

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
May 16, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Jan Carr, Dave Gott, and after 8:30 pm Kara Leistyna and the BOS

The minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were read and approved.

Members discussed results of the recent town election and noted in congratulating Don that the 50 votes received by Kathy Inman in challenging him was close to the number who voted at the ATM not to continue the Mackie project article to June 20<sup>th</sup>. Members also noted that among the more than 30 residents who voted for Doug Mason there may be a sizable group with similar concerns about the job the Assessors have been doing.

Turning to the Mackie project, Jan reported on receiving 2 letters, one on May 9<sup>th</sup> stating that the USDA has approved a mortgage for the purchase of the Mackie house and a second one on May 13<sup>th</sup> stating that there will be no money available for USDA loans before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Some members talked about continuing Article 22 until November. Jan said that it is possible the Library Trustees will reconnect with the State Board of Libraries to see whether their application can be modified.

There was a consensus that a perc test of the Mackie project should proceed. The estimated cost of both the test and a written plan for linking Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall to a leach field on Mackie property is between \$1500 and \$1700. Jeff suggested that if Helen's land percs, the Town consider purchasing a couple of acres from her.

Members discussed some of the renovations that would be needed to convert the upper floor of the Community Hall to a library. Such a project would make the upper floor unavailable for some of the activities for which it is currently used. Members acknowledged that would be a loss, but noted how few have attended upper floor activities. Dave made a motion that an estimate be made on the cost of making the upstairs in the Community Hall into a library and having storage space in the same building. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

At 8:30 pm the FinCom adjourned to join the BOS meeting in progress.

Jan reported on the letters she received the previous week. BOS members expressed varying opinions on whether or not there should be a vote at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on continuing Article 22 until November. Jan said that she would call Julie to see whether or not the Town would be hurt by withdrawing its application and reapplying next year. Sheila said she thought there should be a cost benefit analysis comparing the Mackie project to the project of renovating the Community Hall for the Town library on the upper floor.

Ned reported the motion approved by the FinCom on estimating the cost of Community Hall renovation for a library and for storage space. Tom said that discussion of storage space would occur at another meeting.

The BOS thought it would be unnecessary to send out a bulk mailing explaining a decision to withdraw from the Mackie project.

Members expressed interest in seeing copies of the Space Planning document produced in 1999 by a Special Task Force. Sheila gave Dave a copy which he will make available to the other FinCom members.

Tom is not too eager for Town money to be used for a June perc test of the Mackie property.

The FinCom adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf, Secretary