

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
April 12, 2011

Time: 8:20 pm

Place: Heath School cafeteria

Present: Jeff Simmons, Jan Carr, Dave Gott, Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Jenna Day, the Bos,  
Alice Wozniak, Val Kaempher, Rebecca Allen, and Ann Pacino

Alice said that she hoped to have a preliminary tax rate by Friday, April 15. It would be posted starting April 19 for ten days. In explaining the Assessors' delays Val spoke of a new DOR representative in western Mass who had to get up to speed and who told them only a couple of weeks ago what was expected. Val said that they were required to redo all secondary lots at Mohawk Estates. Alice said that the Assessors plan to release surplus Overlay funds within 10 days as requested by Tracey.

Don asked the Assessors whether a PDF file of their recent property numbers could be put online for public viewing. Alice said she would look into it. She said it's something the Patriot software company would do for \$2000.

There was a discussion of preschool with school committee members. Could Heath have a tuition-free preschool? For Mohawk to become a pre-K district would require changing the original agreement among the towns. Town counsel has suggested that there be an intermunicipal agreement between Heath and the school district related to preschool. There has been talk of having one preschool teacher for Heath and Colrain. Sheila said that for that teacher to be at Heath just two days a week would not be desirable. Looking to the FY2012 budget, Sheila recommended putting \$15,000 into preschool so as to be prepared for fifteen kids. The BOS and FinCom approved by unanimous vote a motion to increase the preschool line item of Article 3 to \$15,000 and to have a letter composed to the school district detailing Heath's wishes to have preschool three days a week, four hours a day.

Members began a review of the ATM Warrant Articles. Article 10 is to transfer an amount from Free Cash to the General Fund for the purpose of reducing taxes. There was a consensus that this amount be \$50,000 with the realization that this amount could be reduced on the floor of the ATM.

Members began a line by line review of Article 3 having acknowledged that voting on financial articles may be postponed from May 7<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a consensus that the clerks for both the Assessors' and the Board of Health should be taken out of Article 3. Members agreed that the revised version of Article 20 should be to approve a transfer of \$12,500 from the Overlay Surplus to the Highway Department Equipment Account. The line for a \$12,500 wing plow, and the line for \$1000 for Wired West will be removed from Article 3.

Regarding Article 22 which is to purchase the Mackie House, Don said that he would call the state Ethics Commission about the propriety of Jan as a library trustee voting. At 10:00 pm both Jan and Dave had to leave the meeting.

Turning to Line 96 of Article 3, which is Dump Transportation, the BOS will take responsibility for phoning Jan Ameen to see whether an increase is needed.

Line 129, which is the Interest on the 3-Town Liability Waiver, seems high at \$4,783.68. Don said he would check this out.

The FinCom adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf, Secretary