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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Finance Committee Minutes  
April 10, 2006  
Municipal Center - Selectmen's Meeting Room**

**Call To Order**

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Chairman, Mike Thomas; Vice-Chair, Paul Helmreich; Tom DeLuca, Jackie Desrochers, Angel Doyle, Mike Fiore, Lee Tarantino, and Philip Zawasky. Absent: Donna Summerfield. Town Manager was also present.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

Mr. Helmreich said Town Report was being written.

Discussion ensued on budget columns. Mr. Helmreich said Town Manager's difference column does not need to be there. FinCom's recommendation on contingency has no column to indicate FinCom's recommendations on balanced budget. Should be added: FinCom recommended balanced budget and FinCom recommended contingency.

Mr. Helmreich referenced Article 13 - info only.

It was consensus of FinCom to have listed as Mr. Helmreich recommended above the appropriate columns.

**Lynn Wiegel, Norton Cable Access**

Mr. Kimball said they made cable access a private entity; only 1% under proposition 2 1/2 allowed. Best interest for Norton Cable Access to serve as Norton Cable Access Corp. (NCAC). Request for FinCom's recommendation to have them become more independent.

Would like redraft of wording of Article to enter into "grant agreement" with NCA (Norton Cable Access). It is being held in revolving fund currently. Memo of agreement to be used.

Mr. Kimball said he met with Lynn Wiegel and if fund continues to build could possibly in future set up another enterprise account. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Tarantino asked about recourse Town has to bring it back if it does not work out/will contract address this?

Mr. Kimball responded Board of Selectmen are appointing authority and could run it for awhile if needed.

Mr. Tarantino referenced Section 3 in contract stating employee will be employee of Cable Access Corp. with town benefits.

Mr. Kimball referenced Memorandum of Agreement; negotiations made and improvements to be made in the Board of Selectmen meeting room and live drops in all municipal buildings (schools, etc.) and they are very receptive to working with Town.

Mr. Helmreich recommended to defer action on this until FinCom sees final warrant article.

**Leon Dumont, Health Agent**

Mr. Purcell spoke of 180 days that Mr. Dumont has been in Board of Health office; and some stability in that office now. He spoke of calculation of salaries in that office (Mr. Dumont, Cindy Peters and Assistant Health Agent). Sum should be \$102,354.00.

Mr. Purcell said his recommendation was \$100,272.00.

Other wages Mr. Purcell is recommending be level funded.

Mr. Helmreich asked Mr. Dumont if he was comfortable with changes?

Mr. Dumont said last couple of years budget was level funded and said they must be prepared regarding Homeland Security. Town nurse works tirelessly and would like her to get higher pay as she is grossly underpaid.

Mr. Dumont said Town has grown and needs more manpower.

Town nurse position currently at 20 hours per week; annual pay in 2005 at \$18,668 and in 2006 at \$19,322. Mr. Purcell said the request for 24 hours he would like to accommodate as increase on workload, etc. Discussion ensued. No Action Taken.

**#210 - Police:**

Mr. Purcell said number for maintaining excluding chief's position = \$1,398,710.00. Chief's number is by contract.

Contingent appropriation for at least two patrol positions, and patrol positions have value of \$85,116. Mr. Purcell said he is still not convinced lieutenant's position is appropriate thing to do; he is still pondering it.

Mr. Fiore discussed overtime/sick days, etc.

Mr. Purcell stated sick time is a very complex issue and one of topics of collective bargaining. There were a couple of long-term injuries.

Police Expenses: Mr. Purcell said capital equipment they are recommending for funding such (fingerprint screening device) which notifies state police and FBI. \$16,000 is request now; can level-fund this at Town Meeting and probably fund new machine.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Police-Personnel Services (account 210-510), in the amount of \$1,927,171. for balanced budget. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Police-Other Charges & Expenses (account 210-570), in the amount of \$167,298.00 for balanced budget. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**#220. Fire:**

Four new positions under salaries. Mr. Purcell said adding two full-time vs. four might be more prudent thing to do. Lateral transfers were discussed.

Mr. Helmreich said he would like more rationale at next meeting on two full timers vs. four.

Mr. Purcell extended condolences to Chief Gomes as his brother passed away over weekend and Chief would not be available for next couple of days.

**Fire Expenses:**

Kitchen equipment is only true variance (new cabinetry and counters donated and installed).

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Fire-Personnel Services (account 220-510) in the amount of \$2,230,439.00 for balanced budget. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Fire-Other Charges & Expenses (account 220-570), in the amount of \$162,300.00. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**#230, Emergency Medical**

Mr. Purcell said amount should be \$70,550.

Pandemic issues were discussed. Mr. Purcell said if pandemic situation occurred it would be state/federal assisted and reimbursed.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Emergency Medical-Other Charges & Expenses (account 230-570), in the amount of \$70,550.00. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**#510-Board of Health:**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend #510-Board of Health balanced budget per Town Manager's recommendation of 15 vs. 17 hour position at \$5,150.00. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend #510-Board of Health, Personnel Services 510-510 balanced budget amount of \$105,622. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Board of Health, Other Charges & Expenses, 510-570 in the amount of \$11,000. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**#522-Public Health Nurse:**

It was noted FinCom would go with Town Manager's recommendation.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend \$20,000.00 for Public Health Nurse-Personnel Services (account 522-510). Second by Mr. Zawasky.**

**Discussion: It was discussed more state mandates incoming, etc.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to recommend Public Health Nurse-Other Charges & Expenses, (account 522-570), in the amount of \$9,500.00. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Helmreich stated the FinCom voted on Communications Dept. the other evening and Ms. Graney said contractual increases were not included.

Mr. Purcell said it does include increases.

Mr. Purcell spoke of general government level services. He said at last Saturday's meeting did not have ability to makeup for any shortfall due to voke school. Local receipts are being adjusted. House Ways and Means due out today; not posted yet and need to see posting; \$250,000 or less depending on lieutenant's position. He will prepare a summary sheet.

**It was noted by Mr. Purcell that Board of Health should be \$105,624.00**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Helmreich to reconsider previous vote on Board of Health. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Desrochers to approve Board of Health-Personnel Services (account 510-510), in the amount of \$105,624.00. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Helmreich referenced "Impact Statement" and not using \$1M.

Mr. Helmreich asked what will be in article for capital improvements increase? Mr. Purcell responded close to \$268,000.

Ambulance expense/ new computerized billing and road building equipment, etc. from Ch90 supplemental (\$160-\$170,000 supplemental); \$30,00 wood chipper and other capital items explained.

\$268,000 will be e-mail conversion plan; police vehicles/fingerprint machine; five year pumper program, fire alarm system, Chartley Station and Sped bus at \$45,000. Modest sum into communications.

Mr. Helmreich said it is not a balanced budget if they cannot put back into capital improvements.

Charter schools were discussed briefly.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION was made to Adjourn at 9:40 p.m. by Mr. Zawasky. Second by Mr. DeLuca. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Janet A. Sweeney, Finance Committee - Recording Secretary