



## TOWN OF NORTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Meeting  
May 20, 1996

NORTON TOWN CLERK

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:37 p.m. by Chair, Michael Fiore.

**Roll Call:** Michael Fiore, Chair; Michael Thomas, Vice-Chair; James Barrett, Thomas DeLuca, Jackie Desrochers, Paul Helmreich, Christine Meyer, Jonathan Rowe, and Donna Summerfield.

**Absent:** Cornelius Linehan and Jack Nicolas.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Emergency Medical (230):** The committee discussed the benefits and alternatives for using Comstar to do the ambulance billing. The committee discussed whether it is feasible to continue doing outside billing. The town manager stated that Comstar does the billing for many communities and they know the codes and rules for the billing. Rowe moved \$54,700 for line item 230-570 Other Charges & Expenses. Seconded by Barrett. This would be a 3 year contract but its subject to appropriation every year. This was confirmed by the town manager. Helmreich moved an amended figure of \$44,700 so that it can come back to the October Town meeting. Seconded by DeLuca. Vote on amendment: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Rowe). This became the main motion. Vote: unanimous.

The new Assistant Town Accountant is not in the union anymore. She would have received \$21,050 if the finance committee recommendations were approved at town meeting and she remained in the union. She will make \$1,000 less in the non-union position. The town manager described the history of this position and the person within the position. DeLuca moved to re-open 135-510 Personal Services; seconded Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. DeLuca moved to amend the Personal Services account to \$81,311; seconded by Summerfield. This increase is the result of raising the salary from \$19,950 to \$20,520. Rowe offered an amendment to add in the \$730 between the \$20,520 and \$21,250 making the figure \$81,841. The longevity is already in there. Seconded by Helmreich. This fulfills the town manager's request. Vote on amendment of \$81,841: 6 in favor and 3 opposed (Meyer, Barrett and DeLuca). Main motion became \$81,841: 6 in favor and 3 opposed (Meyer, Barrett and DeLuca).



Article 3 - Unpaid Bills: Helmreich moved to recommend \$120.07 for Article 3; seconded by Thomas. Vote: unanimous. This is for 2 electric bills and one 4 year old IRS holding account.

Article 7 - Capital Improvements Fund: Helmreich moved to reconsider Article 7; seconded by DeLuca. Vote: unanimous. Helmreich moved to transfer \$773,760 to Capital Improvements from Free Cash; seconded by DeLuca. Vote: 8 in favor and 1 opposed (Summerfield).

Article 9 - Replacement Capital Items: The capital improvements committee did recommend the 2 cruisers for the police department and the Breathing Apparatus for the fire department. Helmreich moved the figure of \$458,004 from capital improvements account; seconded by DeLuca. Vote: unanimous. They did not fund the Solmonese Burner Replacement or the Handicapped Access Doors.

Article 10 - New Capital Items: The capital improvements committee recommends \$16,000 for personal computers (another \$8,000 was requested for a consultant but they do not recommend this). They recommend \$35,000 from underground tank removal at the municipal building. They did not recommend the police motorcycle. They lowered the price of the radio antenna to \$18,500 because they can use a back up generator and a repeater unit will not be needed. They did not recommend the fire department apparatus exhaust ventilation. They did recommend \$70,000 for the water department utility truck. Helmreich moved the figure \$73,600 to come from capital improvements and \$70,000 from the water surplus for a total of \$143,600. Seconded by Barrett. Vote: unanimous.

Article 11 - Continuing Lease Payments: DeLuca moved \$80,857 from the Capital Improvements Fund and \$49,265 from the Ambulance Account for a total of \$130,122. Vote: unanimous.

Summerfield moved to re-open line item 155-570 Data Processing/Other Charges & Expenses. Seconded by Helmreich. Vote: unanimous. Data Processing would like to have a consultant to come in and look at miscellaneous issues such as: the financial computer system, the police computer, linking hardware, further linking software, financial accounting software and improving utility billing. Summerfield moved \$8,000 for 155-570 bringing the total to \$34,000. Seconded by Barrett. Vote: 6 in favor and 3 opposed (Thomas, Helmreich and DeLuca).

#### **Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Article 1 - FY 1996 Budget Transfers: Helmreich moved to transfer \$4,975 from the Ambulance Account and \$73,380 from the Stabilization Fund; seconded by Barrett. Vote: unanimous. There will be 2 votes taken on this article.



Article 2 - Sewer Treatment Costs: The Town's share is only \$12,666 so that is all we are requesting. BayBank's share is \$73,518 which we are trying to bill for. Helmreich moved \$12,666 from Stabilization; seconded by DeLuca. Vote: unanimous. The town manager will consult with town counsel on this.

Article 3 - TIF Plan: Thomas moved to recommend Article 3; seconded by Summerfield. Vote: 7 in favor, 1 opposed (DeLuca) and 1 abstention (Summerfield).

Article 4 - Home Rule Act: Rose Farm. To revert from active to passive recreation. Appeals to administrative action are still under way. Helmreich moved to recommend Article 4; seconded by Rowe. The committee discussed both sides of the issue before taking the vote. Vote: 2 in favor (Rowe and Thomas) and 7 opposed.

Article 5 - Transfer of Funds: DeLuca moved to approve Article 5; seconded by Barrett. Helmreich suggested rescinding the action taken 2 years ago. You can return money to Free Cash because there is no account to put it in. It came from Capital Improvements Fund so it could be transferred back there. Helmreich moved to recommend that the account be closed and the money go to the Capital Improvements Fund. Seconded by DeLuca. Vote: unanimous.

Thomas presented to the committee his draft of the Finance Committee's Report and Recommendations to be submitted as part of the town meeting warrant package. The committee reviewed the document and suggested changes. Helmreich moved to approve the document with the adjustments of appropriate numbers; seconded by DeLuca. Vote: unanimous.

As of tonight the Capital Improvements Account has \$845,299.

### ADJOURNMENT

Thomas made a motion, seconded by Barrett, to adjourn. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

*Patricia C. Mello*  
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Recording Secretary