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Town of Norton
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 20, 1994

MAY 06 1994

NORTON TOWN CLERK

Attendance: Phil Zawasky, Chair; Tom Deluca, Vice Chair; Tim Phelan, Jack Nicolas, Bill Gouveia, Donna Summerfield, Michael Fiore, Jackie Desrochers and Paul Helmreich.

Call to Order: 7:37 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

New Business

Warrant Articles for Town Meeting--Selectman Chair, Ken Zaroni

Walter Lindberg handed out the Special Town Meeting Articles and Selectmen's Articles for Town Meeting.

Article 3--so far they have nothing to do dealing with this Article but it was put in as a just-in-case.

Article 4--this is for budgets that may need a transfer of funds to finish the year out. The library should probably use Article 4 for their Special Town Meeting Proposal.

Article 5--is generic every year.

Article 6--they will have numbers for us on Thursday.

Article 10--FY94 appropriation, department request, manager request, FinCom recommendation listings. Put sideways on sheet. Discussion revolved around how many years should be put on the sheet. Tim Phelan remarked that going back too far may show times that are not relevant to these times on budget --tighter budget years. Jack Nicolas made a motion to go cross-wise FY92 appropriation, FY93 appropriation, FY94 expense, FY95 Manager recommendation, and FY95 FinCom recommendation. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous.

Article 11--Capital Improvements--they are eliminating items that have not been accepted by the Capital Improvements Commission. The following are the items to be eliminated: Election Registration, Municipal Building (HVAC), Fire Department (Pumper), Fire Department (Brush Vehicle), and Dog Officer (Van). Added to the list was Municipal Handicap Access for \$6,000. The Article will list only the items that have been approved by the Capital Improvements Committee.

Article 12--Capital Improvements Committee approved for computers. Five computers and 3 printers.

Article 13--Street Sweeper Lease--agreed to by Capital Improvements Committee.

Article 16--requested by Highway Department.

Article 18--\$25,000 for underground tank removal, this was also approved by Capital Improvements Committee. (2 large tanks.)

Article 19--to put money into Stabilization Fund.

Article 20--to put money into Capital Improvements Fund.

Article 22--nothing has been approved so it will die a slow death.

Article 23--job classifications for non-union positions. Human Services Director--this is a staff position. There is an open union position that they don't think should be funded right now (Council on Aging).

Article 24--Salary plan which goes along with position plan. Selectmen wanted and voted to add Human Services Director with a salary range of \$25,000-\$32,000.

Article 25--not prepared for this Article. They are not going to have anything prepared for Town Meeting.

Article 26--wording change to make it generic.

Article 27--Board of Selectmen voted not to pursue this Article.

Article 30--re-organization plan to merge Cemetery Department with Highway Department. Paul Helmreich suggested they put this Article before Article 10 just in case it is voted down. This Article is not voted on with any monetary attachments.

Special Town Meeting Articles

Article 1--non-union salary issues: Selectmen, Town Accountant, and Library salary--they are anticipating some agreement for salary changes. Fire Department salaries, Chief gets a raise due to the highest officer salary.

Article 3--change Town Charter to elect FinCom committee members. If FinCom takes out the words "management" from its Article then they would drop this Article.

Article 4--transfer available funds to extend water mains on a couple of streets. It will probably cost \$400,000-\$500,000 to do this. Approximately 60 people or so would be affected by this.

Old Business
Budget Hearings

Bill Gouveia moved to take the Library budget off the table. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous. Bill Gouveia moved \$162,000 to line 610-570, Other Charges and Expenses. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Paul Helmreich made an amendment for \$151,469. Seconded by Tom Deluca. This allows for 5% raises in total salary budget for this year. \$10,531 less than proposed by Library committee. He is not cutting amount for books even though they could. Still enough to provide certification. There have been only 2 positions that gave a higher than 5% raises Human Services Director and Highway Superintendent which have significant job function changes. Paul Helmreich moved the figure \$154,505 to include the up-graded position from Circulation Librarian to Staff Librarian but leaves 5% raises for everyone else. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote on figure of \$154,505: 3 in favor (Tim Phelan, Tom Deluca and Paul Helmreich) and 5 oppose (Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, Michael Fiore, Bill Gouveia, and Jack Nicolas). Vote on figure of \$162,000: 6 in favor (Donna Summerfield, Bill Gouveia, Tim Phelan, Michael Fiore, Jackie Desrochers, and Jack Nicolas) and 2 oppose (Paul Helmreich and Tom Deluca).

