

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
September 27, 2012

Time: 7:05 pm

Place: Sawyer Hall

Present: Ned Wolf, Don Freeman, and Kathy Inman

Absent: Jeff Simmons and Gloria Fisher

Members received copies of the following documents:

- Minutes of the August 28th meeting (Ned)
- Finance Committee Pay Scale Info (Kathy)
- Draft of the Warrant of the Special Town Meeting October 23 (Don)

Members agreed to remind Don to ask Sheila to visit the Finance Committee as part of the committee's effort to gain more understanding of the town employee salary system. Members' questions include these: What is the relevance of a master's degree to a position in the Highway Department?, and Where does the new hire in the Highway Department fit into the system?

Members turned to the draft of the Warrant of the October 23rd Special Town Meeting (STM). There was some discussion of Article 1 about amending the Zoning Bylaws for Large Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Generating Installations. What is the connection to Green Communities, and who is in charge of the effort to become a Green Community? What is the relation to the wind power moratorium? Ned moved that the Finance Committee pass over Article 1. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding Article 2, which relates to Fixed Wireless Broadband, members looked ahead to the arrival of 'fiber optic' and wondered whether the article is a stopgap procedure for those people in town who do not have DSL. Don's motion to pass over Article 2 was unanimously approved.

Article 3 is to transfer from Highway Wing Plow FY2012 the sum of \$27.55 and to transfer from the Ambulance Purchase account the sum of \$1,940 to the Stabilization account. Don moved that the Finance Committee approve Article 3. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 4 is to vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from a not yet determined source the sum of \$20,000 for funding a feasibility study to provide recommendations for a Municipal Complex or take any action related thereto. Members wondered about tax payers' readiness to pay for a new Municipal Complex. There is a possibility that securing grants depends on there having been such a study. Don moved that the Finance Committee pass over Article 4. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 5 is about securing funds for a \$10,000 feasibility study on the effective use of Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall. Kathy asked whether a study of current insulation in those buildings would be included. Members unanimously approved Don's motion to pass over Article 5.

Article 6 is to provide the funds needed for a \$12,000 audit of Fiscal Year 2012. Don moved that Article 6 be approved because the Town's receiving its FEMA money depends on there having been this audit. Members approved the motion unanimously.

Article 7 establishes a revolving fund for the remainder of FY2013 into which fund shall be credited the receipts from the Town's recycling program. Members unanimously passed Don's motion to approve Article 7.

Members expressed appreciation for the data gathered by Kathy on miles of road in nearby towns as well as the wages and credentials of Highway Department workers. The collection of this data is ongoing.

The committee returned to a discussion of the Hosmer Road project. Did that section of the road have to be maintained? Don said he would follow up with questions for the BOS.

The minutes of the August 28th meeting were read and approved with emendations.

The committee expects to meet again to review the Warrant for the October 23rd Special Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf, Secretary