

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
May 21, 2013

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Senior Center, Community Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Gloria Fisher, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, Kathy Inman, and at 7:45 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, and Brian DeVriese

The minutes of the May 7th meeting were read and approved with emendations.

Jeff reported that in his conversation with Bob Manners about his memo on Mohawk Trail Regional School District(MTRSD) finances Bob referred him to Joe Judd and John Payne, the two other members of the Shelburne Selectboard.

Turning to the May 11th Annual Town Meeting(ATM), members spoke positively of the Finance Committee's participation. Jeff suggested that next year Article 3 be displayed ahead of the ATM. Don asked if there were anything he might do differently next year. Members suggested a more formal presentation perhaps accompanied by charts and graphs.

The discussion shifted to the progress of Town feasibility studies and the steps towards becoming a Green Community. Jeff said that the safety complex committee on which he serves is moving towards having a feasibility study done. Gloria said that the Planning Board is following up on the steps towards becoming a Green Community. Will the Town commit to energy saving vehicles and to a new building code? Some concern was expressed that much needed insulating of Town buildings could be delayed in the process.

In terms of the roads, members asked two questions: Is the amount of sodium chloride being used in winter harming the roads?, and how and with what results has calcium chloride been used in the past?

Members considered the closer monitoring of expenses available through Tracey's weekly reports. As for stipends, Gloria suggested that more research is needed. Members will think about the relative importance of stipends for appointees and stipends for elected officials.

Turning to the interaction between the Finance Committee and the Selectboard, members said that it had improved over the previous year. The work of improving communication will need to continue. Don and Ned said they were interested in being chair and secretary for the coming year. Gloria made a motion that Don continue as chair and Ned as secretary of the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:15 the Finance Committee suspended its meeting to go upstairs to join the Selectboard meeting in progress. Sheila said that she has set up a meeting with the Recycling Committee to discuss the trash

compactor. She noted that July 2 is the date of the year-end transfer meeting. Finally, she advises that there be a meeting soon to look over the list of recommendations from the recent Audit.

Reviewing the ATM, Don noted how people went out of their way to say that the two boards helped to explain budget matters.

Turning to Stipends, Sheila said that Joe Boudreau of the Department of Revenue(DOR) had advised that we seek data from towns with similar Equalized Valuations (EQV's). Two questions to ask about a position with a stipend are these: What training is required?, and how much damage might the Town incur if something were to go wrong? Don suggested that after the FinCom has looked into EQV's and thought about the difference between salary and stipend that the two boards need to meet. Jeff said that he would go to the DOR website seeking information on EQV's.

Gloria asked whether the \$10,000 set aside for preschool will be used this year. Kara said she would send a letter to the Central Office asking whether the \$10,000 is needed.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary