

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 14, 2014

Time: 7:02 pm

Place: Community Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Gloria Fisher, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman (Chair), and Kathy Inman, and at 7:45
Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, and Bill Lattrell

The following documents were provided:

-Agenda (Don)

-Minutes of the December 10 and January 7 meetings (Ned)

-An e-mail of January 10 from Kara and Margo with answers to questions about police vehicle
Maintenance (Kara)

The minutes of the December 10 meeting were read. Gloria made a motion seconded by Don to approve them. The motion passed with Jeff and Kathy, who were absent, abstaining. The minutes of the January 7 meeting were read. Jeff made a motion seconded by Ned to approve the minutes. The motion passed with Don and Gloria, who were absent, abstaining.

Members discussed the Request to Transfer \$1000 from the Reserve Fund to the Police Vehicle Maintenance Account. Concerns were raised about additional repairs the 2 police cars might incur in the coming 6 months. After some discussion, Gloria made a motion seconded by Ned that we reconsider the Request to Transfer. The motion passed with 3 yeas and 2 nays. Don made a motion seconded by Ned that we approve the Transfer. The motion passed with 3 yeas and 2 nays. Jeff expressed concern about the manner in which the Finance Committee has approved Requests to Transfer from the Reserve Fund.

Turning to stipends, Kathy briefed members about her questionnaire that asks about such things as time commitment to mandatory meetings, total number of meetings, and required training. The committee approved Kathy's sending out the questionnaire to get better data.

At 7:45 pm the Finance Committee adjourned to go upstairs and join the Selectboard meeting in progress. Don reported the approval of the Transfer Request with some reservations. Kathy spoke of the importance of planning ahead in order to live within a budget. She said that there should have been a discussion much earlier as to whether 2 police cars are needed. Jeff noted that reports in the spring of 2013 of officers getting into the Subaru with difficulty had shifted in 2014 to reports of officers unable to fit into the Subaru.

Turning to the Highway Department Budget, Sheila said that Mike's Hearing will be at 8 pm on January 21. Mike seeks an increase of \$1540 in the maintenance fund for uniforms. The Finance Committee does not favor new uniforms at this time. Mike would like to replace both the black Expedition and the white pickup truck. One question members want to ask is whether one truck would be sufficient in

place of the 2 vehicles. Regarding the Vehicle Replacement Schedule, members wonder how replacing a truck body has affected the schedule. Why is the date of manufacture of the Chevy 4500 2010? As for the maintenance of Highway and Fire Vehicles, Jeff said he would seek invoices from Tracey.

The Assessors in their Budget Request ask for an increase to pay the consultant needed for the revaluation. As for other salary increases Sheila cautioned that the revaluation is part of the original job description and does not merit a boost in pay. Members agreed that a meeting with the Assessors is needed.

The Tax Collector is asking for a 3% increase to cover the cost of a new computer and software that is compatible. Members asked Kara to ask Betty about the Software Consortium she mentions in her note. Depending on the answer, we may ask for a meeting with Betty.

Members asked questions about a proposed change to an hourly payment schedule for the Fire Department. Other questions concern what was spent last year for new gear and what has been spent this year for new gear.

Gloria reviewed for the Selectboard what she discovered in her looking into stipends in surrounding towns. The Selectboard expressed interest in getting more data using a questionnaire.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary