

Minutes of the Heath Finance Committee
April 22, 2025 at 6 PM
Jacobs Road Municipal Building

Present: Bob McGahan, Ned Wolf, Dena Briggs (Chair), and Alice Wozniak

Absent: Wendy Whalen

Dena called the meeting to order at 6:09.

Members read the minutes of the April 8th meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes. Dena seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Members discussed the ATM Articles in Hilma's April 22 email attachment 'Latest Updates to Both ATM Warrant and to Article 3. '

Article 11, the Late Bus

Members wanted more information about the late bus mentioned in Article 11. How many Heath kids are served? Is the drop-off place appropriate?

Action Taken *Alice moved that the Finance Committee does not recommend Article 11. Dena seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3 ayes and 1 nay.*

Article 12, Town Coordinator Transition

Members noted an increase from \$15,000 to \$17,500 in the amount to raise and appropriate to establish a Town Coordinator Transition account during the 2026 Fiscal Year. The FinCom was unanimous in preferring \$15,000 to \$17,500.

Joining the Select Board Meeting

At 6:30 the FinCom joined the Select Board meeting in progress.

In answer to Dena's question as to why the amount in Article 13 for a new highway truck is \$125,000 instead of \$111,000, Robyn said that that Tyson has said that the most recent quote for the truck is \$125,000.

Robyn explained the arithmetic the Select Board used in settling on \$17,500 rather than \$15,000 for the Town Coordinator Transition account in Article 12. She said that if Article 12 does not pass, the Select Board can go back and choose a lower amount on the Town Meeting floor.

Action Taken *Dena moved that the Finance Committee recommends Article 12. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

The FinCom asked why on the Warrant a two-thirds vote is not indicated as needed to pass Article 14 which is to transfer \$8,000 from the IT Stabilization Account to an IT Equipment Upgrade account? Hilma explained that a two-thirds vote is no longer needed because of a change in the law.

Why do we have to vote on Article 17 which is about accepting Chapter 90 money? Hilma explained that Mass DOT requests this without an actual number for the amount of Chapter 90 money.

Why do we have to vote on Article 18? The Article authorizes the Town departments, boards, and committees to apply for state or federal grants without prior permission of the Select Board. Hilma said that voting on this Article has been a matter of tradition in Heath.

Why do we have to vote on Article 19? This Article is about transferring \$723.51 from the revolving fund for Animal Control Officer to the use of the Heath Free Public Library. The transfer is in the Town bylaws.

Town Generators

Robyn relayed Tim Lively's report on the Kinsley technician's report on the condition of the Sawyer Hall generator. The technician recommended the Town consider replacing that generator. There was a discussion of the conditions of the other generators in Heath. Robyn said that the Select Board will seek input from an electrician and will look into all options.

Alice moved that the FinCom meeting be adjourned at 8:15. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf