

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
February 7, 2012

Time: 7:06 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, and at 7:30 Kara Leistyna and the BOS followed by Kristi Nartowicz, Margo Newton, Tracey Baronas, and the Safety and Municipal Complex Committee

The minutes of the January 31st meeting were read and approved with emendations.

Members noted that some budget requests have included increases in stipends. We will ask the BOS where the impetus for increased stipends should come from.

At 7:30 pm the FinCom joined the BOS meeting with Don as Chair.

Treasurer Kristi Nartowicz noted that about \$150,000 is owed in property taxes. She said that the Town has a lien on the house and can now proceed to foreclosure.

Looking at the Treasurer's budget request, members agreed that the line for Interest for Temporary Loans can be deleted. Don said that Tracey has told him that paying off the Mohawk roof loan is going to appear in the Capital for Mohawk Account. The impact will be greatest in FY14. The Heath School debt will be paid off in July. Also, the 2009 Chevy truck loan will be paid off in 2012. There is about \$93,000 left of the \$650,000 borrowed for repairs due to tropical storm Irene.

Kristi noted that for the 2nd year in a row the Health Insurance will not be going up. She said that the Treasurer's Expense line can be level funded at \$4,000.

Don asked the BOS where the impetus for requesting salary increases should come from. Tom said it should come from the BOS although input from all parties is pertinent.

Margo in her budget request for the Police Department said that she would like to combine her Communications, Transportation, and Uniform Accounts into one Expense Account. There was a consensus to do that. Margo sees the need for a new cruiser due to the worn-out condition of the Subaru. After some discussion of the most suitable replacement vehicle, Margo said she would research SUV's. Jeff asked about the Department's motorcycle which Margo said could be sold. She said that if a new cruiser were purchased, there would be no need for the Crown Vic. There was a consensus that there be one operating request for \$4,500, the same amount as for FY12, and a Warrant Article for a new cruiser for FY13.

The next hearing was for Town Accountant Tracey Baronas. Don asked about the increase from \$450 to \$650 for Accountant Support for Dale Kowacki. Tracey said that it was a mistake and that the correct

amount requested for Accountant Support for FY13 is \$450. She recommended that \$14,500 be set aside in the Stabilization Account if we think we might want the audit done this year to meet the requirement of any town receiving more than \$500,000 in FEMA funds. Don asked Tracey to check on the advisability of 3 year or 5 year audits and the corresponding cost.

The FinCom adjourned at 8:45 pm to the Assessors' Office. Following a discussion of insurance on Town vehicles, Don said he would try to find the difference between having 2 and 1 Police vehicle insured.

At 9:10 pm the FinCom rejoined the BOS for the report of the Safety and Municipal Complex Committee. Bob Bourke said there had been a meeting with a representative of Morton builders on the combining of Highway, Fire, and EOC in a one story metal building. Morton will get back with the cost in a week or two. The committee has deemed the Bray Road site inadequate due to wetlands, the slope of the land, etc. A secondary site is being considered although the owner has not yet been contacted. They suggested that feasibility money might be requested at the ATM. Mike said that Police could make use of the present Highway and Fire buildings.

The FinCom meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary