

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 1, 2014

Time: 7:05 pm

Place: Community Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Gloria Fisher, Don Freeman (chair), Marilyn Wilson (visitor), and at 8 pm
Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, Mike Smith, and
STRAP Grant advisor Terry Walker

Absent: Jeff Simmons and Kathy Inman

Don provided members with copies of the following:

- Minutes of the March 25th meeting (Ned)
- Agenda (Don)
- Tax Levy Worksheet, draft of 4/1/14 (Don)
- Analysis of compensation for Town Coordinators (Don)

Members read the minutes of the March 25th meeting. Don made a motion seconded by Gloria to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed the Town Coordinator's salary in the context of Don's analysis of the compensation that other Town Coordinators are receiving. There was a consensus that the Town Coordinator is deserving of the proposed raise but that spreading the increase over 2 years might be more feasible politically. This year appears to be one without a large jump in the tax rate. Gloria made a motion seconded by Ned that the Finance Committee recommends Article 3 with the proposed increase in the Town Coordinator's salary in one year. The motion passed with the 3 members present voting aye.

Members looked over Don's Tax Levy Worksheet which shows that the Estimated Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Rate is \$19.14 assuming voter approval of a 1.5% COLA, paying for the highway vehicles from Free Cash, and borrowing for the new police vehicle. Don said that he had asked Assessors' Clerk Alice Wozniak what she would recommend for the Overlay Account. Alice replied that due to the revaluation year she would recommend \$30,000. Don computed the five-year trailing average, which is \$21,492, and took the Assessors' Overlay to be \$25,000. Similarly, he took the five-year trailing average for receipts and got \$173,204. On the Tax Levy Worksheet the Estimated Receipts are \$175,000.

At 8 the committee adjourned to go upstairs and join the Selectboard meeting in progress. Don informed the Selectboard that the Estimated Tax Rate is \$19.14 with the assumptions as stated on his Tax Levy Worksheet, draft for 4/1/14. He also told the Selectboard of the Finance Committee's vote to approve the proposed increase in the Town Coordinator's accompanied by concerns over the effect on the budget and the morale of employees receiving smaller increases.

Mike reported that the FY15 cost of continuing education units for maintaining a hoisters' license will be \$490. There was a discussion of the Machinery Maintenance Account to which \$3,000 was transferred

at the March 11 STM. A March 14 repair job on the grader cost \$1,100. On March 17 a rear leaf spring of Truck #4 broke. The repair cost \$2,200. Don will check with Tracey on the amount in the Reserve Fund, which is about \$4,000, and the amount in the Overlay Surplus, which is about \$21,000. Also, \$10,000 approved at last year's Annual Town Meeting for a second feasibility study has not been used.

Members discussed the need for both a road survey and for a revamped STRAP grant application with help from grant advisor Terry Walker. The estimated combined cost of two to three thousand dollars will be added to the Hired Services Account of the Highway Department.

Sheila reported on a discussion earlier in the evening on the Charlemont ambulance service. She suggested Heath might have a line item for EMT training or some other ambulance related need.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary

