

**Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Via Conference Call #1-605-313-5944
July 14, 2020**

Present: Ned Wolf, Chair; Jan Carr, Ken Gilbert, Alice Wozniak and Will Emmet.
Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.
Last Meeting: Alice expressed concern that we did not adjourn last meeting when two members of the Fin Com that are also members of the Municipal Light Plant Advisory Board [Ned & Jan] entered a meeting with the Municipal Light Plant Board. Alice stayed on until 8:40PM with Will and Ken exiting just after 7:30PM. Alice expressed concern that you can't reconvene what hasn't been adjourned and that when Alice exited the meeting there was no longer a quorum; thereby the meeting ended. It was noted that any action could be an Open Meeting Law violation. Ned wished to move on to the Warrant that needed recommendation for Annual Town Meeting.

Ongoing Business:

Annual Town Meeting (FY21)- Warrant Draft #4

- There will be an article for the cost of Heath's broadband drops for their town owned buildings. No language has been drafted to review and Ned asked to pass over.
- Previously, the Finance Committee had voted to not recommend part of Article #3 which included Cost of Living raises (COLA's); reducing stipends to boards & committees by 50% and not funding the Heath School Maintenance & Utilities. Can it be partially recommended or is it all or nothing. Do we simply address at the start of the Article when the Select Board may have explanation for reducing the number of line items? Ned will ask Hilma for clarification.

Article #4-Ned said that the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Operating Assessment should be voted down as they will not have an approved budget until September and will come back with a revised assessment then.

Jan made a motion to not recommend the MTRSD Assessment. Alice seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #5-There was question as to why the MTRSD Capital Assessment was up \$6,483+. No one had any information to clarify so Ned will reach out to Hilma. Passed over.

Article #6-The Franklin County Technical School Operating Assessment is down -\$45,498.00 due to two graduates and no new incoming students.

Jan made a motion to recommend the FCTS Assessment. Ken seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #7-The Franklin County Technical Capital Assessment is down - \$424.22.

Alice made a motion to recommend the FCTS Capital Assessment. Will seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #8-To pay Heather Hathwell for a Fiscal Year 2019 mileage reimbursement of \$180.96.

Ken made a motion to recommend. Jan seconded. Ned and Will agreed. Alice descended with the statement that it was almost twice their annual

expenses and departments should be aware of their budget. Discussion ensued about how many miles it was for; since we use the IRS mileage reimbursement rate.

Will rescinded his recommendation; followed by Ken, Jan and Ned. No recommendation without further clarification.

Article #9-To use Fiscal Year 2019 Free Cash of \$2,500. to fund internet upgrade costs.

Alice moved to recommend Article #9. Will seconded. Passed unanimously.

Articles #10 & #11-To use FY19 Free Cash for the purchase of two snow plows. One for \$7,200 and the other for \$5,200.

Alice moved to recommend Articles #10 & #11. Jan seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #12- To use FY19 Free Cash to offset the remaining balance of purchase and installation of a cardboard compactor.

Alice moved to recommend Article #12. Will seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #13- To see if the Town will transfer \$7,500 from FY19 Free Cash and \$12,500 from the Audit Stabilization for the purpose of having an audit. Alice mentioned that it a good idea to have one anytime you have staffing changes; last year we had a change in Accountant and also Town Coordinator.

Ken moved to recommend the transfers for the purpose of an audit in Article #13. Will seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #14-To allow the Select Board to accept CH90 monies and enter into contracts with MA DOT for such purposes. Voted every year.

Will moved to recommend Article #14. Ken seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #15-To allow the Town departments to apply for grants without Select Board permission and to allow the Select Board to accept so long as no matching funds are required.

Alice moved to recommend Article #15. Ken seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #16-To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$645.00 from Animal Control Officer Revolving Fund to Heath Free Public Library.

Jan moved to recommend Article #16. Will seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #17-To see if the Town will vote to reduce the Personal Property exemption from \$10K to \$5K under M.G.L. CH59, Section 5, Clause 54th.

Will moved to recommend Article #17. Ned seconded. Passed unanimously.

Article #18-Passed over. Ned to follow up with Hilma for more information.

Article #19-Revolving Funds. Amended to Fiscal Year 2021. Discussed funding particularly for the School Building Use in the amount of \$30K. Alice noted that the amount was what was allowable to be spent. Jan had some concerns.

Alice moved to recommend as Amended with "FY21 language" for Article #19. Ken seconded. Will; aye. Ned; aye. Jan; nay. Passed by majority.

Ken Gilbert left the meeting at 7:15PM.

Articles #20 & #21-Not within the purview of the Finance Committee.

Article #22-Passed over. Ned will reach out to Hilma for more information.

Broadband Drop Article-An Article will put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant but has not yet been composed. The amount will cover the broadband drops to municipal buildings. It will come from Fiscal Year 2019 Free Cash and be in the amount of \$5,906.91.

Will moved to recommend the broadband drops for municipal drops. Alice seconded. Passed unanimously.

Adjourn:

Alice moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. Will seconded. Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Wozniak