

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
March 15, 2011

Time: 6:45 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Don Freeman, Jan Carr, Jeff Simmons, Dave Gott, Ned Wolf, Gary Singley, and Kathy Inman all of whom joined Jenna Day and the BOS after 7:35 pm

The minutes of the February 22, March 1, and March 8 meetings were read and approved with emendations. Members discussed with Heath residents Gary Singley and Kathy Inman the proposed purchase of Helen Mackie's house by the Town. Members commended them for their good questions and provided at least partial answers. The FinCom plans to be more prepared to answer such questions at the open hearing which will be scheduled in the weeks prior to the ATM. The questions included the following: By how much did the cost of the school go over estimate?, What percent of townspeople actually use the library?, and Would a library become technologically obsolete?

At 7:35 pm members approved a motion to adjourn and join the BOS meeting in progress.

Regarding the possible purchase and renovations of the Mackie house, Jan said it's unknown whether and when the USDA loan money will be available. Members discussed the possibility of seeking a bridge loan for the purchase. Tom reported that superintendent Buoniconti has said that movement on a free preschool may be slower than expected. It may take the school committee another year to prepare. Jenna reported that the Franklin Technical School assessment is \$57,484 which is down from \$60,586 last year.

The discussion turned to salaries starting with that of the Town Accountant whose pay is way over grade but just 105.9% of the COG average. The question of how this could happen as well as some other questions about the pay schedule are ones that Sheila wants to discuss with Dave Howland in the coming week. More information is needed on how many hours the Town Accountant as well as the Town Clerk are working.

Members discussed what increases in pay would be appropriate for town employees in light of such factors as years of experience, quality of work, and the average pay of employees doing comparable work in nearby towns.

The FinCom meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary