

approved

Town of Norton  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 9, 1994

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

Call to Order: 7:38 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair

Attendance: Phil Zawasky, Chair; Tom DeLuca, Vice Chair; Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, Jack Nicolas, Julia Sweet, Mike Fiore, Mary Jo Hackett, Paul Helmreich and Bill Gouveia.

New Business

April 4 meeting Town Clerk, Tax Collector/ Treasurer, Library Committee, Assessors, Water Department

April 11 School department, Dr. Splaine.

Discussion of Articles

Article 2 Early retirement Incentive Program.

Part of State Reform Legislation. Two year program a school department can only participate in it for 1 of the 2 years. We did not participate last year. Three part acceptance. Board of Selectmen (or City 1), School Committee, and Legislative Body for the town. Has already been accepted by Selectmen and School Committee. To be eligible a teacher needs 20 years of credible service in Mass Teachers Retirement Assoc. They give them either up to 5 years of additional service or give them up to 5 years of their age requirement or a combination thereof.

The State has capped this at no more than 2,500 applicants with a limit of \$20 million. Norton's share of this is 158 teachers over the number teachers that are in the pool that decide to apply. Probably about \$45,000 x the \$20 million. Approximately \$70,000. This would take about 2 teachers out at approximately \$30,000 each.

In the first 5 years it will save the town about \$50,000 for each teacher that goes out early. There is no cost to the town budget. There is an indirect cost charged to the School budget and therefore added in at State level and comes out of school budget. Based on the premise that you hire core-step teachers to replace the retirees

The Warrant Article is actually to decide if the town wants to get involved in this program. The superintendent definitely feels this is a good program.

Articles 11 & 12 Soccer Fields

Roger Ramsey, President of Norton Youth Soccer League, 11 Walter Street. League has grown from 180 kids at its inception to 370 children in the first

year. Last year 893 kids enrolled in Fall Co-ed program. Two years ago it became evident that there was not enough space to play and the conditions of the fields were deteriorating quickly. Fields were being used from March to November with no relief.

To use the Rose Farm property the land must be changed from Passive to Active recreation. The Army Corp. of Engineers has put this project 3rd on their list if the funding can be secured so the job will be completed.

\$90,000 is necessary to complete job. Breakdown: \$50,000 sod and surfaces, \$30,000 water delivery system and parking, and \$10,000 equipment.

Concerns: Why not go through the recreation or conservation committees? Tom Deluca, Vice Chair voiced concerns about giving money to private organizations rather than general recreation fund to appropriate the money for the fields. Maybe Article should be worded to say it is for every one and not just for soccer.

Soccer people proposed a friendly amendment to the Article is fine with them and that they are also willing to pay back the town \$45,000 over a 10 year period. The soccer people would also take the responsibility of paying the \$10,000-\$12,000 a year for maintaining the fields. This would include weekly mowing, fertilizing, and de-bugging if necessary.

Conservation Committee will own this land regardless of any changes from passive to active or any development to the land. The Town will still have ultimate control and ownership of the property.

Soccer people would elect to be the scheduling vehicle for the various teams and organizations wishing to use the fields. The fields would be available for Little League T-ball, and possibly the NHS soccer teams.

Recreation department supports this program.

Soccer people expect to pay bills by using profits from concession stands, 50/50 raffles, and possibly raising fees for registration by \$5 per family.

#### Article 1

List of required adjustments to FY94 budget.

General fund \$1,500 comes from ambulance fund for emergency medical. The rest would come out of free cash or transfer within general fund.

Data Processing Expense: results because mainframe is in 6th year. The first 5 years were in a lease-purchase and it was covered under warranty. This year warranty services ceased so they had to purchase operating software.

Town Clerk Expense: increases in bonding costs.

Election Expense: two additional elections that weren't counted on.

Municipal Building Expense: \$10,400 cleaning services, \$3,700 fuel expense, \$4,900 building repairs and maintenance--HVAC. There is an excess of \$6,000 available for transfer. \$6,700 transfer money out of salary line into expense line.

Fire Expense: \$2,695 to replace 3 hand held ladders that recently didn't pass inspection. An additional \$2,000 is to replace sections of aerial ladder which didn't pass certification.

Emergency Medical Expense: increases in supply items due to increase in calls and new requirements for disposable items.

Dog Officer Salary: officer suffered injury Dec. 5, 1993 and Animal Inspector has covered this position until March 9, 1994. Animal Inspector has not been compensated for the appx. 20 hours/week he worked during this time.

County Ag. School Expense: the school is allowed to charge for tuition, there are 2 kids attending this year. Funds were never appropriated for these kids.

Highway Salary: \$14,200 to pay sick time to an employee who is retiring after 23 years of service and only 2 sick days taken in those years.

Snow Removal: need at least \$35,000 more to pay bills for snow removal.

Move to adjourn by Bill Gouveia. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia C. Mello*

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Recording Secretary