

TOWN OF NORTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
March 18, 2002

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CALL TO ORDER: 7:30pm by Chair, Paul Helmreich

Present: Paul Helmreich, Donald Brown, Donna Summerfield, Mike Fiore, Jackie Desrochers, Bill Gouveia, Mike Thomas
Absent: Philip Zawasky, John Luti

MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2002 meeting.

Vote: 2 abstention (Gouveia & Thomas); 5 in favor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southeastern Regional will hold a Public Hearing on their budget on Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 7:30pm in Cinema 1 at their school.

BUDGET

Members of the Library Board were present to discussion their proposed budget. The Library Dept. is requesting a 5% increase in salaries across the board.

Highlights of discussion:

- The Library Dept. cannot use supplemental funds for salaries.
- Town Manager recommended 3% salary increase.
- Library has averaged a 9.25% increase over the last 3 years.
- In the event cuts must be made, Gouveia asked if it would be possible to cut down on expenses and possibly make more use of the supplemental funds.
- State mandates 15% of the budget be spent on books and supplies.
- Library Dept. would like to extend the hours of operation for the Library in the summer without adding personnel hours. Rather, they would move people around.
- State mandates the number of hours the Library must be open in order to get state aid.
- Library currently receives \$20,000 - \$25,000 per year in state aid.
- Helmreich reiterated the necessity for level funding salaries for all departments this year.

LIBRARY

Fiore made a motion seconded by Summerfield to recommend \$383,279.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion Passes

OVERALL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

- Helmreich presented a worksheet to Committee Members, depicting a School Dept. budget of \$20,232,727 and a Town budget of \$12,221,602. Leaving a shortfall of \$411,862.
- Town Manager will present a plan for finding the \$411,862 to the Finance Committee on Monday, March 25th.

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OVERALL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS (cont'd)

- Gouveia is of the opinion the Committee should prepare a worst case scenario in order to be prepared in case it needs to be presented at Town Meeting.
- Helmreich is of the opinion the Committee should present most reasonable and rational scenario at Town Meeting.
- Helmreich feels the Committee should try to present a balanced budget without using Reserves.
- Committee should have minimum school spending figure by the end of March.
- School figure will be a major determination of how much needs to be cut from the budget.

BUDGET VOTE

Gouveia made a motion seconded by Fiore that the Finance Committee... after receiving the school figure... revisit the vote taken on March 6, 2002 regarding options presented by Helmreich for budget processing.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion Passes

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2002 @ 7:30pm

Agenda: Water & Sewer Depts.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Christine McSweeney
Secretary Norton Finance Committee