

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 26, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Dave Gott, Don Freeman, Kara L., Jenna Day, and the BOS
Val Kaempfer, and Hilma Sumner

The revisions of the minutes of January 25, February 8, February 15, and February 22 were read and approved. Jan will e-mail to Ned the January 22 minutes which he will revise for consideration at the next meeting.

Don reported on his conversation with Joe Boudreau who anticipates at least 2 more weeks until we have a certified tax rate. When Don asked whether the Town might have any trouble borrowing, Joe referred him to Bill Arrigal of the DOR. Don asked whether there could be a meeting separate from the ATM at which the Mackie project is taken up. Joe could think of no reason why not unless the Town has a by-law prohibiting it. After looking into the Town by-laws Don learned that they have not been gathered in any one place. The FinCom will express concern to the BOS about this matter.

Don said that the FEMA money has arrived, but it won't be available until FY2013. Members noted that such funds could be especially useful in FY2013 which Jeff and Don have projected to be more difficult than FY2012.

Don has talked with Bob Viarengo who has these suggestions for improving the chances that the Mackie project will be approved by the voters: renegotiate the price, decrease the scope of the project, and increase fund raising. Jan says that a consistent theme to comments she hears is that we're paying too much for the house. Also, people want there to be a plan for use of the space that would be vacated in Sawyer Hall. Jan said she had talked with an architect who suggested that if the second floor of the Mackie house were to be just for storage, an elevator would not be required. Regarding the Mackie property's Title 5 test, Jan said that it would be done on April 27th. The perc test can be done in May.

Members discussed the formation of a new committee of which Jeff is a member and which is charged with finding a way to fund a new fire station building and a highway garage. The first meeting will be in the first week of May.

The FinCom adjourned at 7:30 pm to join the BOS meeting in progress.

Val presented the BOS with a memo about parcels at Mohawk Estates. According to Val a discrepancy between the way in which the Planning Board views these parcels and the way in which the state views them has been holding up the certifying of the tax rate. Don said he would contact the DOR about this matter.

Sheila asked Hilma to try to get the by-laws in one place and to report any problems.
Don asked Tom whether he would like the FinCom to recommend on ATM articles before May 7th.
Tom said no.

The BOS reviewed Jeff's fiscal projections for FY2012 through FY2017 and commended him for his work.

There was some discussion with Brian about the possibility of having the second floor of the Mackie house used only for storage. Brian said he would look into how that might affect the costs.

Jan asked about paying bills from Bosley for work related to the Mackie property. Dave made a motion to use the rest of the Reserve Fund to pay these bills. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dave asked for a review of the revaluation of the town nurse position. The BOS reported that \$25 was about the grade rate of the level at which the revaluated nurse position came out. The BOS wants to get to \$25 in 2 steps the first being to bring the rate up to \$22.50 for FY2012. Although the revaluated Town Accountant position came out at a higher step, her pay was considered sufficiently high relative to that of Town Accountants in nearby towns that an increase was not recommended.

Kara reported that Eileen has made a request for more money for printing.

Tom said there's the possibility of another STM June 18th to handle such things as an \$8000 electrical upgrade of the Community Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary

Kara reported that