

Minutes of the Heath Finance Committee

February 25, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Jacobs Road Municipal Building

Present: Dena Briggs (Chair), Alice Wozniak and Wendy Whalen

Absent: Ned Wolf and Bob McGahan

Dena called the meeting to order at 5:52 pm.

Demand

Alice reported on she was unable to find any MA law regarding the town needing to vote on changing demand. We are dropping this inquiry.

MLB / MLP

Bailey Cole has still not returned Wendy's calls. We have the contract with Whip City Fiber from the town clerk's office. Wendy is reviewing the contract and finds much of the language problematic. This is going to take some time to work through, and we have other priorities prior to ATM, so this topic will be an ongoing discussion.

Stipends

We reviewed stipends and made a few changes to the recommendations sent by Dena.

Action Taken *Wendy moved that Dena's report with edits be approved. Alice seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Dena will submit the recommendation to the Select Board prior to the March 10 meeting to be discussed at that Select Board meeting.

Sawyer Hall pay phone

Bob's investigation found the town paid \$1188 for this pay phone in 2025 to support 18 calls. The cost to disconnect and remove this pay phone is \$150. We agree there is only one fiscally responsible action.

Action Taken *Alice moved to recommend the Select Board to remove the pay phone post haste. Wendy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Dena will send recommendation to the Select Board.

Late Bus

The more we dig, the less we find. There is no evidence that any Heath child used the late bus last year or that any child will use it this year. It is money spent to drive around an empty bus and pollute our air to no one person's known benefit.

Action Taken *Alice moved to recommend to the Select Board to remove Late Bus funding from the warrant and inform Rowe Heath is not funding it further. Wendy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Dena will send recommendation to the Select Board.

Free Cash

We discussed how the \$60K from the MLB was late in coming and drove up the tax rate. That money will now go to FY26 Free Cash, but we believe an equal sum should be directed toward the Broadband note. We also want to get ahead of how to allocate the \$249K in FY25 Free Cash. Alice will get us the balances in the Stabilization Fund accounts for our next meeting.

Action Taken *Alice moved to recommend to the Select Board to put an article in a Special Town Meeting to be held prior to the ATM for moving \$60,000 of FY25 free cash to pay down the Broadband note in FY26. Wendy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Dena will send the recommendation to the Select Board.

Wendy made a motion at 8:39 that the meeting be adjourned. Alice seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Briggs