

MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Heath
Finance Committee
June 25, 2020**

Called to order at 7:04 by Chair Ned Wolf with Ken Gilbert, Alice Wozniak and Jan Carr present on phone, 1-605-313-5944, access code: 240624#. Will Emmet guest. Kathy Inman absent.

Will be discussing Article 3 next week with the SB. Last week, the SB discussed new training position, assistant to Town Clerk. Will Town Clerk position remain appointed or will it become an elected position? Salary adjustments may be discussed. Fincom has voted on \$0 for Jacobs Rd appropriation, a 50% reduction committee stipends, and no COLA.

1/12 budget, increase \$67,000 for Heath, not original \$107,000. State aid projected at 15 – 20% less.

Estimate tax rate \$24.10 (shows deduction of \$.38 after paying off Irene loan)

If Cherry Sheet is 15% less, the tax rate is \$.16 higher = \$24.26, about \$2.00 higher than last year.

Two STM's on 7/11 – one at 8:50 to authorize a Preservation Restriction on the Old Townhouse and one at 9:00

The ATM is scheduled for 8/1

Ned will ask Hilma to send the ATM and STM warrants

We are waiting for a list of recommended transfers

It appears we have more over-drawn accounts – what is the legality of this? Chapter 44 transfers are allowed from 5/1 – 7/15. We can encumber a back-ordered item by making notice by 7/15, if it goes out after then, requires 9/10 vote.

Irene Money – We are allowed to spend earmarked portion to pay off loan, the remaining \$100,000+/- goes into Free Cash to be certified in the Fall when it can go in the General Fund.

Ken wanted to make sure the stipends we are referring to are for committees and/or boards and not the Chiefs. Alice (personal opinion) believes that her assessors are the only Board who should receive stipends because they are required to go to trainings and therefore miss work.

Don't vote for MTRSD Warrant Article. State budget is estimated to be complete by September. MA Rainy-Day fund will be tapped and there will be both State and Federal shortfalls. MTRSD will not use their Rainy-Day fund but will pass it on to the towns. If Districts employees get COLA's, why shouldn't all employees?

Tech School seems more fluid – based on number of kids. A recommendation was made that a fincom member should go to the School Board budget meetings.

The MPLAB should be recommending a Drop Policy in a couple of weeks. We have a timeline of construction to the curb. The drops take thirty to sixty days to complete after that. TriWire will be doing both phases. A drop cost of \$657.00 applies to 67% of the Town.

The true-up payment from the State is estimated to be \$383,000. \$450,000 of borrowed money has yet to be borrowed. State subsidy of \$500 per drop for first 70% of drops. We are using 516 for our drop number, with 41% seasonal.

Alice inquired about seasonal customers with long driveways.

Will pointed out that seasonal people may become full-time residents because of Covid.

The MLPAB had considered \$1,000, 75% and full-drop subsidy. Transfer \$200,000 from stabilization. Irene money will be certified in the Fall. Broadband has many similarities to the Rural Electrification in the 1930's.

Jan made a motion to adjourn at 9:50. Ken seconded. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Carr