

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
April 4, 2017

Time: 7:04 pm

Place: Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Jeff Simmons, Ned Wolf (chair), Gloria Fisher, Jan Carr; and at 7:10 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, and Robyn Provost-Carlson

The Finance Committee joined the Selectboard at 7:10 to review the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. After some discussion there was a consensus that Free Cash should be about 5% of the Town's annual general revenue or about \$100,000. Members discussed audits and reached an agreement that our goal should be to have an audit every 5 years or upon changes in accounting personnel. Looking over the tables of data in the Capital Improvement Plan, Sheila asked whether the Finance Committee is willing to update the tables each year. Ned said he would make available the data that appears in the tables on the DOR website. He questioned the recent reduction by the Springfield office of the DOR in Heath's excess levy capacity by \$50,000. In the course of e-mail exchanges with Deb Wagner in that office, Ned reported that the reduction was made to discourage Heath's using \$50,000 in Free Cash to reduce the tax rate in FY2018. He said he would phone Joe Markarian of the FRCOG to ask about the data tables in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Members turned to Article 3. We will ask Al Canali about the \$1000 Wired West Assessment in line 9. The increase in line 45 for the copier is for more paper.

Line 70 has decreased from 2000 to 0 and line 69 has increased from 500 to 1500 because Ed Grinnell has assumed the role of Animal Control Officer, and we no longer have an assistant.

The Foot Clinic will receive a Foot Care Grant of \$1500. In addition it will need the \$1200 from the Town in line 117 and donations.

Jeff suggested there be some kind of honorarium for the Colrain ambulance service. There was a consensus to explore their needs.

Members discussed the \$15,000 for Pre-School in line 161 which is the same as last year. Sheila said that just as the morning pre-school in Heath has been free, morning pre-school at Hawlemont has been fee. Last year the Heath funded afternoon pre-school at the Heath School. For FY2018 Heath will need to join Charlemont and Hawley to fund afternoon pre-school.

Turning to the Fire Department and the need to get the hoses tested, members heard Ken express confidence that the \$2,050 cost could come out of the \$14,000 line for Supply and Training. This line will also fund the needed repair of the compressor.

Looking at the draft of the ATM Warrant, members were agreed in eliminating the article that would use a certain amount of Free Cash to bring down the tax rate. Members discussed dispersing Free Cash into various stabilization accounts such as one for dilapidated town properties. There were suggestions as to how the \$122,000 new truck might be paid for through a combination of revenue from the sale of real estate, money from stabilization, and borrowing.

At 9:35 Gloria made a motion seconded by Jan to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf, Secretary