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Town of Norton
Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 4, 1994

SEP 08 1994

NORTON TOWN CLERK

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

Call to Order: 7:44 pm by Phil Zawasky, Chair.

Old Business

Michael Fiore made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 20, 1994. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Vote: unanimous.

Michael Fiore made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 21, 1994. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Michael Fiore made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 25, 1994. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Jack Nicolas asked a change be made in the last paragraph of page 1. He asked that it be worded "...the general consensus is that people didn't want to pay for the future now, so....". Vote to accept with change: 4 approve and 1 abstention (Tom Deluca).

Paul Helmreich made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 27, 1994. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 2, 1994. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Tim Phelan amended the last sentence on page 1 to read "...even at a higher price at first, if recycling is an objective." Paul Helmreich also wanted the 39 gallon bag size to be included in the first paragraph on page 2 where it discusses the bag fee system. Vote to accept with amendments: 4 in favor and 1 abstention (Jack Nicolas).

Walter Lindberg, Town Manager handed out a memo documenting any new budget adjustments for the Annual Town Meeting. With the changes in mind, Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider line item 122-570 Selectmen/Other Personal Services. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Tom Deluca thought that the adjustments to this account were going to wait until the October Annual Meeting instead of doing it now. Jack Nicolas questioned whether it would be more cost effective to hire this position out (ie. FinCom secretary) and save a lot of money (\$7/hr as opposed to \$16/hr overtime pay). Jack Nicolas also suggested that the Selectmen's secretary do the job on a short term basis until they are caught up with their back-log of Minutes, and then hire out. Walter Lindberg defended the use of the Selectmen's secretary citing her many years of experience with the Selectmen and knowing the history behind many of the issues they discuss. The typing of the Minutes will be done during the work week.

Ken Zanoni spoke on behalf of the Selectmen and said that when they had a secretary taking notes at their meetings and gave her comp. time, it didn't work out because they were getting behind with their other work because she was out of the office more and they were losing out on the other end.

Bill Gouveia mentioned that he would rather have the overtime going into expenses. Carol will be taking the Minutes for the Selectmen's meetings from this point forward. She will also start trying to make a dent in the old minutes. If we use Bill's idea and put this overtime into the expense side then Walter advised us to use the \$2100 figure.

Bill Gouveia moved to amend the Selectmen's line item 122--511 Other Personal Services to read \$22,704. Seconded by Paul Helmreich. Vote: unanimous.

Jack Nicolas made a motion to amend line item 122-579 to read \$6,100 instead of \$4,000. Seconded by Bill Gouveia. Vote: 4 in favor and 2 opposed (Mike Fiore and Bill Gouveia). Bottom line is now \$28,804.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to amend line item of Town Accountant salary from \$1,890 to \$3,098. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider line item 135-510 (Accounting/Personal Services). Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to amend amount from \$61,657 to \$62,865. Seconded by Jack Nicolas. Vote: unanimous. Accounting (135) FY94 should read \$39,690 and FY95 should read \$41,278. This is due to contract adjustments carried over from the Special.

Fire (220) Line item 510 Personal Services, FY94 and FY95 should read \$60,553. \$831,996 will be the actual total on the line item.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 14. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved the Salaries line be amended to read \$185,051.58 from \$179,720.07. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: 6 in favor and 1 opposed (Jack Nicolas). The new bottom line total \$778,597.22.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 23. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved to replace the Staff Librarian and replace with Assistant Town Accountant. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 24. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved to insert Assistant Town Accountant and place the salary range between \$18,000 and \$25,000. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Paul Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 20. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved the figure of \$147,754. Seconded

by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

For the record, the revisions to Article 10 leave the total at \$17,824,984.

Paul Helmreich moved to take Articles 8 and 9 from the Special off the table. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved to recommend Articles 8 and 9. Seconded by Bill Gouveia. Vote: 6 approve and 1 opposed (Jack Nicolas).

Paul Helmreich moved to take Article 6 off the table. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Bill Gouveia feels this gives the Board of Selectmen the power to set the fee for pick-up. Bill Gouveia would like to know how much it is going to cost. Paul Helmreich supports choosing a program then letting them go out to bid on one type or both types, whatever is appropriate. Jack Nicolas suggested getting bids on both types.

They have to go back to town Meeting to actually get the appropriation of money. There will still be a lot of work ahead before an actual fee is set. These Articles could pass but nothing will happen right away. Walter Lindberg stressed that at least one of these Articles should pass--we cannot move ahead until the law has been recognized.

Tom Deluca wanted the answer to his question---Why should anyone go with you (SWAC) when they can do better by themselves! The vendors won't give them a proposal without a plan.

Paul Helmreich: Articles 6 & 7 DO NOT have dollar amounts attached! The Town must show intent--once the Town shows intent then they can go out to bid--this could be stopped if the bid is too high by not voting the appropriation. Bill Gouveia: People will not recycle if it is not economical---economics will always drive recycling.

Paul Helmreich made a motion to approve Article 6. Seconded by Tim Phelan. Solid Waste Advisory Committee will go for approval of Article 6 but would not move any dollar figure for trash removal. They are looking to secure support first and come back at the October Town Meeting with their figures all ready for possible approval in October.

Bill Gouveia made an amendment to Article 6. The Article would read as follows: I move that the Town support the concept of a curbside trash and recycling program that provides for weekly trash pick-up and bi-weekly pick-up of recycled materials, to be funded by a combined fixed and volume-based fee, and instruct the Solid Waste Management Committee to prepare a request for proposal and seek proposals.

Paul Helmreich moved the new wording be accepted. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: unanimous. Paul Helmreich moved to recommend Article 6 as amended. Seconded by Bill Gouveia.

Bill feels the bag system is just a means to measure and put a handle on what gets recycled. It builds bureaucracy, and government control---he

strongly opposes it. Jack Nicolas stated that people think of economics and convenience--bag issue isn't convenient. We will have to cross-over into other towns like Easton and Attleboro's for those people who shop out-of town. Paul Helmreich: Article 6 takes into account the single person or elderly person who doesn't generate as much trash. It recognizes large users and small users. Vote: 4 approve and 2 oppose (Jack Nicolas and Bill Gouveia).

Bill Gouveia moved Article 7. Seconded by Michael Fiore. Vote: 2 approve (Jack Nicolas and Bill Gouveia) and 4 oppose.

Planning Board is making changes to their proposals. Article 39--only those streets who petitioned to be a scenic road will be moved, unless the Finance Committee decides to move it as is.

Bill Gouveia made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tom Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Mello

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Recording Secretary