

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 20, 1991



Present: M. Brown, K. Eagan, E. Hamilton, P. Helmreich, R. Kimball, C. MacQuown, R. Nugent, R. Ward, J. Desrochers

P. Helmreich noted that he received a request from the Planning Board to transfer money from their supplies account to their advertising account to cover costs for posting 12 public hearings in the Sun Chronicle. M. Rousseau noted that monies have been exhausted in the advertising account. P. Helmreich will send the Planning Board a letter notifying them that as long as they stay within their expense budget, they may make transfers within line items.

P. Helmreich received a letter from both the Planning Board and the Library requesting to come before the Committee next Wednesday night.

P. Helmreich received letter from Easton Board of Selectmen, urging Committee members to attend a regional meeting of the MAA at Stonehill College on April 1 regarding the Governor's proposed cuts in local aid.

P. Helmreich received a memo from Lesley Kirwan, Acting Deputy Commissioner, regarding FY '92 local aid information in advance of the FY '92 Cherry Sheets. The memo indicates that the Cherry Sheets will not be out in March and estimates that the Town of Norton Cherry Sheet subtotal is \$4,758,949.

P. Helmreich stated that he has two items for the Committee to review tonight and take action on. They are the draft letter to Representative Travis and Senator Keating and the draft proposed 2 1/2 formula budget fact sheet to be handed out at the public hearing on Monday night.

Tonight's agenda: The Capital Improvements Committee budget and the Council on Aging budget

Capital Improvements Committee Budget

S. Lombard reviewed the Capital Improvements Committee Report for FY'92, noting that the work of this Committee has just begun. S. Lombard then answered questions from Committee members regarding the proposal to take funds from the FY '91 budget for the purchase of new weapons for the Police Department and the reasons for upgrading the weapons. S Lombard stated that he would support an article in the Special Town Meeting warrant to transfer funds from the salary account to cover the purchases. S. Lombard also answered questions regarding the ambulance purchase and the purchase of a new truck for the Fire Department.

Discussion turned next to asbestos removal at the Middle School. S. Lombard noted that \$8,000 was transferred from the Roof Repairs Account to the Middle School Asbestos Removal Account at the October Meeting. This was in addition to the \$15,000 voted for this purpose at the Annual Town Meeting in May, 1990. S. Lombard stated that more is needed to complete this job. The Chair was asked to obtain further information on this from the Superintendent of Schools.

S. Lombard informed the Committee that he was notified by the Treasurer that the Town has to roll over a \$1,554,000 bond that was for the Grove Sewer Project because the State owes the Town \$637,000 to date for invoice reimbursements they haven't paid. The Town is going to roll over \$1,500,000--the maximum of the bond that the Town is allowed to borrow voted at the Town Meeting. \$54,000 represents the interest. The Town will borrow on a six-month note on \$40,000 because there is \$14,000 remaining in the interest account.

Next, S. Lombard provided the Committee information he gathered on how surrounding towns handle fees collected by the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. He noted that half or more of the surrounding communities keep all fees or a portion of the fees and in those cases, salaries are compensated.

#### Council on Aging

Albertine Brown, Chairman of the Council on Aging, reviewed Council on Aging programs and discussed the need for a full-time Director. She expressed concern about the proposed reduction in the Director's hours. She also stated that Self-Help was not funded in the proposed budget. Discussion followed on the necessity for funding Self-Help, meals and services for elderly Norton residents and transportation costs. P. Helmreich will notify A. Brown of the Committee's action to fund Self-Help.

#### Solid Waste

D. Freeman came before the Committee to discuss solid waste problems. Discussion followed on trash collection, recycling, composting, and the problems of not having a landfill in the Town. D. Freeman to provide the Committee with estimated costs for recycling, composting, and curbside pickup. She will also investigate Wareham's solid waste programs.

Next, June Congdon came before the Committee, without the Zoning Board of Appeal's consent, to express her concerns about the financial impact of the proposed formula 2 1/2 budget. She informed the Committee that work in her department will double next year; and she discussed the need for a file cabinet as well as the need to upgrade the computer.



P. Helmreich noted, that if Article 14 passes at the May Town Meeting, an adjustment will need to be made at the October Town Meeting. P. Helmreich to ask Zoning Board of Appeals to come before the Committee to get their opinions on the articles pertaining to their budget.

Discussion followed on the necessity to fund Self-Help. A motion to consider it an emergency situation to allocate \$3,000 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund was seconded, and voted: In Favor: 1 (E. Hamilton), Abstain: 1 (R. Ward), Opposed: 5 (M. Brown, K. Eagan, R. Kimball, C. MacQuown, and R. Nugent)

A motion to put on the Special Town Meeting warrant to appropriate \$3,000 for Self-Help from available funds was seconded, and voted: In Favor: Unanimous

A motion to send P. Helmreich's letter to Representative Travis and Senator Keating was seconded and voted: In Favor: unanimous

A motion to hand out the proposed 2 1/2 formula budget fact sheet drafted by P. Helmreich at the public hearing on Monday, March 25, was seconded and voted: In Favor: unanimous

Minutes of March 4 were approved with minor corrections

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.