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**Town of Norton - Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes - February 2, 1994**

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Zawasky. Ten members were present : Chair Zawasky, Vice-Chair Deluca, Desroches, Fiore, Gouveia, Helmreich, Nicolas, Phelan, Summerfield, and Sweet.

Received updated membership list and was reminded to keep information confidential as some members have non-published numbers.

The Chair and Vice-Chair will interview and select candidate for secretarial position. This position will be filled by next meeting.

Gouveia discussed Question One on the February 16th ballot, the so called "override" question. No Board of Selectman members attended this meeting as formally requested. Gouveia made a motion requesting Nicolas to draft a letter to state the FinCom's position which would be presented to the public on February 9th at a hearing. Fiore seconded the motion and a unanimous vote in favor prevailed.

Fiore reviewed letter from Selectman Zanoni dated January 26, 1994. Various points were discussed by members; "Do we have the right/obligation to advise/render opinion to the Town on the Question One matter?"

Helmreich motioned to remove passage of the override. Unanimous vote in opposition was noted.

Gouveia suggested that the public informational hearing be held at the Norton High School cafeteria on Wednesday February 9, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. if that space is available. The Selectman and Town Manager would be formally invited to answer factual questions pertaining to Question One and ONLY to Question One. The vote in favor was unanimous. Forms of advertising the hearing were subsequently discussed.

Deluca initiated discussion on the Planning Board. No members of the Planning Board attended tonight's meeting, to which they were formally invited.

Gouveia made a motion for a letter to be sent to the Planning Board asking:

1. How many hours is the Town Planner required to work?
2. Of these hours, how many must be done at Town Hall?

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This motion was seconded by Helmreich and was followed by a unanimous vote in favor. Town Manager Walter Lindberg recommended that a letter to town counsel be drafted directly to obtain legal opinion as to whether or not we can investigate the operation of the Town Planning office. A discussion followed regarding By-laws and the Massachusetts General Laws (Red book).

Gouveia made a motion to draft a ^{Petition} petition (requiring ten registered voter's signatures) to have a warrant article at the next Town Meeting giving FinCom the right to investigate any department. Lindberg reminded the meeting of the February 8th deadline for submitting warrant articles. The motion was seconded by Helmreich and a unanimous vote in favor followed.

Gouveia made a motion for the FinCom Chair to write a letter to the Town Accountant authorizing overspending of snow removal account to pay outstanding bill. Helmreich seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor. Gouveia requested that the Town Manager keep FinCom informed as the overspending occurs.

Nicolas made a motion NOT to send letter on behalf of the FinCom but rather will send it as a citizen. This was seconded by Fiore and unanimously approved.

Gouveia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.. This was seconded by Nicolas and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Julia E. Sweet