

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 25, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Don Freeman, Jeff Simmons, Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Dave Gott, Sheila Litchfield, Tom Lively, Deb Porter, Don Purington, Dave Howland, and Mike Smith at 7:30 pm

There was discussion of Mike Smith's Budget Requests for both the Highway Department and the Fire Department. The amount requested for Dump Tipping is up by \$1000 based on a projection. Although Dump Transportation is also projected to go over, it will be left at \$11,800 while Mike checks with Jan Ameen.

When Mike was asked to speculate on possibly needed capital expenditures, he mentioned adding a wing plow to the '09 Chevy at a cost of \$8K - \$10K and replacing the '99 International truck at a cost of \$90K - \$110K. The '03 truck will be coming up for replacement in 2013.

Regarding the request for the Fire Department, members noted an increase from \$500 to \$700 for EMS Service. New batteries are needed for defibrillators. There was a discussion of possible compensation for those firefighters who have been taking a year long course. Mike will look into this. Mike has applied for a grant to get software permitting Firefighter 1 training in house.

Jenna reported that the amount in the Recycling Waste Management Account is \$2,762.

In answer to Don's question as to when the State will certify the tax rate, Tom said that information from the revaluation must first be compiled in the computers.

Sheila moved that the BOS enter Executive Session for purpose #6, Section 21, M.G.L. c. 30A and invite the Finance Committee and Dave Howland to participate. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. Deb reviewed the Library trustees' consideration of the Mackie house as a possible site for the Library. She said that Helen said she would consider selling her house and property to the Town for \$325,000 plus whatever the cost might be of a renewed septic system. Deb reported Brian's having said that it would take \$100K - \$150K to do the necessary renovations. Jan noted that the 40 year mortgage could include closing costs and renovations.

There was discussion of what the total cost would be including septic system and renovations. Tom estimated \$485K. Deb said that the next step would be for the BOS to make an offer to Helen. Jan said there is rolling admission after October 1st for the USDA grant, and they need to know that the purchase was posted for 30 days.

FinCom members spoke on the proposed purchase. Dave Gott reported on discussion at the January 22nd meeting of the responsibility of maintaining a certain level of care for municipal buildings. This

responsibility would grow with a Library in the former Mackie house. In addition to noting the unusual opportunities, Don said that the yearly operating cost of the Library might increase to \$35K and that the next two years would be difficult due to payments on both the School and the McCloud property.

Sheila made a motion that the BOS enlist Town Counsel to draft an offer to Helen that will include all contingencies. The motion passed. The BOS is aware that it may not be until spring that we know whether or not a new septic system is needed. The cost of that test is nearly 3 times greater at this time of year.

Sheila moved that the BOS go out of Executive Session. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary