

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
January 7, 2014

Time: 7:03 pm

Place: Community Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, and at 7:30 Kathy Inman, and at 8:00 Kara Leistyna,  
Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, and Bill Lattrell

The minutes of the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were deferred.

Members reviewed Margo's request to transfer \$1000 from the Reserve Fund to the Police Vehicle Maintenance Fund. There were questions as to what actual repairs were done and to which of the 2 vehicles. Another question concerned whether or not other quotes were obtained. Free Cash and selling the motorcycle were suggested as alternate sources of funding. Getting rid of one of the vehicles was discussed as well as the difficulty that some officers have in fitting into the Subaru.

The next topic was Kara's memo "Points for Dale K to consider". There was agreement that regardless of how parcels of land might be bundled there should be as many tax bills as there are deeds.

At 8:00 pm members adjourned to go upstairs and join the Selectboard meeting in progress. Members asked questions about Margo's request to transfer \$1000 from the Reserve Fund. The Selectboard agreed that an effort should be made to sell the motorcycle. Ned asked whether the \$1000 requested is to cover repairs already made or to be used for unforeseen repairs. Sheila said that the \$2000 that was approved last May for the Police Vehicle Maintenance Account has all been spent. She said that the Selectboard plans to meet with Margo to talk about a possible warrant article for a new cruiser.

Turning to the memo "Points for Dale K to consider", Brian suggested that Dale be asked what frequency he recommends for Heath's Audit. The frequency affects how much should be set aside each year for the Audit. The Selectboard informed the Finance Committee that the bundling of land parcels has become more important since a resident has sought to sell his land which had once been 2 distinct parcels. That person may ask the Town to pay his legal fees.

Looking over the Selectboard Budget Request, Finance Committee members asked about the FY15 increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the Preschool. Sheila said that Michael Buoniconti phoned her more than a month ago to say that there would be 8 to 10 more preschoolers all from Heath.

Turning to the Community Hall Budget Request, members noted that because there is no longer a Senior Center the FY15 request for the Senior Center Operating Account has gone from \$500 to \$0 and similarly for the Senior Center Coordinator Stipend Account. Sheila noted that the senior meals are coordinated out of money from a grant. She expressed interest in starting an incentive fund for coordinating speakers or other activities.

Next there was a discussion of the Post Office Budget Request from Charlene who has mentioned her need for a desk, computer, and printer. Members agreed that there should be an increase in the Post Office Budget sufficient to cover those 3 items. As for whether or not Charlene will be able to accept credit card payments for transfer station stickers, the difficulty is that for her to do so would require that at the end of each day the Town cut her a check equal to the total of the credit card payments for that day.

Members noted the \$5000 increase in Health Insurance in the Treasurer's Budget Request due to the coverage for a Highway Department employee. Jeff asked the Selectboard how the Affordable Care Act might affect the health insurance for volunteer firefighters whom the IRS considers employees of the Town. Kara replied that his question is related to complicated issues under discussion in many places around the country.

Sheila asked the Finance Committee about progress on stipends. Members reported having gathered some data and asked questions of officials in other towns without finding any clear-cut method for determining stipends. She welcomed Kathy's suggestion that a questionnaire on which she's been working be used to gather more information.

At 9:07 the committee left the Selectboard meeting to reconvene downstairs. There was agreement on a need for more information and disagreement on whether to approve the transfer request. Jeff made a motion seconded by Kathy that the transfer request from the Reserve Fund be declined with the possibility of its being reconsidered if the committee's questions are answered. The motion passed with 2 yeas and 1 nay. Ned said he would report the vote to the Selectboard.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf, Secretary