

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
June 28, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Assessors' Office

Present: Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Jeff Simmons, and Dave Gott

Handouts included the minutes of the June 7th meeting, an agenda, a printout of Bob Viarengo's plan regarding the transfer station, and data sheets on recycling compiled by Jeff using numbers obtained from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

The minutes of the June 7th meeting read and approved.

The FinCom continued its discussion of PAYT and related issues. Referring to Bob's plan, Jeff spoke in favor of allowing 2 stickers per household because of cases where one car doesn't run. He also urged that a commercial rate be charged for contractors who dump on their residential stickers. Members expressed concern about residents buying stickers and sharing them with nonresidents. Jan suggested that residents upon purchasing a sticker would have the car registration number inscribed on the sticker. She also suggested that stickers be made a different color each year. There was a consensus that use of the transfer station be restricted to Heath taxpayers with an exception for renters who offer proof of residence at the time the sticker is purchased.

Don reported on his conversation with Tommy Flynn who estimates that a quarter of all the bottles in the bin are depositable. One problem is that since people don't rinse the bottles out, they attract insects. Jeff is considering volunteering for the Fire Department to help collect depositable bottles and clean them. Don said that Tommy thinks that the cost of a new compacter would be more than offset by savings in transportation. Jeff said he would follow up with Mike Smith on finding the cost of a compacter. Finally, Don said that Tommy would not find the dumping of compost, for instance in a donated manure spreader, to be a problem.

Members agreed that Heath residents who regularly dispose of contractors' bulk waste should have to buy a special annual sticker at a higher rate than for regular stickers. There was a consensus that the transfer station should no longer receive bulk waste that is not in bags unless it is from a resident with a one-time sticker costing \$3. Such stickers could be purchased at the Post Office.

Jeff guided members through data on recycling showing how the revenue might be used to eliminate the \$18,000 cost per year for dump tipping. He noted that in practice recycling revenue has been used for such things as a \$10,000 salt shed repair. There was a consensus that there should be a dedicated fund into which would go the payments for transfer station stickers. Recycling could be encouraged as a way to lower the cost of the sticker. By doing away with the current slush fund there would be more transparency, and recycling revenue would be used only to reduce the cost of using the transfer station.

Shifting to the topic of the preschool, Dave noted that Michael Buoniconti has enhanced the preschool teacher position by adding responsibilities for special education assessments. This new position will have health insurance benefits.

Members agreed to ask the BOS when we might take up other issues in the manner of PAYT. Such issues might include the step system for paying town employees and the town stipends. Regarding the step system, members wondered whether or not Heath is being compared with the right towns. Do we need professional guidance in choosing comparable towns?

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on July 12th to discuss the transfers that are needed just following the end of a fiscal year. There will also be a meeting on July 15th at 7:00 pm. Ned will post notices for both meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary