

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
June 9, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Town Office Room, Sawyer Hall

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Don Freeman (chair), Jan Carr, Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield,  
Brian DeVriese, Bill, Lattrell, Michael Buoniconti, Michael Kociela, Ken Rocke, Budge Litchfield,  
Jim Drawe, Al Canali, Heather Row, and Jason McNay

Absent: Jeff Simmons

Superintendent Buoniconti expressed his regrets over the process of informing Heath about the Saphire Grant that could be used to help replace the oil burner in the Heath School with a wood pellet system with a solar hot air heating option. Members noted that the cost to Heath without the solar hot air feature would be \$74,464. The projected annual savings to the district would be \$11,548. Questions were raised about the cost of wood pellets and the air quality as compared with the oil burner. Michael Buoniconti said he would look for information about pollution.

The discussion turned to Wired West. Jim Draw said that a business plan would be available Saturday June 14 at a Wired West meeting to be held in Colrain. Jim specified ways in which he thinks the business plan is conservative. There was a request that the deadline for a town's being a player in the negotiations be delayed by a month so that people could have more time to look at the business plan.

Following the Wired West discussion the Finance Committee left to meet as a committee in the Assessors' Office. Members discussed the Saphire Grant and whether or not Heath should accept a grant for the basic wood pellet system without solar. Members expressed concern about the way in which the town was informed of the grant. There were concerns about the increase in the tax rate that would result from Heath's accepting the grant. Don made a motion seconded by Gloria to recommend that Heath accept the Saphire grant for the basic wood pellet heating system without solar. The motion, which received 0 aye votes and 4 nay votes, failed to pass. Members returned to the Town Office Room where Don reported the results of the vote to Sheila.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf, Secretary