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Town of Norton  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
February 7, 1994

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Presiding Officer: Phil Zawasky, Chairman

Attendees: Vice Chair Deluca, Desrochers, Fiore, Gouveia, Hackett, Nicolas, Phelan, Summerfield, and Sweet.

The first order of business was to introduce Patricia Mello as an applicant for the position of Recording Secretary for the Finance Committee. A motion was made by Bill Gouveia to hire Patricia Mello as recording secretary. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Deluca and the vote was unanimous.

Last week's business: No response has been received from the Planning Board in reference to the questions the FinCom has asked them to address. It was decided that not enough time has passed to warrant another letter or request for response.

Bill Gouveia worked on the language for the Power of Investigation-wording it so that if selectmen decided not to put it on Articles for FinCom, then we had the option to require signatures on it as a petition Article (Warrant Article for May Annual Town Meeting). He used the exact language as written in the red handbook with the exception of the last sentences, which he put in because it sounded like a safe idea. The Power of Investigation is to be put into the bylaws stating we have the general power to conduct an investigation in books and acts which FinCom has always had authority to do. Ten signatures were received to insure that the proposal could be submitted without any problems. The Power of Investigation would pertain to any board, committee, and department (including management of any department) of the town.

Bill Gouveia made a motion that the FinCom submit this article and authorize the chairman to sign it. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Deluca. Vote was unanimous. The signatures on the article were received from the committee members <sup>and others</sup>.

Wednesday, February 9, 1994, the Finance Committee meeting will be held at the Norton High School at 7:30 pm. The meeting is a public hearing on Question #1, the "Underride Question".

Selectman Jerry Bishop told the committee he voted to put the underride question on the ballot. He also stated that he is not voting for an underride.

A letter received from the Conservation Director outlined some documentation that will be forwarded to Chairman of the Planning Board. The employees are concerned about the workings of that department. There was discussion on how to deal with this issue and FinCom's role. As much as FinCom would like to see a resolution to the problem, they feel their role should be as a guide to help information reach the proper channels rather than to investigate and resolve. It was agreed that any discussion should revolve around the position and the fulfillment of its goals rather than the person

in that position and his/her character. Town Manager Walter Lindberg added that work hours are specified and not location of where the work is being done. His correspondence with the staff and leader resulted in a threat of litigation so he is seeking other means to resolve. The position was filled as a full-time position--not a part-time.

Mary Jo Hackett made a recommendation that the packet received from the Conservation committee be sent to the Chair of selectmen and Chairman of the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Bill Gouveia. Vote: unanimous

Wording of letter to be: We are forwarding this communication to give you an awareness of the concerns of other employees within the Town Hall. Distribution: Walter Lindberg, Town Manager, Kenneth Zaroni, Chair of Selectmen, and Chairman of the Planning Board.

Selectman Rich spoke briefly to state that he has changed his mind about the override issue and now agrees with the Town Manager Walter Lindberg on this issue.

Old Items: minutes from December 6, 1993

New items: meeting to discuss the new budget is set for Wednesday, February 23, 1994.

Town Manager Walter Lindberg clarified that in reference to the override issue the vote will take effect on July 1, 1994. The budget will be figured by taking last year's levy adding 2½% to that number, then adding in new growth. From this number the \$388,000 will be subtracted.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Phelan.

Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia C. Mello  
Recording Secretary