

Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 25, 2017

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: The Community Hall

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

Following a discussion of the school situation, members discussed how Free Cash could be used to reduce the tax rate. Jeff suggested that Free Cash could be used to relieve some of the Town's debt. It was noted that the DOR recommendation is to put Free Cash into stabilization as in certain articles on the warrant. Gloria made a motion seconded by Ned to rescind a vote that would have used \$50,000 of Free Cash to reduce the tax rate. At 8:32 the Finance Committee moved to an adjacent room to discuss several options. During the discussion Kara informed the committee of a suggestion from the Selectboard. The warrant article for transferring \$50,000 from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate would be replaced by an article in which the only change is that \$50,000 be replaced by \$30,000. A new warrant article would be for transferring \$20,000 of Free Cash to pay off \$20,000 of debt from the repairs following tropical storm Irene. This article would replace line 143 in the April 25th version of Article 3. After some discussion Jeff made a motion seconded by Jan to recommend warrant articles for using \$30,000 of Free Cash to reduce taxes and to use \$20,000 of Free Cash to pay off \$20,000 of Irene debt. The motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Committee rejoined the Selectboard. Don reported the committee's vote. Returning to a review of Article 3, the committees discussed Jeff's question as to why the line for dump transportation remains unchanged from last year at \$27,500 in light of the Town's plan to switch in July to pay per throw. Kara said that Jan Ameen acknowledged statistics showing a drop in dump transportation costs in towns that switched to pay per throw but still counseled caution. After some discussion there was a consensus that Kara would phone Jan Ameen to seek her opinion on Heath's lowering the FY18 amount for dump transportation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary