

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 5, 2012

Time: 6:45 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, Dave Gott, and at 8:15 pm Jenna Day and the BOS

Members signed the Request to Transfer \$25 from the Reserve Fund to the FRCOG Assessment, a document that members had approved at the March 29th meeting.

Members read and approved the minutes of the March 29th meeting. There was a discussion of Ned's revision of minutes of the January 25th, February 8th, and February 15th. There was a consensus that Ned would send those revisions by e-mail to members before the meeting on April 12th. The question arose as to whether the Finance Committee meeting of January 22nd was legal since that day was Saturday. Members approved a motion delegating to Ned the job of clearing up the ambiguity around the January 22nd meeting.

Don showed members copies of a posting at Peters' Store questioning the plan to purchase the Mackie house. Most of the questions are those of Gary Singley and Karen Inman when they visited the FinCom meeting on March 22nd and again on March 29th. Don suggested that as we interact with people debating the proposed purchase, we look for each person's best intentions. Dave volunteered to try to find the source of the Peters' Store posting.

Jeff said that it would be scary and irresponsible of us to consider the project without the numbers. Don spoke of having an hour long conversation with Alice Wozniak and that he is a bit more optimistic that we'll see the numbers by May 7th. Jeff wondered about a plan that might involve purchasing the Mackie house but holding off on renovations. This is close to what Dave Howland has suggested.

Jeff provided members with copies of the data he has used to project a FY2013 tax rate of \$19.97. For FY2013 Jeff also projects that the Town will be \$167,522 over the Levy Limit.

Members reviewed Gary and Kathy's e-mail that was forwarded by Jeff as well as Don's preliminary answers to their questions. There was a question as to how Siemens' energy saving survey would help the Town. Jan said she had talked with Bill Gran who was to have gotten back to the Town by January. Bill has not yet gotten back. The best we are likely to get out of Siemens is a list of improvements we have to make.

The discussion turned to roofs on town buildings across from the transfer station. A roof is needed over the EOC section of the fire department. Regarding Mike's updated replacement schedule e-mailed on March 30th, members wondered why the relatively new grader is scheduled for replacement in 2015.

Members approved a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm to join the BOS meeting in progress. At 8:15 pm Jeff left the meeting.

Selectboard members reported that Mike said that replacing the 1999 truck with a new truck with wing plow would cost \$110,000. Sheila said that Mike reported that the grader blew a tire that will cost \$1700 to replace. Since other tires on the grader are old, Mike may request as much as \$8,500 for new tires for the grader.

Jenna reported that the total for proposed salary increases for FY2012 is \$19,306. She said that Kristi has said that another \$1050 may be needed for tax collecting. This number appears on a sheet Tracey has prepared anticipating shortfalls in various accounts. Members received copies of this sheet.

Tom reported that June and July special town meetings may be coming to vote on approving more money for the schools. The money would be used for high school roof repair. The plan is to take advantage of the MSBA Green Repair Program as described on a handout to members. The MTRSD would take out a loan and be responsible for paying back 37% while the state would pay back the remaining 63%. Heath's share of the 37% would be 7 and ½ %.

The discussion turned to the effects of not having quarterly tax revenues. Tom said that borrowing may be needed.

Members agreed that the results of the Assessors' recent work should be online. Dave Gott made a motion that the Assessors have all numerical information about properties online for 2 weeks. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Members discussed responses to concerns voiced by Gary Singley and Karen Inman.

The FinCom adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary