

FINCOM MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath

April 21, 2020

18:03: Meeting Called to Order

Members attending: Ned, Jan, Kathy, and Ken

Minutes: Minutes for 4/16/2020 were reviewed. Kathy made a motion to approve the minutes with the appropriate changes, seconded by Ken. Vote was unanimous.

Ned briefly discussed the effects the state's finances based on the newsletter from Massachusetts Division of Local Services stating the tax rate may not be certified at the usual time and what effects that may have on the town's tax bills.

At 18:15 the FinCom moved to join the BOS meeting for the discussion with **Alyssa Larose of the FRCOG** and Mark from the Green Community **Grant program**. A few points made were:

1. Add mini-splits to the school building
2. Add school building to the energy reduction plan
3. Use the last full school use year for energy info
4. BOS has signed a contract for a solar feasibility study for 18 Jacobs Rd
5. Wait on the report to determine whether to spend money on heat pumps and insulation for the Community Hall or the school building.
6. Gloria mentioned that the Community Hall lighting project that was approved has changed as well as the heating and storm windows. The plan is to install replacement windows that will not be covered by the Green Community program.
7. It was noted that **if** any Green Community money **is spent** on a building and if the building is sold within 5 years, the money will have to be paid back

19:00 the FinCom meeting reconvened to discuss Article III.

It is difficult to project an amount for line 49 School Maint./Utilities because it is still unknown what the building will be used for. **A majority of the FinCom thinks that being fiscally responsible means not continuing to operate and maintain Sawyer Hall, the Community Hall, and 18 Jacobs Road unless the rent at 18 Jacobs Road covers its costs.** As of the end of the 3rd quarter the spreadsheets show that Sawyer and Community Halls combined have cost \$ 42,682 and 18 Jacobs Rd building \$ 68,236. **The rent at 18 Jacobs Road has been \$1000 a month which does not come close to covering the costs.**

Jan informed the committee she had received a response form Senator Hind's office stating that the one million dollar bond from the state for a Safety Building is not likely.

For line 168, Preschool Support, the Accountant's expenditure report shows no money spent to date. Ned will check with Hilma and Budge to get info on the actual cost and when payments are due.

Line 44, Town Hall Technical Support, currently shows \$10,000, but will need at least \$15,000 to get the required upgrades. Ned will ask Hilma about an IT grant to find when it will be administered or if it is to late this year.

Line 106, Uniforms, Question as to why a \$1,300 increase.

Line 50, Town Copier, can that line be reduced?

Ned said the BOS would like to meet with the FinCom to further discuss Article III and he will check with Hilma to get the date.

The FinCom will provide thoughts for the next meeting for recommending or not recommending the budget as it currently stands and for explaining the additional tax implication for Broad Band borrowing to the residents of Heath.

20:15 Ken made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathy. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken