

## MEETING MINUTES

### Town of Heath Finance Committee April 10, 2018

Called to order in with the SB at 7:05pm by Chair Ned Wolf with Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman, and Jan Carr present.

#### **Meeting with Alice Wozniak**

Alice addressed the Town's electric assessment which was decreased 40% in Heath (-30% in Colrain) a loss to Heath of \$76,000 in revenue. Four cases are in front of the SJC, optimistic that they will rule favorably. George Sansoucy is a consultant in this area of expertise with thirty-six years experience using fair market value vs book value (what GRID uses). ME, VT and NH are all using Sansoucy's model. There is a possibility of employing Mr. Sansoucy and forming a cooperative of 32 towns in MA (Franklin, Berkshire and Hampden counties) each paying \$5,000 over five years. How to divide co-op? Population, extent of infrastructure... Depreciation to zero does not take into consideration the inherent value of the poles. Sansoucy's model goes down to 1.4.

New England Power owns the high-tension lines, Grid and Verizon the street poles. They are using an accelerated depreciation schedule. Sansoucy said a 24-year schedule, Alice informed the Assessors' meeting that Heath's is a 9-year schedule. DOR *may* look at Sansoucy's fair market estimates in October, but time is against this happening. DOR will accept Sansoucy's assessments (Newton and Brookline presently) but only towns that have hired his services will have their assessments lowered. This could end up in a class-action law-suit. Maura Healy should be notified.

#### **Meeting with DPW**

Team approach for leadership. Robyn met with them and they had questions and concerns but this could also be seen as an opportunity for proactive behavior. Shared responsibility – everyone has a specialty. More issues will be brought to the SB. Presently, we're underutilizing the crew. The SB wrote the job description for a mechanic and expanded from there. Operator, supervisory level - + 1 grade to 16 and Mechanic, supervisory level - +1 grade to 16. 1) Shop foreman/transfer/OSHA, 2) Road foreman, 3) Administrative Assistant.

Part two of this will be the re-grading of pay schedules to match the new job descriptions using similar towns' averages and Heath's Pay Grade Chart. This has to be done within two weeks to meet the Article 3 deadline.

#### New Truck

International's rims and tires are interchangeable. Is it better in the long term to buy a better, more expensive truck? What about rebuilding trucks? First payment on new truck would be in 2020. Debt service is really good after 7/1/18 – cruiser and Safety Complex land will be paid off. Irene is only outstanding debt. This may be a good year for truck.

Ned stated that the goal in September of the FinCom was not to increase spending by more than \$58,000 or 3% because of the looming levy ceiling. Because of the electric assessment, we will see an 8% increase or \$1.35. Another year of that would bring us to \$24.50.

#### **Free Cash Discussion (\$150,392)**

Possibilities are:

Pay off Public Safety land purchase, we owe \$44,000 and by doing this would save \$10,000 in inters

Pay off Irene, \$37,400

Pay off McCloud, \$31,890

We have \$220,000 in General Stabilization

We could create a revolving account for property taking and remove it from Article 3

Gloria made a motion to adjourn. Ned seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Carr

