

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
December 19, 2011

Time: 7:47 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, Dave Gott, Don Freeman, Jeff Simmons, and at 8:15 Kara Leistyna,
and the BOS

There was a discussion of a Request to Transfer \$1444.92 from the Reserve Fund to the Veterans Benefits Account. Jeff will give the Veterans' Agent a call and ask when the Town can expect its 75% reimbursement. The committee also considered a Request to Transfer \$340 from the Reserve Fund to the Treasurer's Tax Taking Account to cover the legal fees associated with Land Court activity. Don made a motion to approve both requests. The motion passed by unanimous vote, and members signed the requests.

Discussion turned to the memo to be sent to department heads asking that they submit their budget requests. Dave suggested that the department heads be sent e-mails as a way to encourage their using an electronic spreadsheet.

Members approved of Ned's plan to insert the words "The FinCom welcomes visitors at its meetings" on the FinCom webpage.

At 8:15 pm the FinCom approved a motion to join the BOS meeting in progress. Don explained that he had prepared 27 tailor-made spreadsheets for department heads. Dave suggested there be a box of white space at the bottom of each spreadsheet to explain why they're asking for what they're asking for. Kara will ask Tracey if she can provide printouts of expenses by category for each department head.

Jeff suggested there be printouts of how much it costs to heat each of the Town buildings. He also questioned whether \$65,000 of debt exclusion for the school should have been removed by now. Removing the \$65,000 might lower the tax rate. Don will phone Joe Boudreau about this. While speaking of Joe Boudreau, members recalled his advice that in choosing other towns for comparing employee salaries Heath should choose ones where the average tax bill is close to the average tax bill in Heath.

Finally, the BOS expressed concern about the way in which several Requests to Transfer have reached the FinCom without the BOS having been informed.

At 9:50 pm members returned to the Assessors' Office and reviewed the minutes of the December 12 meeting. The minutes were approved with emendations.

Don said he would prepare an e-mail to send to Joe Boudreau.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary