Minutes of the Meeting of the
Heath Finance Committee
February 10, 2015

Time: 7:02 pm
Place: Sawyer Hall
Present: Jan Carr, Gloria Fisher, Don Freeman (chair), Jeff Simmons, and at 7:50 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, and Bill Lattrell
Absent: Ned Wolf

The committee decided to pass over the meeting minutes of January 20 until next meeting.

Committee members reviewed the warrant articles for the February 24 Special Town Meeting. After review, the committee voted to recommend Articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9. Article 3 (transferring $19,500 from Free Cash to Highway Machinery and Maintenance was unanimously not recommended. The FinCom questioned the amount and the use of Free Cash. Also discussed was the seemingly yearly need to transfer additional money into that account. Members agreed that more information was needed on what maintenance was done on which vehicle and how this could be avoided in future years.

The FinCom voted unanimously to not recommend Article 6 to transfer $862.40 from Overlay Surplus to the Highway Uniform account. It was remembered that the Highway Superintendent had said that $1540 was all that was needed in the uniform account. This added money for jackets was questioned as well as from which account the transfer was coming. The committee members thought if the money needed to be transferred, it should come from a Highway Account.

The FinCom joined the Select Board meeting already in progress. Don reported that the committee members voted to recommend all the STM articles except Articles 3 and 6.

The transfer of money in Article 6 (Highway Uniforms) was discussed with the FinCom suggesting that the money come from a Highway account.

Discussed Machinery Maintenance Budget (Article 3) and request for $19,500. The FinCom questioned why this is a recurring issue and what could be done to prevent this. Kara will request a ten-year history of this account from the town accountant to see if there is a pattern. Gloria queried whether an in-house mechanic would save the Town money. Jeff Simmons suggested comparing maintenance budgets with other, similar towns. The FinCom thought that a history of which vehicles needed repair and what the repair was would be useful information.
Discussed whether or not to have a debt exclusion vote for either Wired West or the Safety Building. Jeff said that he researched this and that he did not believe a debt exclusion was necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Fisher