

Minutes of the Heath Finance Committee
March 31, 2026, at 5:30 pm
Jacobs Road Municipal Building

Present: Dena Briggs (Chair), Alice Wozniak, Bob McGahan, Wendy Whalen, and Ned Wolf, joining the Select Board meeting in progress with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet, and Town Coordinator Mia Francesconi

Dena called the meeting to order at 5:48 pm.

The Finance Committee joined the Select Board Meeting in reviewing Article 3 line by line.

Legal Fees: Town Counsel says that it won't be until the middle of June that we know whether a property dispute goes to trial. There was a consensus to reduce the \$35K to \$30K.

Building Maintenance Coordinator's salary: The Select Board favors 32 hours plus COLA. They will revisit the job description next year.

Lawn Mowing Center and Cemeteries: The Select Board supports increasing this line to \$15K.

Maintenance of Town Buildings: The Select Board favors increasing these lines as follows:

Sawyer Hall	\$25K
Community Hall	\$16K
Jacobs Rd. Municipal Bldg.	\$83K
Town Garage	\$25K

Sawyer Hall rental monies will go into the general fund. The Town Coordinator will have the Sawyer Hall payphone removed immediately as requested by the FinCom. There is a heating problem on the second floor. There may have to be an STM to fund the solution.

80 Extra Hours for Police Department: Chief John McDonough has said that the 80 hours would be for patrolling by the 2 assistants. There would be 4 extra hours/week for 20 weeks, April – October. The Select Board supports 40 extra hours at the patrol officer rate.

Salt & Sand: The Select Board expressed concern that this account had to be overspent by \$47K. The Highway Department sometimes had to spread salt & sand 2 or 3 times a day

due to the frequency of small storms. The Select Board settled on an increase for FY27 to \$118K.

Stipends: The Select Board will take more time to consider stipends. There is reluctance to eliminate stipends because of how difficult it might be to find people to serve.

Next the two committees reviewed the March 26 draft of the ATM Warrant.

Paying Rowe for the Late Bus

Both committees are opposed to the article to pay Rowe \$7,106 for the late bus because we have no evidence of Heath children having used the bus regularly. This article will be removed from the Warrant.

Funding Upgraded Assessment Software

The FinCom supports amending the article so that the upgraded assessment software is funded by taking \$7,500 from the Assessors' Stabilization fund.

Transferring Funds from Free Cash to Stabilization

Both committees support amending the transfers as follows:

Transfer \$145,000 from Free Cash to

General Stabilization	\$55K
Audit Stabilization	\$10K
IT Stabilization	\$10K
Equipment/Vehicle Stabilization	\$70K

Action Taken *Alice moved that we recommend the above amendments for funding upgraded assessment software and for transferring from Free Cash to Stabilization as well as the other FY27 ATM Warrant Articles with the exception of Article 3. Dena seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

The Finance Committee supported the removal of the Special Projects line from Article 3.

Minutes of the March 26 Finance Committee meeting.

Wendy moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Dena seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 pm, vote on Article 3, review possible FinCom handout at ATM

Wendy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15. Alice seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Wolf