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Town of Norton  
Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 14, 1994

MAR 31 1994

NORTON TOWN CLERK

Attendance: Phil Zawasky, Chair: Tom Deluca, Vice Chair; Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, Jack Nicolas, Julia Sweet, Michael Fiore, Mary Jo Hackett, Paul Helmreich, and Tim Phelan.

Call to Order: 7:30 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

Old Business

Motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 1994 by Mary Jo Hackett. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Motion to accept the minutes of March 2, 1994 by Mary Jo Hackett. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: 5 approved 1 abstention (Jack Nicolas).

New Business

Article 1 for special town meeting.

Paul Helmreich moved that we consider each line item separately then recommend a total.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$23,145 to Legal Services-Expense. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Paul feels that this amount will not be enough but this is the figure given to us and it is a good estimate. Vote: unanimous.

It was agreed that the line items voted on tonight should be taken out of Free Cash.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$1,200 to Data Processing-Expense. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$100 to Town Clerk-Expense. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 8 approved, 1 abstention.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$6,650 to Elections-Expense. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. There was some discussion over the costs. This covers custodial costs, man-power, and set-up costs. Running elections is done by-the-book. You must meet requirements by law and this can mean hiring more people then you may feel are needed, etc. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$19,120 to Municipal Building-Expense. Seconded by Michael Fiore. This should be done by moving \$6,700 from what is currently in Municipal Building Salary Account to Municipal Building Expense Account with the remaining balance coming from Free Cash. This is to continue contract for maintenance of the building. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$4,695 to Fire Expense. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Tim Phelan expressed concerns as to why the Fire Dept. does not have the funds for these repairs. They should be anticipated and budgeted accordingly. Mary Jo Hackett agreed with this but also stated that this town is operating with a fire truck that is out of commission because the ladders haven't passed inspection. Tim Phelan went on to ask where is the responsibility for saving in our budget for ladders when they are going to wear out? The responsibility should lie within department heads to appropriate in their budget for fixing equipment. Why not fix it right away, why wait until a special town meeting to get money to fix something? Vote: 8 approved, 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$1,500 for Emergency Medical-Expense to be taken from the Ambulance Fund. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: 8 approved, 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$2,344 to Dog Officer-Salary. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Vote: 8 approved, 1 abstention (Mary Jo Hackett).

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$6,435 to Ag. School-Expense. This is for tuition of 11 students. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$14,200 to Highway-Salary. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to appropriate \$35,000 to Snow Removal. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. Walter has used \$32,000 of this already and still has not received all his bills in yet. Vote: unanimous.

\$106,189 amount of Free Cash used now.  
\$8,200 transferred from various accounts.  
\$774,164 balance left in Free Cash Account.

Paul Helmreich moved for committee to recommend Article 2. Seconded by Tom Deluca, Vice Chair. This is for Teachers Retirement Fund. Vote: unanimous.

Tom Deluca, Vice Chair moved to table Articles 3 & 4 until we have a figure to place into Articles 5-10. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to approve Article 11. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. There was lengthy discussion about concerns of committee members and unanswered questions. Paul Helmreich has spoken with some of the abutters of the Rose Farm property and they feel there are issues they were not told about. They are for the most part, favorable about having soccer fields, their concerns



are about buildings being built, bathroom facilities, access ways and whether or not the parking lots will be paved.

It is the job of the committee to know what changing from passive to active means--what the changes imply. Tom Deluca, Vice Chair seems that not all the environmental issues have been addressed. Does changing from passive to active mean that you can put buildings on the property and will there be new rules that the Planning Board will be able to institute?

Walter Lindberg, Town Manager--Once it became active it would remain conservation. It will still be necessary to go through Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee has met twice and they have approved of the change from passive to active. He reminded the committee that this must still pass through the Legislature and the State Senate before it is final.

A member of the Conservation Committee stated that they were against paving the parking lots and would save as many trees on the land as possible. As the Conservation Committee stands right now they see no leniency in putting up buildings for any purpose.

Mary Jo Hackett moved to add a Friendly Amendment to Article 11, 4th line from the bottom, where it states, "namely soccer fields." Changed to read "namely playing fields for general recreational use." Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to pass Article 12. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Tom Deluca, Vice Chair thinks this is a great idea but wonders what the actual cost of finishing the project will be. Will it cost more for paving or putting in new access roads? What if the road is twice as long as they anticipated?

Mary Jo Hackett suggested a Friendly Amendment for Article 12. Where it says "soccer fields," replace it with "playing fields for general recreational use."

Tom Deluca, Vice Chair--We are going to give the Conservation Committee a budget line item of \$90,000 to do the whole job. He doesn't want to be sitting here next year with only half a soccer field and people looking for more money to finish the job. Vote for Article 12 with friendly amendment stated above: 8 approved, 1 abstention (Tim Phelan).

Move to adjourn meeting by Paul Helmreich. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia C. Mello*

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Recording Secretary