

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 31, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

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

The minutes of the January 24th meeting were read and approved by all except Jan who wasn't there.

Jeff reported on his meeting with Mike who would like to hire a maintenance person for 40 hours per week at \$10.50 per hour. This would allow the elimination of Roadside Mowing from the budget and the cutting back of the Winter Hire Account. The person hired could drive a small plow truck in a storm. To pay an outside maintenance person would cost \$90 per hour and incur travel expenses. Jeff and Mike agreed that there is a need to talk about the \$165,000 that would be needed annually to restore 2 inches of gravel to the Town's 26 miles of gravel roads.

Regarding the Fire Department budget, Mike wants essentially the same as for FY12. Jeff suggested that Supplies and Training be subdivided. He and Mike discussed the replacing of firefighter gear which has a life expectancy of just 10 years. The plan is that Mike request \$8000 per year for the gear, an amount sufficient to replace 2 sets of gear.

Don provided members with a printout of his message to Kara, the BOS, and the FinCom about his follow-up on questions related to the budget requests we reviewed on January 24th. He notes that the FCSWMD assessment of \$1778 is down \$124 from FY12. The FCSWMD recommended budget for hazardous household waste is \$500. So far the FY12 amount is just \$227 suggesting that we could budget just \$400 for that item.

Heath's assessment for the FRCOG's Cooperative Inspection Program is \$11,435. Under a new formula to be discussed at a meeting February 9 the assessment will be just \$3000. More information is needed.

Members discussed the funding of the \$3000 Planning Board consulting fee. Jeff made a motion to split the \$3000 into \$1500 from Free Cash and \$1500 from the Recycling escrow. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:30 pm the FinCom joined the BOS meeting in progress. Don reported our vote as well as Jeff's question about the apparent omission of the loan for a new Mohawk high school roof from the Debt Service.

Members reviewed how revolving accounts for the Board of Health, the Senior Center, and the Dog Officer are set up each year with a separate warrant article. In each case we need to check when the budget request is submitted whether they still want the warrant article.

Members noted that Dog Officer Bob Tanner's expense line is \$300 and wondered whether, as appears to be the case, the fees he collects are sufficient to cover his costs. The expense for the regional dog officer is \$1500 a year for 3 years.

The expense for the reverse 911 system will be part of the Board of Health budget . It will be a separate line item in Article 3.

There was a consensus that a police cruiser be added to the Vehicle Replacement Schedule and that the Community Hall Maintenance Account should be \$15,000 instead of \$16,599.

Members discussed the gathering of data that could help identify potential energy savings for Town buildings.

Members reviewed the 9 articles proposed for the February 28th STM. Passage of the 9 articles would take \$23,000 out of Free Cash.

Ned will post a meeting for February 7th at 7:00 pm in Sawyer Hall. The FinCom will join the BOS for budget hearings to begin at 7:30 pm and to include the Treasurer, Chief of Police, and the Town Accountant.

Mike Smith is scheduled for March 6th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary