

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 17, 2012

Time: 7:05 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, Jan Carr, Dave Gott, and at 8:00 Kara Leistyna and the BOS

Members received copies of the following documents:

- Minutes of the April 10 meeting from Ned
- Town Clerk Salary Proposal 4/15/2012 from Don
- Tax Levy Worksheet 4/15/2012 from Don

The minutes of the April 10 meeting were read and accepted with emendations.

Don said that Overlay Surplus transfers have to be acted on by the ATM. He said that such transfers could make available approximately \$10,000 for lowering taxes. Also, Don has just heard that the state aid may be \$4,800 greater than had been thought. In light of information that Sheila has obtained from Joanne Blier we know that the amount to be allocated for the Preschool will be \$10,000 instead of \$15,000.

Don said that at the recommendation of the insurance company the Town is increasing in Article 3 the disability insurance for employees.

Members expressed reservations over using Chapter 90 money in financing a new \$40,000 truck body. We will discuss this with the BOS. We also need to check whether the \$20,000 proposed for garage doors is for the existing building. Members expressed reservations over spending \$35,000 for a new garage bay.

At 8:00 the Finance Committee joined the BOS meeting in progress. In a review of the Warrant Articles as of 4/17/2012 members noted that they have recommended Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Don made a motion that the Finance Committee recommends Article 11 to appropriate \$647 from the County Dog Fund for the use of the Heath Public Library. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Regarding Article 16, Don suggested that the new \$40,000 truck body be put in Article 3. Turning to Article 18, the BOS informed the Finance Committee that the amount to be allocated for new garage doors is \$16,000 instead of \$20,000 and that the doors are for the current building. Brian said that replacing the doors fixes the immediate problem of having doors that are too narrow and would be useful in the future. The BOS informed the FinCom that Alice, the Assessors' Clerk, now has a new job description and will be working 6 to 8 hours for the same total pay.

Turning to Article 22 about disability pensions for firefighters, Sheila said that more information is needed according to Town Counsel. It appears that M.G.L. 85H already covers these situations. The BOS may pull Article 22 after meeting with Ken Gilbert.

There was a discussion of the proposed engineering studies for Sadoga Bridge and Dell Bridge. Brian suggested appropriating funds for both studies in a single article. A suggested amount was \$40,000 even though members have information that the cost of 2 such studies would be more than twice that amount. Sheila said that it might be possible to replace Sadoga Bridge using Chapter 90 money. We have yet to learn the amount of Chapter 90 money. Brian will talk with Mike.

Sheila expressed interest in knowing more about Becky's concerns for the Board of Health(BOH). The BOS agreed that the BOH can set fees without having them voted on at the ATM.

The BOS clarified for the FinCom that the feasibility study would cover the space needs of Sawyer Hall, the Community Hall, and the municipal complex. A new committee, say the Building Committee, would marshall the results of the feasibility study. Dave made a motion that the Finance Committee recommends the feasibility study for which the amount allocated is \$35,000. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Tom said that there is \$31,000 remaining in the Winter Salt and Sand Account. Members discussed STM Warrant Articles 1 – 6 as of 4/17/2012 which involve transfers from that account. Dave made a motion that the Finance Committee recommends said Articles. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Don said that for next week he will analyze the finances of these 3 budgets: borrowing for the bridge engineering study only, borrowing for garage doors, the feasibility study, and the bridge engineering study, and lastly, no borrowing.

There was a discussion of Don's memo on the Town Clerk's salary. There was a consensus that there is more to be done in the Town Clerk's job, and that it will require more hours. One suggestion was that a person in addition to Hilma be hired to form a bound copy of Heath's bylaws.

At 10 the Finance Committee returned to the Assessors' Office. Dave made a motion that the Finance Committee recommends that \$16,000 be appropriated for new garage doors for the Town garage. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff made a motion that the Finance Committee does not recommend that \$35,000 be appropriated for a new garage bay at the Town garages. The motion passed unanimously.

Ned will post a Finance Committee for Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00 pm in Sawyer Hall with an agenda that includes the remaining Warrant Articles and the Town Clerk's Pay Proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf
Secretary

