

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee

November 9, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Don Freeman, Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, Dave Gott, Tom Lively, Sheila Litchfield, Jenna Day, and Dave Howland

There was a discussion of an e-mail sent by Dave Howland on November 9 to Don Freeman, Jeff Simmons, Sheila Litchfield, and Tom Lively. Dave noted differences in the language of the three warrant articles. According to Tom one source of the differences may be the effort to comply with the law as it applies to one town's giving money to another town. Unlike Heath or Hawley, Charlemont would be receiving the money.

Another question Dave raised in his e-mail was whether or not in the statistical sense there is a correlation between water well testing and dump well testing results. Sheila stated that the data shows that there indeed is such a correlation.

There was discussion of how Heath might finance its approximately \$140,000 share of the cost. One possibility would be to use \$60,000 from Free Cash, \$64,000 from Stabilization, and \$16,000 from the Dump Closing Account. Dave Howland suggested leaving a cushion of say \$13,000 in Free Cash. Don expressed the FinCom's hope that there be some funds available to help bring the tax rate down.

Sheila expressed interest in the FinCom's opinion of #6 in the Intermunicipal Agreement. Sheila herself thinks that Heath shouldn't be trying to revenue share with Charlemont following a purchase of the property. On the other hand Tom wondered what liability Heath would be exposed to by such revenue sharing. Don said that he would like a legal opinion on the liabilities Heath might incur by revenue sharing with Charlemont.

Tom and Sheila noted that because it would be a "friendly taking" the towns would be getting a signed copy of the McClouds' waiver of liability. That document is essentially what \$140,000 gets the town. The rationale for approving the agreement is that the towns are under threat of a bankrupting lawsuit.

Sheila said that the one document that we haven't yet seen is that regarding licensure. That is the document that among other things will permit the McClouds to stay on their property following its purchase for a defined period of time.

The FinCom will meet again on Monday, November 15 at 7:00 pm in Sawyer Hall. The BOS will be looking for an analysis of the sources of funds with recommendations. The BOS would also like the FinCom's opinion on revenue sharing.

Dave Howland raised a separate issue for future discussion: using a modest long term loan to purchase Helen Mackie's house in Heath Center.

On November 29th there will be another meeting of the three selectboards on the proposal to purchase the McClouds' property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf, Secretary