

## **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Town of Heath**

**January 15, 2019**

Meeting called to order 7:14 PM.

In Attendance: Ned, Kathy, Jan, Paul. Guest: Gary Singley

Absent: Ken

Reviewed minutes of the 1-8-19 meeting. Paul made a motion to accept the minutes. Kathy seconded. Minutes approved.

Ned indicated to the committee that he attended a 10:00 AM meeting today with the MLP Advisory Board and Bob Bourke the liaison of the Heath Broadband Advisory Committee. There was a discussion about access and future access with fiber optic. The Town is currently waiting for completion of the pole survey and subsequent negotiations by Westfield Gas and Electric with Verizon and National Grid for them to present a Premise Planning Report from which the Select Board can determine the cost for each drop and arrive at a drop policy for Heath. Ned advised us that he has heard that WG&E charges more than \$1000 for this report and that the report is worth the value. It is anticipated that by July 2020 the Town will have internet access in homes. No decision as of yet has been made as to whether the Town should go with Wired West or Westfield gas and Electric as our ISP/NO provider.

There was a discussion by FinCom regarding access for homes greater than 175 ft from a pole and lowering the cost of connection or

subsidizing these homes. It is in the Town's best interest to have as many subscribers and how best can we boost this number.

There was a discussion regarding uses of Free Cash and long range fiscal planning. Ned suggested he would like to have more money put into Stabilization Funds. Regarding uses of Free Cash the Town currently has a balance of \$311,000. Anticipated expenditures are \$100,00 for a new backhoe, pay back of \$30,000 to MTRSD to withdraw from the school district, and \$20,000 for demolition of the Fournier house. Given these large expenditures it is the committee'

s opinion that the Town needs a strategy for putting monies into Stabilization Funds and spending of Free Cash.

The committee revisited the request by the Highway Department for a pick-up truck.

To help reduce costs currently and in the future there was a brief discussion of possibly looking at discontinuing roads that are no longer passable.

Ned apprised the committee that Towns now have the ability to place a tax on B&B's and Air B&B's in addition to the state taxes.

Jan made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Dabrody

