

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

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf (chair), and Jeff Simmons, and at 7:15 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Bill Lattrell, and Mike Smith followed at 8:00 by Budge Litchfield and Ken Rocke

The minutes of the February 17th meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Members noted that there has not yet been a discussion of the possible adding of the position 'administrative assistant to Mike Smith'.

Members adjourned at 7:15 to join the Selectboard meeting in progress. There was some discussion of whether or not to combine the line items 'dump transportation' and 'dump tipping'. Kara will meet with Mike to sort out information that Jan Ameen has sent. Members turned to Machinery Maintenance. It appears that another Special Town Meeting will be needed to add to this account. Mike reported that the repair bill for the 2005 International truck is likely to exceed \$5000. He estimated that the repair of the broken head bolt on the grader would cost \$4800. The oil pan on one truck is leaking. The oil pan on another truck is about to leak. The estimated cost of replacing them is \$4500. After paying bills for the 2005 truck and for the grader there will be less than \$2000 in the Machinery Maintenance Account. Mike said that proactive maintenance would call for the replacing of hydraulic hoses on department vehicles. Jeff suggested that taking out a loan might be a way to fund proactive maintenance. The possibility of a service contract was discussed. Mike saw positive aspects of service contracts but thought they would be too restrictive. He said that he knows repair people from whom he can expect an accurate assessment of what maintenance will soon be required on a vehicle that has just been repaired. Members spoke of how spending money on preventative maintenance could in the long run save money. There were suggestions that the \$33,816 in Machinery Maintenance be increased by \$10,000 to \$43,816 while a new line item Preventative Maintenance be added at \$20,000.

Sheila reported that the Transfer Station project needs more funds. Brian will do a site map when the snow has melted.

Sheila said that the meeting of the Assessors with Brian and Bill went well. They have finalized a job description for the Assistant Assessor. Sheila said that this person, who will not be one of the current assessors, will do a majority of the work. She said that the position needs an upgrade on the salary scale. There will be about 10 hours/week at about \$20 per hour. The Board of Assessors does the interviewing and hiring.

At 8:00 Budge and Ken of the School Committee spoke of the 2 proposed amendments to the regional agreement. Budge said that the Mohawk Regional School District Budget will contain more than

\$200,000 for preschool. Jeff asked whether a school district which has a K – 12 regional agreement can require preschool. Budge and Ken said that the district has received legal advice that it can.

The FinCom meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary