

FINCOM MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath

March 19, 2019

18:35: Meeting Called to Order

Members attending: Ned, Ken, Paul, Jan, and Kathy

Ned noted that the debt exclusion for broadband has to go on the May 10th Town election ballot. He is pretty sure that a Town wide simple majority vote for a debt exclusion for broadband on May 10th combined with a BOS approval and with the June of 2015 STM vote in favor of borrowing \$1.45 million would be enough to get Heath a debt exclusion for broadband.

The Accountant is requesting a 5% salary increase due to the additional work for broadband. Questions were asked as to what that work will be in each of the situations that Heath stays with WiredWest or leaves WiredWest for a separate arrangement with Westfield Gas and Electric.

Ned mentioned that the Accountant has requested that the audit stabilization fund be increased by \$2000. In the discussion of when the next audit is required Paul said that the Town may be required to have one soon for borrowing.

Ned said that the increases and decreases for Article III seem to be cancelling each other out although the BOS budget request still awaits the amount for Preschool which could be around \$15,000.

A question was asked about using free cash to pay off the landfill loan?

Ned estimated that the amount needed to pay off the landfill loan is \$23,000. The sum of the remaining loan payments that we covered last year with Free Cash is about \$50,000.

Kathy asked the question about what the FinCom's goal is when reviewing submitted budgets to make recommendations. More to follow on the answer.

At 19:10 the FinCom met with the Select board and the Highway Dept. supervisors to discuss the Highway Dept. budget. A question was asked if a truck and tractor for \$ 45,000 will be on the ATM Warrant.

Robyn said that by proposing that both a truck for \$130,000 and a tractor for \$45,000 be on the FY20 Warrant the Highway Dept. will learn what the BOS and FinCom are thinking. Should either or both pieces of equipment be on the FY20 Warrant?

The FinCom left the meeting with the BOS to return to the Assessors' Office to discuss the FY20 Budget.

Kathy mentioned that we need to be provided better maintenance records for the Highway equipment so we can have better knowledge when deciding to recommend purchasing new equipment as opposed to repairing owned equipment.

The question of OSHA was brought up - setting up a special line item for what to spend on OSHA, - separating it from HD heating and etc. Some members are not sure that money should be used until we have asked for guidance on what needs to take priority. The town's insurance company - rather than OSHA is the place to start. Have they been contacted?

Ned asked that members think about the Town Clerk's budget request and the Police Department's request which includes new IMC software for call dispatch incident tracking.

Meeting adjourned @ 21:18

Respectfully submitted,
Ken