

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee  
October 17, 2023 @ 6:00 pm  
The atrium, 18 Jacobs Road

Present from the FinCom: Tom Lively (Chair), Will Emmet, Bob McGahan, and Ned Wolf who arrived at 6:15.

Absent: Alice Wozniak

Present from the Select Board: Robyn Provost-Carlson, Sue Lively, and Elissa Viarengo with Town Coordinator Hilma Sumner and at 7:30 from the Highway Department Jeff Johnston and Kyle Jarvis.

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:03. Members discussed the items to come up on the Select Board's Agenda and at 6:10 left the atrium to join the Select Board in the cafeteria. The Select Board discussed a motion to not accept a request from the MTRSD to bring to a Special Town Meeting the MTRSD's proposed amendments to the regional agreement. Their vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

The Select Board recommended a gathering of MTRSD and Heath officials that encourages questions related to the proposed change from district enrollment to foundation enrollment in calculating a town's assessment. Questions like "I don't understand this, can you explain it?" Are the ones to encourage.

The Select Board members see an opportunity for a rewording of the amendment related to maintenance costs and capital expenditures.

Robyn applauded Heath's winning a \$17,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for reworking the Community Hall windows. The Select Board will create a committee of 5 to facilitate raising the matching \$17,000.

At 7:30 Jeff Johnston reported that the truck bid opened by the FRCOG was \$84,500 for a 2018 Western Star 4700 truck that has a plow and salter. The truck is presently in Chester, VT and will be available in the first or second week of November. The main focus of this truck would be plowing Heath's south paved roads. A trade of \$5K – 6K for truck #2 is included in the \$84,500 cost. The dealer selling this truck will be checking it over and if they find something needing repair, they will fix it at no cost. The truck has been used mostly on dirt roads and has been exposed to minimal salt. Jeff recommended Heath buy this truck.

**Action Taken** Sue moved that the Select Board accept the FRCOG bid of \$84,500 for the used truck. Elissa seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Action Taken** Robyn moved that the \$84,500 come from Heath's ARPA funds. Elissa seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Jason will drive his truck, which is more than 20 years old, on the dirt roads.

Saladino is reviewing a contract, a copy of which Tom sent to FinCom members on October 15<sup>th</sup>. If Saladino accepts, they would plow dirt roads.

Hilma reported that Kyle has just obtained his hoisters license.

At 8:00 the FinCom left the meeting with the Select Board to regroup in the atrium.

**Action Taken** Bob moved to recommend that the Town use up to the difference between the \$104K of ARPA funds and the \$84.5K, or \$19.5K, for the used truck to install hydraulics on the truck for the Town's existing wing plow. Will seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Date of Next Finance Committee Vote: November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.**

Bob suggested that there be a line item in the budget for putting money into Vehicle Stabilization regularly. Some members noted that in years when there have been regular amounts of free cash, regular amounts have been put into Vehicle Stabilization. Members expressed interest in whether the funding of Vehicle Stabilization can be improved. More discussion is needed.

Members read the minutes of the October 10<sup>th</sup> FinCom meeting. Bob moved that the minutes be accepted. Will seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Tom moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf

