

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
March 24, 2015

Time: 7 pm

Place: Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, and Don Freeman (chair) and at 7:30 Kara Leistyna,  
Brian DeVriese, and Bill Lattrell

Absent: Jeff Simmons

Members read the minutes of the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting prepared by Gloria. Jan made a motion seconded by Ned to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Ned expressed appreciation for Gloria's taking the minutes in his absence. Members read the minutes of the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting prepared by Ned. Don made a motion seconded by Jan to approve the minutes with corrections.

Jan reported on broadband information she got at the March 21 meeting of state government and town officials held at the Clarion in Northampton. In comparing the rates for services she said that the 1 gigabyte per second rate that will be available to people in Leverett will be from a pipe that is shared whereas the same rate for a Wired West subscriber will be from a pipe dedicated solely to that subscriber. She said that Wired West calls itself a governmental cooperative, and that it owns assets which are tax-exempt. She said that representatives from certain towns such as Colrain recommend a special town meeting rather than an annual town meeting to vote on articles related to Wired West .

At 7:30 members approved a motion to adjourn and join the Selectboard meeting in progress.

Don expressed the committee's concern about the time it has taken Wired West to provide a business model that accounts for costs. He expressed concern that a significant number of towns may not reach the subscription levels needed for the project to go forward. Bill mentioned the possibility of reaching the required 40% subscription level in a sufficient number of towns for the project to proceed but not in enough towns to ensure good progress. A question arose as to whether or not Heath subscribers who have paid their \$49 by check have been counted in the website total. Kara will e-mail Jim Drawe to ask him how many Heath subscribers have paid by check. There was a discussion of how Heath residents might financially assist others in town who would be interested in subscribing. It was suggested that Tracey be asked what accounts we have that people can give to knowing that \$49 will be paid out to Wired West. Jan suggested asking about other towns that have such a setup. Brian said we might consider passing over the Wired West Article at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM).

Regarding the municipal safety complex, Brian said that the Selectboard has signed a contract with the architect to redo the plan and make a model in time for display at the ATM.

There was some discussion of a warrant article that would set up a small stabilization fund of about two thousand dollars called the Veterans' Memorial Stabilization Fund.

Don inquired about the \$15,000 for preschool in Heath. Does the Mohawk Trail Regional School District budget include that? Brian and Bill said that the Selectboard is looking into it. They said that the possibility of an administrative assistant for Mike Smith needs more study. Mike is expected at next Tuesday's Selectboard meeting.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf, Secretary