

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 24, 2012

Time: 7:03 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, Dave Gott, and at 7:30 pm Kara Leistyna and the BOS

Don has talked with Val about the valuation which has not in fact decreased by \$4,600,000. The valuation for personal property comes to \$3,000,000 on which the taxes are \$75,933.48. Val said they expect more abatements because of how the new software categorizes peoples' property. Don has learned from Tracey that a FEMA reimbursement of \$500,000 would by law require an audit costing the Town \$14,500. Don provided members with copies of his Memorandum to the BOS on FY2013 Revenue Projection. The total revenue is estimated to be \$1,940,671.69. Dave will report on the finances of our 3 different waste streams.

The minutes of the January 17th meeting were read and accepted.

At 7:30 pm members approved a motion to adjourn to join the BOS meeting in progress. Tom said that the \$11,000 in the Recycling Escrow Balance could be used for Veterans' Benefits. Jeff moved that the unexpected expenses for Veterans' Benefits be covered using the solid waste escrow account. The motion was approved unanimously. There was a consensus that \$30,000 is an appropriate amount to budget for Veterans' Benefits. Don will check with Charlene about Transfer Station stickers.

The BOS is concerned about building up Stabilization which is now at \$88,177.

Tom asked the FinCom to review budget requests that have come in electronically. At 8:20 pm the FinCom returned to the Assessors' Office. Members questioned why the Town Accountant is asking for \$650 instead of \$450 for Accountant Support. Members wondered about the future spending plan of the Agricultural Commission. In the Board of Health's request members wondered why there has been a decrease for the Health Agent. Jeff asked whether Heath would be joining the regional health district. Under Debt Service members discussed how the \$650,000 authorized borrowing for Irene repairs should appear. In the Emergency request the \$100 for an assistant is missing.

The FinCom request of \$150 is \$100 less than last year.

Don will phone Mike about the Highway request. Turning to the Library request, members noted that the amount for CWMars has more than doubled possibly due to increased circulation. Also, it appears that there has been a cut in staff pay.

Members agreed that there should be a discussion involving Margo about the possible need in the near future for a new Police cruiser. Members would like to know whether the Post Master as well as School

Committee members are getting reimbursed for travel. It was noted that there is nothing for Legal Fees in the Tax Collector's request while the Treasurer has a line item for Legal Fees.

At 9:33 pm the FinCom rejoined the BOS.

Tom said that the Planning Board would like \$3000 for a possible consultant regarding commercial wind turbine and solar installations. They don't know exactly when they'll need it.

There will be a Special Town Meeting on February 28th and a Planning Board meeting February 15th.

Members discussed 3 possible ways to fund a consultant: 1. Raise and appropriate; 2. Use Free Cash; and 3. Use the recycling escrow fund.

\$750 per year will be needed for a new trash compactor.

Sheila said that the grant for a regional health district has not come through. Tom said that what looks like a cut in pay for library staff is due to fewer work days.

Don said that budget requests are missing for the Community Hall, the Lighting Plant, and the Senior Center. Don will contact Tracey, the Agricultural Commission, Kristi, Charlene, Anne, Mike, and Don.

Ned will post a FinCom meeting for January 31.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary