

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
February 18, 2014

Time: 7:02 pm

Place: Community Hall, Senior Center

Present: Don Freeman (chair), Ned Wolf, Jeff Simmons, Kathy Inman, and at 7:30 Kara Leistyna,
Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, and at 8:00 Bob Gruen

Absent: Gloria Fisher

Don made available copies of the following documents:

- Minutes of the February 4th meeting (Ned)
- Agenda (Don)
- Warrant for the March 11 STM (Kara)

Members read the minutes of the February 4 meeting. Don made a motion seconded by Jeff that the minutes be approved with corrections. The motion passed unanimously. Members looked over the proposed Warrant Articles for the March 11 STM. It was noted that there were many overtime hours put in by members of the Highway Department in plowing during and after the recent snowstorm. There was a question as to how that relates to Articles 3 and 4 which increase the accounts for Winter Temporary Help and Winter Hired Services.

Without the details of any particular cases members discussed possible foreclosures or evictions resulting from unpaid back taxes. Members decided to join the Selectboard meeting where such cases were to be discussed. At 7:30 the Finance Committee adjourned to go upstairs and join the Selectboard meeting in progress.

Don expressed the Finance Committee's concerns that articles on the March 11 STM Warrant were taking funds from the Veterans' Benefits account that might be needed later if a veteran were to move into Town. Turning to school maintenance, Bill asked members to review the proposed lists of Capital projects and Maintenance projects for the Heath School and to decide whether there are any projects in either list we want taken off.

At 7:50 Finance Committee members returned downstairs and reconvened. Jeff suggested amending Article 1 on the March 11 STM so that instead of transferring \$4970.54 from the Veterans' Benefits account the amount transferred from Veterans' Benefits be reduced to \$3,802.79 while \$1,167.75 is transferred from the Roadside Mowing Account. There was some discussion. Members thought it unlikely that Roadside Mowing funds would be needed. If the need arose, action could be taken at the May STM. Meanwhile there would be some protection for the amount in the Veterans Benefit account. Don made a motion seconded by Kathy to approve Article 1 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff made a motion seconded by Ned to approve Article 2 as written. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Jeff suggested amending Article 3 by striking 'Veterans' Benefits account' and replacing it by 'Roadside Mowing account'. Don made a motion seconded by Kathy to approve Article 3 as amended. Jeff suggested amending Article 4 in a similar way: Strike 'Veterans' Benefits account' and replace it with 'Roadside Mowing Account'. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:10 the Finance Committee adjourned to go upstairs and join the Selectboard meeting in progress. Members asked Bob Gruen questions about the finances of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District. Jeff asked whether in determining Heath's assessment the number of Heath students is taken to be those in Heath who attend the Heath School or those plus the students who go to Rowe. Bob said it is the former number. He said that the cost of transportation has gone up because there was a single bidder for the contract. He said that Rowe's withdrawal from the Mohawk District at the elementary school level will mean a reduction in the cost of staffing for the central office. Bob spoke of the plan to prepare cold breakfasts and hot lunches for Heath students in the cafeteria of the Sanderson School and then transport them to Heath.

Members resumed a discussion of Capital projects for the Heath School. They are the ones for which the Town must pay a proposed \$88,500 over 5 years. There was a consensus to add attic insulation to the list and defer the replacement of vinyl flooring that had been estimated to cost \$15,000. Brian said he thought that the insulation project could be done for \$15,000.

Don reported to the Selectboard on the Finance Committee's recommendation of March 11 STM Article 2 as well as its recommendations of amended Articles 1, 3, and 4. Brian made a motion seconded by Sheila to accept the Articles as amended. The Selectboard passed the motion unanimously.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary