session. The Committee will not make decisions but make suggestions only. The votes taken are just straw votes.

A straw vote was taken to decide whether or not the Committee should continue with review of the budget with the idea of making suggestions only to the Town Manager while staying within the dollar amount of each budget. Continue 6, Cease 2

Department 175 (Planning Board)

Discussion about whether the Committee supports keeping Planning Department as it presently stands or supports the proposal of the Town Manager. Straw vote taken to support the Town Manager's proposal: 5 support, 3 oppose.

Department 177 (S.E. Regional Planning)

Committee requests that S. Lombard review clerical services expense and office supplies expense.

Department 182 (Industrial Development Commission)
no appropriation

Department 192 (Municipal Building)
no suggestions

Department 195 (Town Reports)

Committee would like Town Manager to advise them on the number of Town reports printed and whether that number is needed.

Department 199 (Postage All Departments)
no suggestion

Department 210 (Police)

Discussion of contract negotiations. D. Ward noted that contract was agreed upon but not approved by Selectmen. Discussion of incentive pay. P. Helmreich noted that this is a budget which represents a continuation of the contract as it now exists. B. Kimball stated his concern that anything having to do with union contracts should be level funded. Committee to ask S. Lombard to give breakdown of longevity, overtime pay, incentive pay, administrative, community service, outside services, and equipment expenses. Committee suggests level funding of other charges and expenses.

Department 220 (Fire)

Committee suggests that Town Manager look at overtime pay for this department and all other departments. Committee also suggests Town Manager look into possibility of using call fire fighters as a way to reduce expenses. Some discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of "volunteer" fire departments.

Department 230 (Emergency Medical)

Discussion of uses of the ambulance receipts account.

Department 240 (Inspection)

no suggestions

Department 241 (Sealer Weights and Measure)

no suggestions

Department 290 (Communications)

Committee suggests analysis from S. Lombard on the effect of eliminating this department and/or the effect of eliminating the second and third shifts.

Department 292 (Dog Officer)

no suggestions - discussion of reduction of disposal of animals expense

Department 294 (Tree Warden)

no suggestions

Department 300 (Schools)

Committee suggests level funded budget. 8 members approved recommendation

Department 302 (School Cafeteria)

no suggestions

Department 305 (School Athletics)

no suggestions

Department 306 (Southeastern Regional)

discussion of funding of post-graduate students

Department 420 (Highway)

Committee requests review of overtime expense

Department 423 (Snow Removal)

no suggestions

Department 425 (Street Lighting)

no suggestions

Department 433 (Rubbish Collection)
no suggestions

Department 436 (Solid Waste)
no suggestions

Department 438 (Sanitary Landfill)
no suggestions

Department 440 (Sewer Division)
no suggestions

Department 491 (Cemetery)
no suggestions

Department 510 (Board of Health)
no suggestions

Department 522 (Public Health)
Request that S. Lombard investigate using Town cars whenever possible to save money on mileage expense.

Department 541 (Council on Aging)
no suggestions

Department 543 (Veterans Agent)
Committee suggests that S. Lombard reexamine this budget with the idea of possibly increasing it. Committee also requests that S. Lombard look into State's reimbursement difficulties.

Department 549 (Handicap Commission)
no suggestions

Department 610 (Library)
Committee agrees with Town Manager that this budget be level funded.

Department 630 (Recreation)
Committee requests that S. Lombard make change in budget by reallocating a sum of \$2,000 to expenses line item.

Department 691 (Historic District)
no suggestions

Department 692 (Memorial and Veterans)
no suggestions

Department 711 (Maturing Debt)
no suggestions

Department 750 (Interest)
Committee suggests further analysis of desirability of going to quarterly billing.

Department 820 (State Assessors)
no suggestions

Department 910 (Employee Benefits)
discussion of medical benefits costs

Department 940 (Miscellaneous)
Committee supports suggested policy that Town get accident insurance policy for police and fire personnel instead of being self-insured.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25.