

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
April 22, 2014

Time: 7:03 pm

Place: Community Hall, Senior Center

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Don Freeman (chair), Kathy Inman, and at 8 pm Kara Leistyna,
Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, Doug Wilkins, and Al Canali

Absent: Jeff Simmons

Don provided members with copies of the following:

-Minutes of the April 15th meeting (Ned)

-Agenda (Don)

-Tax Levy Worksheet (4/22/14, Don)

Also available on a thumb drive from Kara are the FY2015 Budget Spreadsheet and the Warrant Articles for the May 10th Annual Town Meeting.

Members read the minutes of the April 15th meeting. Gloria made a motion seconded by Don to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Members discussed the possibility of having approximately \$35,000 in Free Cash in FY2015. In the event of an emergency, what would be the vote required to move money out of a stabilization fund? Would it be two-thirds of the quorum for an Annual Town Meeting or two-thirds of the quorum for a Special Town Meeting?

Members turned to the Tax Levy Worksheet and commended Don for his efforts to lower the Estimated Tax Rate for FY2015. Don said that he has talked with Tracey and confirmed that the transfers recommended in Warrant Articles 4 – 10 are legitimate. The balance of \$8,000 for the trash compactor can be invoiced to 2014. The Estimated Tax Rate for FY2015 is now \$19.08. Gloria suggested and the others concurred that in the line stating, "The Finance Committee recommends transferring \$100,000 into stabilization", 'stabilization' be replaced by 'stabilization accounts'. Don said that if the Town votes to take over the North Cemetery, it is possible that the Town would also take over the accumulated assets. They might cover the \$2,000 cost that Mike has estimated for mowing it.

At 8 pm the committee adjourned and went upstairs to join the Selectboard meeting in progress. Town Moderator Doug Wilkins advised members that the authorizing of grant applications in Warrant Article 23 be strictly for grants that do not require matching funds.

Don inquired about the cost cited for uniforms for one year for Highway Department employees. Sheila said that Mike will seek a new quote. The quote is supposed to be good for 3 years. In answer to Don's question about the procedure for hiring a roadside mower Sheila said that Mike said that any prospective mower must come with a hoister's license in hand. Sheila said that she would tell Mike that such a hire cannot expect the Town to pay the cost of recertification. As for the possibility of having

roadside mowing done within the Highway Department, Sheila says that Mike says that such an arrangement would be equivalent to losing an employee for 3 to 4 months.

Don asked for clarification of Warrant Articles 31 and 34. Article 31 has been rewritten so that it asks voters to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift for cemetery purposes a parcel of land known as the North Cemetery. Article 34 will seek permission to bring up at a Special Town Meeting matters related to the building of a Safety Complex.

At 8:40 pm members returned downstairs and reconvened. There were discussions of uniforms, roadside mowing, and the new Article regarding the North Cemetery. Gloria made a motion seconded by Ned to approve the line in Article 3 for uniforms for the Highway Department. The motion passed with 4 in favor and none opposed. Don made a motion seconded by Gloria to approve the \$7000 line in Article 3 for Roadside Mowing. The vote was 2 in favor and 2 opposed. The motion did not pass. Don made a motion seconded by Gloria to approve the revised Article 31. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary