

Minutes
Heath Finance Committee Meeting
June 17th, 2021

Present: Tom Lively (Chair), Will Emmet (Secretary), Bob McGahan, Alice Wozniak, Ned Wolf

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

Item 2: Minutes from Fincom meeting of May 20th, 2021

The minutes from May 20th 2021 were reviewed. Alice pointed out that “Emmet” and “Wozniak” were misspelled. Vote was 5-0 to accept minutes as corrected.

Item 3: Review of end-of-year town budgets to cover shortfalls in the MLP manager’s salary and assistant assessor’s budget

The MLP manager’s expenditure is \$2k over the budgeted annual amount of \$13k. It was noted that \$15k has been expended over 9 months as opposed to the entire fiscal year. The assistant assessor’s expense overage of \$1.7k was due to IT problems earlier this year. We identified some accounts that appear to have surplus funds.

Ned pointed out that the MLP manager’s expenses were likely to be higher during the construction phase of the broadband network.

Ned noted that our latest “snapshot” of the town budget was circulated to fincom and the select board by Hilma on 7 June.

- The Community Hall budget has approx. \$4k remaining. The CH kitchen range removal and replacement will eat into this.
- The transfer station (under highway department) has approx. \$10k remaining in the tipping line item. There may be other surpluses. Jeff Johnston should be consulted.
- Other than the school budget, the highway department has the largest budget.
- We won’t really know what the end-of-year line item surpluses are until budget reconciliation by July 15th, 2021.

Alice made a motion (seconded by Bob) to recommend that the select board should consider using the Community Hall and Highway Department budget surpluses to deal with the shortfalls noted above. Tom will draft a letter to that end. Vote was unanimous to accept the motion.

Item 4: Calendar of Fincom Meetings for FY22

Tom recommended that we start working on the FY23 budget in early January, 2022. Alice pointed out that we should have a meeting in December, 2021 to get things rolling. A letter needs to go out to each department head to prompt budget development at that time.

Dates:

FY21 End of Year: July 8th, 2021
Fall Meeting: September 9th, 2021
Winter Meeting #1: December 9th, 2021
Winter Meeting #2: Early January (TBD)

Item 5: Discussion of role of Fincom

We had a freewheeling discussion about budget concerns and our roles as fincom members. Bob is concerned about the town tax rate and what can be done to reduce it. Alice pointed out that the current winter road treatment is ineffective and very detrimental to vehicle lifespans. We should speak with other towns regarding possible alternatives. We discussed the highway department grader replacement as well as the merits of a full-time mechanic to maintain highway/fire/police vehicles.

Item 6: Possible meeting with MLB

Ned noted that broadband subscription income is to be used to service debt, cover MLP manager's salary and apply to the depreciation fund. The debt is largely in the form of short-term notes with low initial payment of principle. A meeting on July 8th was proposed (same meeting as FY21 End of year).

Item 7: Motion to adjourn

Will made the motion to adjourn. Ned seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William T. Emmet
Fincom Secretary