

Minutes of the Heath Finance Committee  
March 25, 2025 at 6  
Municipal Building

Present: Dena Briggs (Chair), Alice Wozniak, Bob McGahan, Wendy Whalen, and Ned Wolf  
Also present were Select Board members Robyn and Will, Town Coordinator Hilma,  
and Highway Superintendent Tyson

Dena called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

She asked whether the costs that Robyn has estimated for completing the salt shed might be reduced. Does everything have to be done to have a salt shed that is safe and useful? Tyson said yes.

Robyn has estimated the total of costs to come for the salt shed at \$259,770. She recommends including a \$25,000 contingency.

She also noted that FY25 Fair Share Funds amount to \$46,436.88., and that these funds can be thought of as Chapter 90 funds.

#### Road Repairs

Tyson cautioned that the quotes he has obtained for road repairs are old quotes. The FinCom agreed that repairing Colrain Stage Road should have the highest priority because of the importance of getting emergency vehicles safely into and out of town.

Tyson will look into the possibility of repairing Number Nine Road a piece at a time.

He said that a beautification grant for Heath Center could help pay for repairing East Main St., but that winning the grant would be possible only if the overall project includes bikeways.

#### Collecting Delinquent Taxes

Hilma said that the Treasurer has turned letter writing to those tax payers who are delinquent over to an attorney. More payments are coming in.

#### Warrant for May 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting

Hilma said that the Select Board and the Finance Committee will begin discussion of the Warrant at our meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Finance Committee Leaves to Reconvene in Atrium

The collection of taxes was discussed with a suggestion that the time given delinquents to pay be shortened. It is now a year. Another suggestion was that the late fee for paying one's excise tax be increased from \$5.

Members read the minutes of the March 18th meeting. Dena moved that the minutes be accepted with edits. Wendy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### Legal Fees

Members noted that as of 12/31/24 \$22,785.25 had been spent on Legal Fees which is \$7,785.25 more than the \$15,000 that was appropriated last May.

It was suggested that the Town seek the services of a firm other than KP Law. A member pointed out that the variety of situations for which the town needs legal assistance means that we need a firm that has specialists.

Members questioned whether the increase proposed by Hilma from \$15,000 to \$30,000 would be sufficient to cover the town's legal fees in FY26.

**Action Taken** *Dena moved that the Finance Committee recommends \$35,000 for Legal Fees in FY26. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Members considered the capital requests of the Highway Department. We lacked a recent report from the Accountant showing the balance in the Vehicle Stabilization Fund. Bob will ask Hilma what the balance is in that fund and whether it is committed.

**Dates of Next Meetings:** **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM**

**Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**

Wendy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf

