

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath Finance Committee
February 24, 2020

7:00pm meeting called to order at by Chair Ned Wolf

Attending: Ken Gilbert, Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Kathy Inman, and Alice Wozniak.

Kara Leistyna visiting.

Review of minutes of 1/27, Ken made a motion to accept minutes as amended – seconded by Jan unanimously approved. Kathy abstained since she was not here on that date. Alice joined 5 minutes later.

School Budget: Mohawk budget increased but not as much as initially indicated.

School budget including FCTS, significantly less than last year,

Total Increase of \$48,220 = .52 increase on the tax rate.

18 Jacobs Road

Town Fund for 24,012 currently in account, will get 2 more payments, for a total of 40,000 more, to be received in 2 separate payments. Total is approximately 64,000, when compared to expected costs, there should be something left over.

Roof repairs have been done for \$4,000 – (patch plus valley work)

Bid before winter for more complete roof work- bids were too high

Estimate 75,000 = .83 on tax rate.

Also discussed insurance money that we will get in the form of a credit. BOS have requested an inspection to determine status of 18 Jacobs.

18 Jacobs expenses discussed, Alice does not feel that incidental one time charges should be included in costs projections for 18 Jacobs, even though they are built into Community and Sawyer Hall budgets.

Questions raised about repairs in Sawyer hall that were voted in last year – sticking valve that has affected heating system – Questions raised about why that has not been fixed yet, and who is responsible for dealing with that. Kara reports it was the Town Coordinator and building maintenance who has dealt with that in the past.

Broad band discussed – potential cost of drops, rate not determined at this time. Direct correlation of cost of how many sign up and cost of the drop policy, possible. Rate not yet determined but anticipate around \$657. for about 80%.

Discussed availability of money for funding broadband – Stabilization accounts are essentially savings accounts, but could develop a **03 fund**– vote to create it at town meeting and then vote to transfer money into it, then money would be available without needing a STM vote.

TS Irene: Heath will receive 170,000 reimbursement, but it will not be available in free cash until 2021.

We still owe one payment this year and two more payments of 34,000 plus interest.

Continued review of article 3.

Technical support budget has doubled, also Kara suggested that back up system, or a new internet system that is used by everyone might be covered by a community grant – we have not had a community grant in a while, so we should be eligible to apply for one. Towns are being hacked – could put that in the application.

Solid waste: Household hazardous waste – now only have to pay half – we get credits – can contact Jan Ameen for a realistic number – can also ask her about any other grants to help pay for a compactor – ask her about new vs used, see if balance can be paid for with use of DEP sustainability grant and recycling/revolving fund (\$3,400), and how much cost savings there would be with a compactor for cardboard.

Motion to adjourn 9:10 made by Ken, Seconded by Jan, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Inman