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Town of Norton
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 27, 1994

MAY 06 1994

NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

Call to Order: 7:34 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

New Business

Paul Helmreich wants to hear from the Solid Waste Committee to discuss their Articles for the Town Meeting. They will be asked to speak on May 2, 1994.

Warrant for the Special Town Meeting

\$3,023 Short-term Interest/Selectmen-Salaries for a secretary to attend the Selectmen's meetings.

\$1,890 Short-term Interest/Town Accountant-Salaries because the contract is not settled yet.

\$3,500 Short-term Interest/Town Report-Expense

\$7,127 Short-term Interest/Fire Dept.-Salaries covers 2 items: \$1,200 results from call firefighter time and \$5,927 required amount to adjust Fire Chief's salary.

\$12,301 Ambulance Fees/Fire Department-Salaries represents overtime because of emergencies and fires. Many FinCom members expressed their dismay with the Fire Department budget. Every year they look for more and more money, never seeming to live within their means. Committee members feel there has to be some accountability on the Fire Chief's part.

\$4,850 Library-Expense/Library Salaries.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 1 including \$3,023 to Selectmen-Salaries. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: 8 approve and 1 abstention (Jackie Desrochers).

Bill Gouveia moved \$1,890 to Town Accountant-Salaries. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: 8 approve and 1 abstention (Jackie Desrochers).

Bill Gouveia moved \$3,500 to Town Report-Expense. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: 8 approve and 1 abstention (Jackie Desrochers).

Bill Gouveia moved \$7,127 to Fire Dept.-Salaries. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 8 approve and 1 abstention (Jackie Desrochers).

Bill Gouveia moved \$12,301 to Fire Dept.-Salaries. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: 7 approve, 1 oppose (Bill Gouveia) and 1 abstention (Jackie Desrochers).

Bill Gouveia moved \$4,850 to Library-Salaries. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Jackie Desrochers).

Bill Gouveia moved to accept Article 2. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 3. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Paul Helmreich feels the Finance Committee should not be an elected committee because they should keep it as non-political as possible--owe no one a favor. He strongly recommend we do not support the Article. Bill Gouveia noted that it is an incomplete Article because it also changes the Moderator's job and there is no Article to do that. There are many good common sense reasons not to elect the Finance Committee. Vote: 0 in favor, 8 opposed and 1 abstention (Donna Summerfield).

Old Business

Annual Town Meeting Articles

Article 3--still no unpaid bills.

Article 6--no action.

Article 11--Walter is going to add the total.

Article 14--Paul Helmreich moved to take Article 14 off the table. Seconded by Bill Gouveia. Paul Helmreich moved to recommend Article 14 for \$773,265.71. Seconded by Bill Gouveia. Vote: unanimous.

Article 26--Walter added generic wording to these issues. Walter wants us to recommend the wording. Bill Gouveia moved to take Article 26 off the table. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved to accept Article 26. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Article 31--Walter would like to see this Article passed. They want to do this at a local level. It will not cost us anything, it just puts it on local books. Jack Nicolas moved to accept Article 31. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Bill Gouveia moved to table Article 31 so that the Water/Sewer commissioner can come in and speak to us about it. Also have them speak on the Special Town Meeting Articles 8 and 9. Phil Zawasky, Chair wants their thoughts on Article 43 too.

There are \$1,727 worth of changes to make on our FY95 Operating Budget Sheet.

Accounting (135) FY95 FNCM Rec from \$61,125 to \$61,657.

Assessors (141) FY95 FNCM Rec. from \$68,151 to \$68,165.

Treasurer/Collector (147) FY95 FNCM Rec. from \$72,235 to \$72,864.

Inspection Department (241) FY95 FNCM Rec. from \$69,977 to \$70,160.

Snow Removal (423) FY94 from \$47,500 to \$82,500.*

Street Lighting (425) FY94 from \$80,000 to \$45,000 this was a typing error.*

Board of Health (510) FY95 FNCM Rec from \$50,686 to \$50,955.

Recreation (630) FY95 FNCM Rec. from \$11,773 to \$11,873.

*Do not include these figures in the changes total above.

Bill Gouveia moved to reconsider Article 10. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Bill Gouveia moved to make the changes listed on the previous page (for Article 10). Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote:

unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 20. Seconded by Bill Gouveia. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved to amend the amount \$154,894 to read \$153,167. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Bill Gouveia moved to amend the amount to \$0. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Bill Gouveia does not want the taxpayers to pay taxes that are not necessary at this moment. Let's show the taxpayers that there vote against the override was not a waste! Paul Helmreich strongly disagrees. This is to replenish Capital Improvements. Jack Nicolas supports Bill Gouveia preferring not to put money into Capital Improvements. Bill Gouveia: we put money into Free Cash at the Special Town Meeting in March. If we leave \$150,000 there will be a feeding frenzy from other committees and budgets. Paul Helmreich believes in saving for the future. Tom Deluca emphasized that the small amount each taxpayer would get back cannot make up for things that the town needs. Vote on the amendment \$0: 4 approve (Jack Nicolas, Bill Gouveia, Michael Fiore and Donna Summerfield) and 5 oppose (Tim Phelan, Jackie Desrochers, Tom Deluca, Paul Helmreich and Julia Sweet). Vote on the main motion \$153,167: 5 in favor (Tim Phelan, Paul Helmreich, Tom Deluca, Julia Sweet, and Jackie Desrochers) and 4 opposed (Jack Nicolas, Michael Fiore, Bill Gouveia and Donna Summerfield). Bill Gouveia will be writing a Minority Report on this Article.

Paul Helmreich wants the FY94 Reserve Account to show \$10,000 and have the accounts that they transferred money to reflect the changes.

Bill Gouveia moved to have 1,000 copies of the FinCom report made. Seconded by Tom Deluca.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 4. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 0 in favor and unanimously opposed.

Bill Gouveia moved to recommend Article 5. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 abstention.

Bill Gouveia moved to table Article 6 & 7 until Monday, May 2. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Bill Gouveia moved to table 8 & 9. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Special Town Meeting recommendations must be typed out and have about 400 copies made.

Paul Helmreich made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary