

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 10, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Jan Carr, Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Dave Gott, and at 7:30 Kara Leistyna, the BOS, and Deb Porter followed by Margo Newton at 7:50

Members received copies of the following documents:

- Minutes of the April 3rd meeting from Ned
- Agenda from Don
- ATM Warrant Articles from Don
- FY2013 Projected Tax Levy vs. FY2012 Tax Levy Worksheet (4/10/2012) from Don
- Implications of FY2013 Tax Rate for Levy Limit and Levy Ceiling (4/10/2012) from Don
- Memorandum on the response from Dennis Mountain of the DOR regarding recycling revenues from Tracey
- STM Requests as of 4/10/2012 from Tracey

The minutes of the April 3rd meeting were read and approved with emendations.

Members discussed the ATM Warrant Articles. Dave moved that the Finance Committee recommend Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 12. The motions passed unanimously. Jan moved that the Finance Committee Recommend Article 13 to raise and appropriate \$5,345 to be used for payment of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Capital Assessment. The motion passed unanimously. This amount will increase next year due to the Mohawk roof project. Ned moved that the Finance Committee recommend Articles 14 and 15. The motions passed unanimously.

Members discussed Article 16 which would raise and appropriate funds for the purchase of a new police cruiser. Don said that in a conversation with Margo he concluded that allocating 4 to 5 thousand dollars for maintenance should suffice to keep the Subaru and Crown Victoria running for another year in satisfactory condition. There was a consensus in favor of this approach. There was a consensus that Article 20 is beyond our purview. Members agreed to pass over Articles 21, 22, and 23 as of April 10, 2012 because legal information is being sought.

After discussing the possible need for an audit in FY2013 members reached a consensus that the \$14,500 cost not be included in Article 3. If the receipt of FEMA funds results in the need for an audit, the funds can be appropriated at an STM.

Regarding the proposed increase of approximately \$12,000 in the Town Clerk's pay, members reached a consensus on recommending an increase in hours from 10 to 15 at the same rate of pay with the stipulation that certain tasks be completed such as getting a bound copy of the Town's bylaws.

Turning to the proposal to hire a mechanic for the Highway Department, members agreed not to recommend. The net budget reduction would be about \$16,000.

For Community Hall storage the Finance Committee does not recommend spending \$7000 for a storage shed but does recommend allocating some money for storage.

To finance a new \$40,000 body for the 2003 truck the FinCom recommends a combination of Free Cash, Stabilization, and Chapter 90 Funds and the removal of the \$40,000 from Article 3.

With Don recusing himself, the Finance Committee agreed not to recommend \$1,650 for the Historical Commission for Historic District signs.

At 7:30 pm the FinCom joined the BOS meeting in progress. Concerning the Preschool, Jan recalled Joanne Blier's visit last year to discuss financing. Sheila said she would seek more information from the Central Office about the escrow account. Brian spoke of the importance of Heath's supporting a free Preschool.

Members discussed the findings of the Report of the 2011 Space Needs Task Force:

1. There are potential regulatory non-compliance risks to the Town from the way important and required records may be stored and maintained.
2. The library is not in compliance with ADA requirements.
3. Meetings space improvements are needed to ensure ADA access.

Members discussed more efficient ways to use existing storage space. The Task Force recommends that an engineer be hired to evaluate the extent of needed renovation at the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall in order to allow those buildings to accommodate either the Library or the Town Offices. Another recommendation is that meetings tables that can accommodate a wheelchair be obtained.

In reply to a question from the Finance Committee about Article 26 Brian said that records storage could be lumped into the Town's comprehensive feasibility study whose cost would be between 30 and 35 thousand dollars. Members thanked Dave, Sheila, and Deb for their good work on the Space Committee.

At 8:00 pm the Finance Committee returned to the Assessors' Office for further discussions. At 8:45 pm the Finance Committee rejoined the BOS meeting.

Don reported on the FinCom's consensus regarding a new police cruiser, an audit, the Town Clerk's pay, a mechanic for the Highway Department, a storage shed for the Community Hall, financing a new body for the 2003 truck, and Historic District signs. The BOS was receptive to the FinCom's suggestions. Sheila said that any suggestions of what Hilma might be expected to do as Town Clerk need to be part of a revised job description. She said that Hilma has not yet submitted any changes in her job description. Don also reported on the FinCom's recommendations regarding Warrant Articles.

Don asked about the proposal to spend \$20,000 on Town garage doors. Tom said that \$20,000 would be needed for new garage doors, and that it is also proposed to spend \$35,000 on a new garage bay.

Tom asked that the Finance Committee look into Article 9 concerning a transfers that involve Overlay Accounts.

Sheila said that the amount in Article 7 for the Board of Health revolving fund is the same \$5,000 as last year.

Kara said that Article 23 has been removed.

Regarding Article 22, Tom said that according to Town Counsel all towns passed this some time ago.

Turning to Article 24, Brian said that the amount needed for an engineering study of Dell and Sadoga bridges would be \$50,000.

At 9:40 the Finance Committee returned to the Assessors' Office. Ned said that he would announce a Finance Committee Meeting for 7: 00 pm, Tuesday, April 17 at Sawyer Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary

