

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 12, 2016

Time: 7 pm

Place: Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Don Freeman(chair), and at 7:15 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Ken Gilbert, at 7:30 Budge Litchfield, Ken Rocke, and Deb Porter, and at 8:25 Al Canali

Members read the minutes of the January 5th meeting which were approved by acclamation.

At 7:15 Don made a motion seconded by Jan to move to the Selectboard meeting and adjourn following the discussion about the presentation to be made by Heath representatives at the School Committee meeting and the later discussion of Wired West and MBI. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian reported that electrician Jerry Ferguson in doing work at the highway/fire garages has found decayed roof supports that need attention. Brian said that Ryan Chamberland of Governor Baker's administration, who had shown interest in visiting Heath to see the highway/fire facilities, now says that he does not plan to visit.

Ken Gilbert reported on the Heath Fire Department's breathing apparatus, the newest set being 14 years old. The cost of getting new sets would be for 15 sets at \$6,200 per set. Ken has submitted a grant application. Jan asked when we would hear about that grant. Ken said he would look into it. Brian said that one possibility would be purchasing 2 new sets each year. Ken provided the address www.clpusa of a website of a company where breathing equipment can be leased. Ken said that if there are questions about lease purchasing he can contact a company representative who would be happy to come to a Selectboard/ Finance Committee meeting to answer those questions. Members agreed to check the website and to evaluate the options of the Town's taking out a loan or going through the company.

Ken spoke of having applied for a second grant, one that would help replace engine 2.

Sheila informed the Finance Committee of Betty's having asked for prices of software for tax collecting that would be compatible with the software the assessors use. The estimate is between \$10K and \$13K.

At 7:40 Ken Rocke listed the talking points that he and Budge planned to bring to the January 13th meeting of the School Committee. Budge said he would make a motion to gain access to school district data, finances, and possibly legal counsel. Ken said that he will set up a website to make available to all interested persons the data that he and Budge aim to get.

At 8:25 Al Canali spoke of ongoing negotiations between Wired West and MBI. The topic of debt exclusions came up. There was a consensus that if calculations show that Heath does not need to pass a

debt exclusion, it should not pass one. Don said he would recheck the calculations and would write a policy statement on debt exclusions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf, Secretary