

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
May 3, 2016

Time: 7:03 pm

Place: Assessors' Office, Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Gloria Fisher, Don Freeman (chair), Jan Car; and at 7:30 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, and Eric Sumner (town moderator)

Don made available copies of the following:

- Agenda (Don)
- Minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting (Ned)
- Tax Levy Worksheet for Fiscal 2017, as of 05/03/16 (Don)

Members read the minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Gloria made a motion seconded by Jan to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Don said he had communicated with Kara since April 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Estimated Fiscal Year 2017 Tax Rate is now \$21.22. He expressed appreciation for the work that Tracey and Kara did to help bring the estimate down. Members thanked Don and supported his idea of sending an e-mail of thanks to Tracey and Kara. On the Tax Levy Worksheet Gloria noted that 'Recommended transfers at ATM to Stabilization funds' amount to \$9,000 and include \$4,000 as recommended by the Selectboard but not the Finance Committee. Also, she indicated that the sum of \$50,000 which is the 'Recommended TS Irene rescission' consists of \$46,000 to return to Free Cash and \$4,000 to Veterans' Benefits.

At 7:28 Gloria made a motion seconded by Jan to join the Selectboard meeting in progress and adjourn upon the conclusion of the discussion with Eric of the May 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting (ATM). The motion passed unanimously.

Don reported the most recent Estimated Fiscal Year 2017 Tax Rate of \$21.22.

Members reviewed the Warrant. We will not take a position on the Article to accept the Town of Rowe as a 7 – 12 member of the District effective July 1, 2017. Eric asked whether we could pass over that Article if it turns out that another town has voted against it by May 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a consensus that in that situation Heath could pass over it.

In the discussion of Article 12, which is to accept Chapter 90 money, Don suggested using some of that money next year to purchase a new truck. Members expressed interest in that use of Chapter 90 money.

The result of passing Article 20, which would rescind the transfers from Free Cash and from the Veterans' Benefits into the TS Irene Expense account, would be to increase the balance of Free Cash by

\$46,000. Sheila said that if Article 20 passes we will deal with this new balance at a Special Town Meeting before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

In explaining salary increases Sheila said that the Selectboard aimed to make salaries competitive and to bring up the salaries of those employees who were being paid under rate even though their work has been satisfactory.

Members recalled how at past ATM's issues have been identified for the voters as possible reasons for future STM's. There was a consensus not to do that at the May 7<sup>th</sup> ATM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf, Secretary