

Minutes
Heath Finance Committee Meeting
21 July 2020

Present: Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Ken Gilbert, Alice Wozniak, Will Emmet (all via teleconference)

Ned called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

Item 1:

Aspects of article 3 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant were discussed. Specifically (a) whether to cut stipends by 50% for all town officials with the exception of the fire chief, constables, election officials and animal control officer, (b) whether to recommend a 1.5% COLA for town employees for FY21, and (c) whether to reduce the former school building (18 Jacobs Rd) maintenance budget in line 49 to zero for FY21.

- (a) The stipend cut was discussed. Ned pointed out that the town would save 8400.00 through this act. Alice pointed out that to the best of her knowledge, fincom committees in surrounding towns did not receive stipends. A vote was held via Ned, seconded by Ken. Three “ayes” (Ned, Jan, Ken), two “nays” (Alice, Will). Finance committee recommends cutting of stipends by 50% except for fire chief, constables, election officials and animal control officer.
- (b) The COLA of 1.5% was discussed. A question was raised as to whether any town employees were receiving raises in addition to COLA. Jeff Johnston, Hilma Sumner and Tim Lively are all getting raises. The COLA of 1.5% is expected to add 6500.00 to the town budget. Ned moved to hold a vote, Ken seconded. Vote was five “ayes”, zero “nays”. Finance committee recommends a COLA of 1.5% for FY21.
- (c) Reduction from 16445.00 to zero of line 49 (maintenance/utilities of former school building) for FY21 was discussed. There was concern that this would be seen as an effort to mothball the former school building. Ned assured those concerned that this was not the case and that the finance committee could not make such a recommendation. There are monies available from other funding sources sufficient to maintain the former school building in FY21 (Mohawk School District closeout, etc.). Ned moved to hold a vote, Ken seconded. Vote was five “ayes”, zero “nays”. Finance committee recommends zero for line 49 (former school building maintenance/utilities).
- (d) Ned moved to recommend remaining lines of article 3, seconded by Jan. Vote was five “ayes”, zero “nays”. Motion carried.

The fincom moved to the select board meeting at 7 pm via Zoom and reconvened at 7:31 pm via teleconference.

Item 2:

The fincom discussed the selectboard recommendation to increase the salary of the municipal light plant manager (new position) from 9980.00 per year to 13000.00 per year. There was discussion as to whether the salary should be pro-rated for the first year and when the efforts of the manager would actually be required. Ned moved to hold a vote, Jan seconded. Two "ayes" (Ned, Jan), three "nays" (Ken, Alice, Will). Motion failed.

Item 3:

The fincom went through the remaining unresolved items of the ATM warrant as follows:

- (a) Article 4-not recommended (voted at previous fincom meeting)
- (b) Article 5: Ned moved to recommend article 5, Jan seconded. Five "ayes", zero "nays". Motion carried.
- (c) Articles 6 and 7 recommended.
- (d) Article 8: Ned moved to recommend, Ken seconded. Five "ayes", zero "nays". Motion carried.
- (e) Article 9: Ned moved to recommend, Ken seconded. Five "ayes", zero "nays". Motion carried.
- (f) Articles 10-18 recommended.
- (g) Article 19: Not within fincom's purview.
- (h) Article 20 recommended with "FY20" changed to "FY21".
- (i) Articles 21 and 22: Not within fincom's purview.
- (j) Article 23: Ned moved to recommend, Ken seconded. Five "ayes", zero "nays". Motion carried.

Item 4: Approval of fincom minutes from June 16th, June 25th and July 7th

- (a) June 16th minutes: Jan moved to accept minutes as corrected, Ken seconded. Vote 4-0 (will not yet on fincom).
- (b) June 25th minutes: changes-correct "fincom is has" to "fincom has", strike Alice (personal opinion) sentence. Alice moved to accept minutes as corrected, Ken seconded. Vote 4-0.
- (c) July 7th minutes: changes-"Chapter 44 transfers (plural)"-Jan. Ned moved to accept minutes as corrected, Will seconded. Vote 5-0
- (d) The minutes from July 14th and July 21st will be reviewed at the next fincom meeting.

Motion made at 8:43 pm by Ken to adjourn, seconded by Alice. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted, Will Emmet

