

Minutes of the Heath Finance Committee
September 17, 2013

Time: 7:06 pm

Place: Senior Center, Community Hall

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, and at 8:00 Kara Leistyna,
Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, and Bill Lattrell

Absent: Kathy Inman

Don provided members with copies of the following documents:

- Agenda (Don)
- Minutes of the July 16th meeting (Ned)
- Budget Preparation Calendar for FY15 (Kara)
- Warrant for the October 15th Special Town Meeting (Kara)

Members reviewed the minutes of the July 16th meeting. Don made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed with 3 yes votes and with Jeff abstaining because he was absent.

Regarding stipends, Gloria has e-mailed Bob Dean in Buckland asking for more information. Members discussed staying with towns whose EQV's are close to Heath's as recommended by Joe Boudreau.

Jeff reported on the Municipal Complex Building Committee which has met with Andrea Wood to discuss what it would take to get an RFP done. They will consider whether the complex should be for fire and police, fire and highway garage, or fire, police, and highway garage. The committee would like to have proposals ready for the Annual Town Meeting.

Reviewing the proposed budget calendar, members recalled last year's process and suggested having a meeting in October with the Assessors to ask whether or not the proposed calendar is something they can work with.

Turning to the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting, members discussed Articles 1 and 4. Article 1 is to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend a Small Town Road Assistance Program grant for repaving a 5.1 mile portion of Route 8A. Article 4 is to transfer \$3,000 from the Veterans Benefit account to the Hired Services account for grant writing services. Members will ask the Selectboard whether the project includes work on the road bed. Don made a motion to recommend Articles 1 and 4. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Article 2 is to transfer \$10,000 from the Veterans Benefit Account to the Highway Truck Dump Body Account. Article 3 is to transfer \$800 from the Veterans Benefit Account to the Highway Truck Dump Body interest account. Members acknowledged some uncertainty over the Veterans Benefit Account due to the possible arrival in Town of a new recipient. Jeff made a motion to recommend Articles 2 and 3. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 5 is to transfer \$500.00 from the Veterans Benefit account to the Animal Control Officer's Stipend account. Some members spoke of this as a means for paying the assistant to the Animal Control Officer and questioned whether there had been voter approval to pay 2 individuals with one stipend. Articles 6 and 7 are to transfer funds from the Veterans Benefit Account to the Lawn Mowing Center & Cemeteries account. Members asked whether there is a contract for cemetery mowing.

At 8 pm members approved a motion to adjourn and go upstairs to join the meeting of the Selectboard already in progress. In response to Don's question about the substructure on Route 8A Brian said that Mike has told the BOS that the smooth surface will shed water in a way that reduces frost heaves. Sheila informed the FinCom that the grant writer mentioned in Article 4 would be someone named Terry from Toland, Connecticut. She has experience writing grants for Pittsfield and other cities and towns.

Gloria asked what happens to the funding of Articles 2 and 3 if another veteran comes to Heath. Sheila answered that we would have to deal with it at that time.

The Selectboard decided to eliminate Articles 5, 6, and 7. Money to pay the assistant to the Animal Control Officer will be taken out of the Expenses account. The Selectboard proposed that the North Cemetery be included with the mowing of other cemeteries. Possibly, a contract will be needed.

Sheila reported on her talk with Alice Wozniak of the Assessors about the budget calendar. Alice has said that they will not have the anticipated valuation by December 10. Consequently, Sheila said the date of the joint meeting of BOS/FinCom/Assessors has been changed from December 10 to December 17. Sheila said that she would check with Betty and Tracey about the budget calendar.

A hearing for Heath's Housing Development Plan has been scheduled for 7:15 pm following the 7 pm STM.

At 8:25 pm the FinCom suspended its meeting to return downstairs to the Senior Center. Don spoke of materials he has received from Sheila related to the Heath School. A suggestion made by some people in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District is that the Heath School withdraw from the District. The FinCom may be asked to report on financial implications.

The committee adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary

