

Heath Fin Com Minutes

Sept 24, 2019

Present: Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, Kathy Inman, Ken Gilbert

7:02 meeting called to order

Minutes of 9/10, and 9/16, 2019 were reviewed, amended and approved.

Motion made to accept the minutes as amended by Ken seconded by Kathy Inman.

Unanimous agreement.

Minutes of 9/16, 2019 were reviewed, amended and approved.

Motion made to accept the minutes as amended by Jan, seconded by Kathy.

Unanimous agreement

Discussion about presentation of numbers for operating and maintenance costs of the three buildings. Fin Com has been presented with notebooks with a detailed analysis of costs, and would like to discuss with BOS, after a presentation to Fin Com by Bill and Jean Gran. There may be other perspectives on numbers, focus of the meeting needs to be on explanations and agreement on methodology for arriving at numbers. Ned would like Jean and Bill to be present at time of presentation.

Alice arrived at 7:24

Budge and Sheila arrived at 7:25

Budge summarized school related information on OPEB – (other post-employment benefits)

2 methods: In order to leave the district we need to do one of the following 2 things:

*Ask for a withdrawal amendment that would be approved by all 8 towns -

*Have no outstanding capital dept – take care of remaining OBEB expenses.

Review of spreadsheet; No projections – just a straight look at FY20 expenses.

Heaths obligation related to Heaths elementary aged students – 1.2 million = “Buy out” figure.

There may be a more current figure at a future point.

options –:

1. regular payments to the district – intra-municipal agreement over 13.5 years use all of school related savings toward OBEP buy out
2. 20 year payment plan – allows smaller monthly payments in case school savings numbers fluctuate.
3. bond – full payment at time of withdrawal, Alice reports a bond rating would not be good since we have not had a recent audit.
4. Planned future borrowing – blend of borrowing some and then payoff with a balloon payment at a later point. Pays 60K/yr. X10 years, at the end of the 10 years, Heath is responsible for a balloon payment to complete the payment. Annual payment might be around 60,000.

Alice suggested petitioning the state to cover some of these expenses, while the state has some extra money from FY19.

Heath would have to work with legislators on a petition. Budge will contact Paul Mark and Adam Hinds, and then send an email to the superintendent.

Could be joint letter from fin com and school board, present it to BOS. Include commentary on our present difficult situation including broadband expenses and being at levy ceiling. DESE is aware that these 2 districts are some of the few that are working cooperatively to address issues of declining enrollment and stagnant or decreasing public funds.

Alice thinks that it is not likely that we will be able to get a 20 year bond, particularly in light of borrowing for the internet.

Scenario 2 would be the preferred approach, but we also may need to consider trying to get state funding and then #4 might be an option.

Anticipated July 2021 for expanded Hawlemont district to become operational.

Alice asked about Broadband and whether we were planning to go with Wired West or Westfield Gas and Electric, Sheila reports that there are changes happening constantly and that there is not rush to make a decision right now.

Jan made this motion and seconded by Ken for Ned to send an email to Hilma requesting a meeting with Fin Com BOS on Oct. 15, to focus on operating and maintenance costs of three buildings, limited to Fin Com and BOS to agree on numbers, with a public comment period at the end.

Ken made a motion to adjourn seconded by Alice, unanimous approval
Meeting adjourned 9:03.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Inman

