

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 18, 2017

Time: 7 pm

Place: The Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Gloria Fisher, Jan Carr, Don Freeman (chair), and at 7:50 Kara Leistyna,
Sheila Litchfield, and Brian DeVriese

Absent: Jeff Simmons

Members read the minutes of the meeting April 11th. Gloria made a motion seconded by Jan to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

After some discussion members agreed with Don's suggestion that we recommend to the Selectboard rescinding their earlier decision to eliminate from the warrant the article that would have \$50,000 of Free Cash used to reduce the tax rate. Members discussed Gloria's suggestions for using Free Cash. Don listed the uses of Free Cash recommended by the Finance Committee: \$50,000 to reduce the tax rate; \$45,000 for the new truck; \$10,000 for the new tax possession property management account; \$45,000 for the school building/capital improvement account; and \$2,000 for the audit stabilization account. Don noted that the Finance Committee supports dropping the article that would put \$15,000 Free Cash into the large vehicle stabilization fund. Ned made a motion seconded by Jan that the Finance Committee recommends the uses of Free Cash as detailed by Don. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:47 Gloria made a motion that the Finance Committee join the Selectboard meeting in progress and adjourn when the discussion of the warrant articles is over. The motion passed unanimously.

Don told the Selectboard of the Finance Committee's discussion and its recommended uses of Free Cash. Sheila noted that the \$10,000 proposed for the beginning of a tax possession property management account would not even be half of the typical cost of razing a house. There was a consensus to recommend a transfer from general stabilization of \$20,000 to the tax possession property management account bringing the total in that account to \$30,000.

Brian made a motion to recommend the rescinding of Article 36 of the May 9, 2015 Annual Town Meeting which authorized the Town to raise and appropriate, transfer, or borrow the sum of \$4,000,000 for the construction of a Public Safety Complex. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila suggested setting up a broadband fund for contingencies in FY2018. There was some discussion of how the remainder of Free Cash might be used. If the articles on the ATM warrant pass, there will be approximately \$27,000 left in Free Cash. Any transfer from those funds would have to occur before July 1.

The Finance Committee recommended articles on the warrant for the May 6th ATM. Gloria made a motion seconded by Jan that the Finance Committee recommends articles 3, 4, 5, 7 – 21, and 25 of the April 25th version of the ATM warrant.. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary