

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 22, 2013

Time: 7:06 pm

Place: Community Hall, Senior Center

Present: Ned Wolf, Gloria Fisher, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, and Kathy Inman, and at 8:05 Kara Leistyna, Sheila Litchfield, Tom Lively, and Brian DeVriese

The minutes of the January 8th meeting were read and approved.

There was a discussion of Margo's budget request for the police department. Operating expenses is \$2500, and vehicle maintenance is \$2000. There is an increase of \$3,394 in salaries to fund an increase in hours. It was noted that 72% of the funds allotted for salaries has already been spent. There was a request for a breakdown of hours for court time versus hours for patrol time. Another question concerned how many calls might be handled by the state police.

The discussion turned to the Town Clerk's request for an increase from 15 to 20 hours per week. It was suggested that we look into the number of hours and the pay of town clerks nearby. Members expressed interest in the status of the compiling of the bylaws. Some concern was expressed that both the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector possess valuable institutional knowledge that is not recorded.

Don and Kathy will continue their discussion of Stipends. Turning to the approaching Special Town Meeting (STM), members spoke of the Planning Board's expected warrant article on industrial wind turbines. Don made a motion that that the Finance Committee take a position on the Planning Board's intentions about industrial wind turbines. The motion passed unanimously. Jeff made a motion that the Finance Committee support the Planning Board's proposed ban of industrial wind turbines in Heath. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:05 pm the Finance Committee suspended its meeting to join the Selectboard upstairs. Don asked about the date when the FEMA audit is due. Sheila said that the FEMA audit funded by a \$13,500 STM appropriation will be due in March. Regarding the police department hours, Sheila said that Margo has been aware of the 72% consumption for salaries. Margo's budget hearing is set for January 29 at 7:30 pm. Mike's hearing is on February 5 at 7:15 pm.

In reference to the Town Clerk's hours there was agreement that Town Counsel should be asked what is the Selectboard's authority in assigning hours and compensation for the Town Clerk. Another question to ask Town Counsel is whether salaries should remain in Article 3 or be lumped into a separate warrant article.

Sheila said that \$10,000 has been put into the Preschool line item. She said that the issue of what to do with the savings from school payments is an appropriate one for the Finance Committee to bring to the

Selectboard. Finally, she recommended a discussion of Stipends in the weeks following the Annual Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary