



TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

FEB 22 1996

Minutes of the Meeting
October 11, 1995

NORTON TOWN CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: 7:32 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

Roll Call: Michael Fiore, Chair; Michael Thomas, Vice-Chair; James Barrett, Thomas Deluca, Jackie Desrochers (8:15 p.m.), Paul Helmreich, Cornelius Linehan, Jack Nicolas, Jonathan Rowe.
Absent: Christine Meyer and Donna Summerfield.

NEW BUSINESS

The chairman received a letter from the Lake Winnecunnet Association stating the funding needed for Article 12 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant will be \$36,000. The letter did not detail the type of study.

Linehan made a motion to reconsider Article 12 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Nicolas. The letter did not detail any other information. The finance committee discussed this issue further. Vote on the motion to reconsider: unanimous.

Helmreich moved to recommend \$36,000 for Article 12. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimously opposed.

Deluca made a motion to take Article 7 off of the table. Seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Nicolas made a motion to TABLE Article 7. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Deluca made a motion, seconded by Nicolas, to take Article 9 (Special Warrant) off of the table. Vote: unanimous. This article is on leak detection of our water pipes. The water/sewer department expects to purchase equipment next fiscal year for \$5,000 and \$5,000 for training. This way they can do leak detection themselves.

Nicolas made a motion to recommend a sum of \$10,000 from water/Sewer Surplus Account for leak detection analysis. Seconded by Deluca. Helmreich moved to TABLE until Monday, October 16, 1995, at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Rowe. Vote: 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Barrett).

Helmreich moved to reconsider both Articles 2 and 3 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous.

Gouveia represented the board of selectmen giving their recommendation for Articles 2 & 3. They felt it was not the responsible thing to do to let the tax rate fall --even just a small amount. They are recommending that \$100,000 additional be put into the Stabilization Fund and an additional \$200,000 go into the Capital Improvements Account. They do not recommend paying teacher deferral back right away. If the finance committee were to go along with this it would raise the tax rate approximately \$.40/1000 to \$15.40/1000 sq. ft. This would impact the average household about \$50. The entire increase would go to a "rainy day fund" for the town.

Helmreich moved to transfer an additional \$400,000 to the Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by Deluca. This would bring the tax rate to \$15.57. Deluca made an amendment to transfer \$300,000 into Capital Improvements. Seconded by Nicolas. This was discussed at length. Vote on amendment: 4 opposed (Helmreich, Nicolas, Linehan and Barrett), 4 in favor (Fiore, Deluca, Rowe, and Thomas) and 1 abstention (Desrochers). The amendment failed due to lack of a majority. Vote on the main motion of \$400,000: 2 in favor (Rowe and Helmreich), 6 opposed, and 1 abstention (Desrochers).

Nicolas made a motion to raise and appropriate an additional \$250,000 to go into the Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by Deluca. Helmreich moved to amend the figure to \$299,000 for Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by Deluca. Vote on amendment: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Barrett). This became the main motion, vote on the main motion: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Barrett).

Helmreich moved an additional \$100,000 to the Stabilization Fund. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Barrett). This will bring the Stabilization Fund up to a total of \$400,000 and the Capital Improvements Fund up to \$599,000.

Linehan moved to take off the table Article 7 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous. The planning board held their public hearing last night and the planning board voted to recommend Article 7. This article requires a 2/3 vote at town meeting. Planning board chairman James Chabot spoke on behalf of the article. This article would change residential properties to be zoned commercial on Route 140. The homes could be sold as residential or commercial in the future. It would affect approximately 140 homes. The implications of this new zoning change were discussed by the committee members.

Helmreich moved to recommend Article 7 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: 3 in favor (Barrett, Linehan and Nicolas) and 6 opposed.

Thomas made a motion, seconded by Barrett, to take Article 11 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant off the table. Vote: unanimous. Thomas moved to recommend Article 11 (Special).

Seconded by Nicolas. This has been recommended by the planning board. Vote: unanimously in favor.

Article 5 - Special Town Meeting Warrant: Land Study. Selectman Gouveia represented the selectmen in stating their opposition to having the land study funded through the Stabilization Fund. They do not feel that it should take a 2/3 vote to get the funding (\$25,000) for the study.

Rowe made a motion to reconsider Article 5 (Special) Land Study. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich made a motion to amend the current recommendation to say "raise and appropriate \$25,000 (instead of taking it out of Stabilization Fund). Seconded by Rowe. The selectmen defended their reasons for just asking for a majority vote and the finance committee defended their own viewpoint that they get a 2/3 vote. Nicolas moved the question. Seconded by Deluca. Vote: 7 in favor and 3 opposed. Vote on amendment to "raise and appropriate": 1 in favor and 8 opposed.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Monday, October 16, 1995

- Post meeting for 6:00 p.m.
- Article 9 Special Town Meeting Warrant: Leak Detection

ADJOURNMENT

Deluca made a motion, seconded by Nicolas, to adjourn. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Patricia C. Mello
Patricia C. Mello
Recording Secretary