

Minutes of the Heath Finance Committee
March 8, 2016

Time: 7:01 pm

Place: The Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Don Freeman (chair), Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Mike Shattuck; at 7:30 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Bill Latrell, Art Schwenger, Peggy Sloan, who is the FRCOG's Director of Planning and Development, Kathy Inman, and Gary Singley

Absent: Jeff Simmons

Members read the minutes of the February 23rd meeting. Gloria made a motion seconded by Don to approve the minutes with emendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed ways of financing the repairs needed for the town truck with a broken body. Don suggested three possibilities: 1. Pay in part using Stabilization; 2. Use unspent money in the Highway accounts; 3. Rent a replacement truck until the Annual Town Meeting. At 7:07 Mike Shattuck joined in the discussion. He reported that the truck needing repairs is truck 3 which was bought in 2005. The truck was being used to dump a load of gravel when the cylinder supporting the body broke away from the body and was propelled through the rear window of the cab while the body dropped to the chassis. Jason who was in the cab was not injured. Mike drove the truck to Hoosick Falls, NY where he was told that the truck might be repaired by welding but that the proprietor would not choose that route because of liability issues. The estimate for replacing the truck body with a new steel body is \$24,495. To replace the body with a stainless steel body would cost about \$6,200 more. Mike said that a new truck would cost close to \$200,000 and that because of the money the Town has put into the truck and because of the condition of the engine he favors replacing the body with a new stainless steel body which should prolong the truck's life for at least 6 or 7 years. Members asked Mike whether the Highway Department could function without a truck until a Special Town Meeting or until the Annual Town Meeting May 7th. Mike said that he thought they could manage using funds from the Hired Winter Help account.

At 7:28 Gloria made a motion seconded by Jan that the committee join the Selectboard meeting and adjourn when the discussion of the truck repair is over. The motion passed unanimously. Mike explained to the Selectboard what had happened to truck number 3 and what the repair options appeared to be. There was a consensus to repair the truck with a stainless steel body. Gary asked whether the stainless steel would be corrosion-resistant. Mike said he thought that it would be but would check. He listed items that have been replaced during previous maintenance on the truck as a reason for choosing to pursue repair rather than purchasing a new truck. The list includes the turbo, the oil pan, and the leaf springs. He said that the repair estimate takes into account that the body-lifting cylinder, lights and wiring can all be transferred to the new body. Kathy asked whether or not the road crew makes a practice of hosing down each truck at the end of the day. Mike said that they do not wash the trucks every day due to such factors as the cold and that the runoff from each truck must be collected in a tank and then transported out of town with a charge of \$250 each time. Mike said that he

thinks that \$37,000 will cover the repair of the truck. He said that he will use the Hired Winter Help Account if a snow storm occurs during the truck repair. Sheila said that a special town meeting may be needed to do the financing. Don said that he would consult with Tacey about possible transfers of unspent highway funds that could cover the repair and avoid the \$2,000 cost of having a special town meeting.

Peggy Sloan of the FRCOG told the Selectboard about the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. She is wondering whether Heath wants to be a participating town. Members expressed great interest and thanked Peggy and Art for leaving a copy of the Partnership's plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf, Secretary