RECREATION (630)

Bill Gouveia moved Recreation 630-510 Personal Services for \$11,773. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 630-570 for \$1,200. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMM. (691)

Bill Gouveia moved \$0 for 691-570. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

MEMORIAL & VETS (692)

Bill Gouveia moved 692-570 for \$700. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

MATURING DEBT (711)

Bill Gouveia moved 711-520 Purchase of Services for \$0. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 711-570 Other Charges & Expenses for \$332,226. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 711-579 Other Expenses for \$1,200. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 711-590 Debt Service for \$700,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

INTEREST (750)

Bill Gouveia moved Interest 750-590 for \$80,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (910)

Bill Gouveia moved 910-510 Personal Services \$527,107. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 910-511 Other Personal Services \$1,450,350. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 910-570 for \$50,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

UNEMPLOYMENT (911)

Bill Gouveia moved Unemployment 911-570 for \$0. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

MISCELLANEOUS (940)

Bill Gouveia moved 940-540 Supplies for \$45,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved 940-570 Other Charges and Expenses \$239,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Tree Warden (294) Personal Services (510). Seconded by Bill Gouveia. Vote: 6 approve (Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, Michael Fiore, Bill Gouveia, Jack Nicolas and Paul Helmreich) and 2 oppose (Tim Phelan and Tom Deluca). Paul Helmreich moved \$1,200 for line item 294-510. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Paul's argument was that this person is a professional and this would be a stipend for his services as Tree Warden. His duties by statute must be done by the Tree Warden and not the Highway department. This would not put him on salary. Bill Gouveia suggested putting on the expense side of budget. Vote: 2 in favor (Jackie Desrochers and Paul Helmreich) and 6 oppose (Donna Summerfield, Michael Fiore, Bill Gouveia, Tim Phelan, Tom Deluca, and Jack Nicolas).

Jack Nicolas made a motion to reconsider Council on Aging (541) budget. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 4 favor (Michael Fiore, Jack Nicolas, Paul Helmreich and Donna Summerfield) and 4 oppose (Bill Gouveia, Tim Phelan, Jackie Desrochers and Tom Deluca). The tie-breaking vote defeated the motion. Bill Gouveia made a motion to reconsider this line item. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Vote: unanimous. Jack Nicolas feels we are starting this person well into his pay range. He feels that Walter brought up towns that were larger in scale than Norton. Jack Nicolas made a motion to amend line item 541-510 Personal Services to \$25,000. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Bill Gouveia doesn't feel that he belongs on the bottom of salary range. Vote on \$25,000 salary: 7 opposed and 1 abstention (Donna Summerfield).

Bill Gouveia moved to start on Warrant Articles. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 2 No Action, awaiting information. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 3 No Action. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 4. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimous to oppose. Not recommended.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 5. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 6--No Action. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 7. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimous opposed. Not recommended.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 8. Seconded by Tom Deluca. This is to work on wet land permits. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 9. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 11--No Action. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 12--No Action. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 13 for \$25,437 using money from Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to table Article 14 until Water/Sewer budget was set. Seconded by Donna Summerfield. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 15. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 7 approve and 1 abstention (Donna Summerfield).

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 16 for \$20,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 17. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimously opposed. Not recommended.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 18--No Action. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 7 approve and 1 abstention (Paul Helmreich).

Bill Gouveia moved to table Articles 19 & 20 until April 25, 1994. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 21. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote:

unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 22. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimously opposed. Not recommended.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 23--Job Classification Plan. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 24--Salary Plan. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 25. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimously opposed.

Bill Gouveia moved Article 26--No Action. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 27. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Bill Gouveia felt that he would have liked to see the research done on this Article. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimously opposed. Not recommended.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 28. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Bill Gouveia believes in the Article as it was written but doesn't feel it is worth the trouble it is causing among other committees. Paul Helmreich suggested that we keep the Article but take out the words "and Management". Paul Helmreich suggested an amendment: he moved to delete "and Management" from the Article. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote on amendment: 3 in favor (Tim Phelan, Paul Helmreich and Jack Nicolas) and 5 opposed (Donna Summerfield, Jackie Desrochers, Tom Deluca, Bill Gouveia, and Michael Fiore). Vote on Article 28: 0 in favor and unanimously opposed. Not recommended.

Tim Phelan moved to recommend Article 29. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Tim Phelan would like to see the numbers. They need a By-law on the books in order to get any funding from the State and to get anyone to speak with them about the issues involved. Paul Helmreich--we must show an attempt for compliance with the law and we must implement the By-law.

Bill Gouveia moved to adjourn. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Mello

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Recording Secretary