

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
November 5, 2013

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Community Hall, Senior Center

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, and at 7:30 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield,
Brian DeVriese, and Bill Lattrell

Absent: Don Freeman, and Kathy Inman

Ned served as chair in Don's absence. Members reviewed the minutes of the September 17th meeting. Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. There was a consensus to hold Jeff's minutes of the October 7th meeting.

Members looked at data sheets Gloria provided in relation to stipends. The sheet titled 'Proposed Equalized Valuations (EQV's) for 2012' shows that the towns Plainfield, Warwick, Wendell, Leyden, and Peru have EQV's close to Heath's. Gloria said that she has not found any rules governing stipends. Massachusetts Law simply states that the Selectboard sets the stipends of nonelected officials.

Members reviewed the Budget Preparation Calendar. There did not appear to be any need for revisions. Members allowed the possibility of an unforeseen need for an adjustment. Jeff made a motion that in any further work on the Budget Preparation Calendar Don represent the Finance Committee in consulting with the Selectboard and possibly the Assessors. The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:30 pm the committee recessed to go upstairs and join the Selectboard meeting in progress. There was a discussion of a sheet with the title 'Setting the Tax Rate Time Line' on each side. On side one the top line "Determine final valuations for all taxable property and submit information to DOR" is scheduled for November 10. The bottom line "Once Commitment received, bills are sent, Taxes Collected" is scheduled for December 16-20. This is the schedule Alice favors for FY14. Sheila said that the plan is to follow this schedule for FY14. She added that the goal is to allow Betty to get the tax bills out as close to December 15th as possible. This will prevent the sending of tax bills at or near Christmas. On side two the first line "Determine final valuations for all taxable property and submit information to DOR" is scheduled for August 1. The final line "Once Commitment received, bills are sent, Taxes Collected" is scheduled for December 15. Sheila said that Tracey, Betty, and Hilma all agree that the target dates on this schedule are reasonable. Kara will ask Margo as chair of the Assessors for her impressions. The Selectboard hopes to use this schedule for FY15. Jeff commented that following this schedule would get us back to a timeline of ten years ago.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf, Secretary