



TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 1994

CALL TO ORDER: 7:35 p.m. by Jack Nicolas, Chair.

Attendance: Jack Nicolas, Chair, Mike Fiore, Vice-Chair, Tim Phelan, Bill Gouveia, Michael Thomas, Donna Summerfield, Paul Helmreich, and Jackie Desrochers. Absent: Julia Sweet and Tom Deluca. Others Present: Walter Lindberg, Town Manager.

MINUTES

Fiore made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 19, 1994. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: 5 in favor and 2 abstentions (Phelan and Summerfield).

Miscellaneous

The committee has received a letter from Geoffrey Moran stating that the next Town Report will be printed in January 1995 and anyone who wants to add something to the new report is welcome to.

Gouveia moved that the committee send a letter saying we will pass on putting anything in the Town Report because we publish our own report each year. Seconded by Fiore. Vote: unanimously in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Industrial Development Commission (IDC) -- Article 15

They are interested in two tax incentive programs. The Tax Incentive Fund (TIF) is a program that has to be developed. A company cannot use both programs. The Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) is a three step program. The first step has already been accomplished; it was to recognize Norton as an Economic Opportunity Area (EOA). The second step is the creation of economic opportunity areas (EOA's). The third step is to certify projects--solicit people and companies to come to Norton--or to expand or renovate their existing business.

The TIF Program must be approved by the municipality. Each case must also be approved by the municipality or an authority acting for the interest of the municipality. The IDC is asking the citizens of the Town to give the Board of Selectmen the authority to approve individual TIF cases. Otherwise, the IDC will have to go to Town Meeting for every project.

There was extensive discussion on the actual wording of the warrant article. It was a general feeling that the IDC should be responsible for all the negotiations with companies and that the Board of Selectmen have a review and sign-off responsibility. The article as written does not clearly state this.

Phelan made a motion to take a 2-minute break. Seconded by Fiore. Vote: unanimously in favor. Call to order: 8:30 p.m.

Fire Department - Discussion of Capital Items on Town Meeting Warrant Washer/Dryer - Infectious Control

The cancer rate among firefighters is 3x higher than among the general public. This is due in part to the chemicals that linger in the firefighter's gear. The other reasons are the contact they have with AIDS, hepatitis, and air-borne diseases. The washer and dryer would help get the blood out of the uniforms, along with the ability to wash the heavy fire coats (22 lbs. each) more frequently.

A dry-cleaning option was looked into but was very costly. There is also a timing problem because the men usually work three days in a row, therefore, if there was a fire on the first day it would have to be cleaned for the next day and this cannot also be done.

There was a long discussion about the need to have a washer and dryer and whether the washer and dryer would end up contaminated. It was explained to the FINCOM that there are set guidelines as to how much detergent to handle a certain amount of soil etc... They will come back to the committee with information about septic systems and detergent recommendations.

Venting System

The Fire Department discussed the existing ventilation system in place at the fire station and its flaws. They highlighted health issues affecting some firefighters after being exposed too long to exhaust fumes. When the Fire Chief was asked to prioritize his requests the result was: (1) venting system (2) infectious control washer and dryer and (3) pumper.

Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle

Shift Commander will use this vehicle on a day-to-day basis. This will be a fire-call or bad-accident call vehicle.

Gouveia moved to TABLE the discussion on Warrant Articles until the October 5, 1994 meeting. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimously in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Charter discussion: Fiore handed out an outline of all the recommendations they will be filing to the Charter Commission. It was asked of all members

to review these so that a final draft could be made after Monday night's meeting. Phelan made a motion to TABLE discussion of the Charter changes until the next meeting, Monday, October 3, 1994. Seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimously in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Association of Town Finance Committees will have a meeting on Saturday, October 29, 1994.

A letter was received from the Water/Sewer Departments announcing the Special that will be held within the Annual Town Meeting. They are looking to transfer \$20,000 out of the Water Surplus Account for cleaning and repair costs to the water storage tanks.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Update the list of Charter changes.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (7:45 p.m.)

Communications Department (9:15 p.m.)

Presentation to Phil Zawasky

ADJOURNMENT

Gouveia made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fiore. Vote: unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia C. Mello

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Recording Secretary