

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
Finance Committee
May 30, 2019

Attending : Ned, Jan Alice, Kathy
Jean Gran, Gary Singley, Tom Carlson, Pam Porter

Meeting called to order 7:02

Review of minutes from Alice, changes made, and minutes approved.

Ned opened meeting up to **questions from guests**; concerns expressed about maintenance of other town buildings, and about the towns financial situation.

Response to **open meeting law complaint** discussed.

Ned reviewed complaint and steps that need to be taken.

Ned had talked to Attorney general's office where an aide suggested the email in question could be a violation of Open Meeting Law. Even if no one responds to an email, it is still considered deliberation.

Review of response to complaint. Few changes made, Jan made a motion to accept the amended response seconded by Kathy – Alice abstained from responding since she was not part of the fin com during the period in question. Approved by Jan, Ned, Kathy.

Preparing for meeting with BOS for monthly costs for school maintenance

Action Steps – Data for school maintenance and projecting costs in the coming years. Review of Spread sheet. Current spread sheet numbers do not include health insurance costs after May, 2018.

Ned noted that cost of Health insurance could be 43%, of \$12,650 (annual cost) which reflects the percentage of time at the school.

Questions discussed about Supplier, vs, deliverer of electricity.

Oil price may not be accurate due to changing costs and rates not locked in.

Discussion about leasing the old school building, which is difficult to determine since we do not know what type of lease. Until we know more specifically, it will be difficult to come up with a projection of cost.

Variable factors to consider, whether maintenance is included, cost of fuel with increase in building temp. , full or partial rental, inflation, change in costs.

Change in insurance: Many factors depend on the type of lease.

Additional building concerns; maintenance and repairs will be needed at some point, there needs to be an amount set aside that will cover repairs. There should be a contingency added to the spread-sheet to cover this while we still have funds coming from Mohawk. Also questions about how you can make projections of costs without inspections of various systems.

Costs of mothballing the building have not yet been determined.

Written opinion on Legal opinion on **authority to lease**. Mark Reich had cited a Ma General Law: Ch 40 Sect. 3, which indicates that the selectboard does have the authority to lease the school building, however questions were raised about the effect of the vote that was taken at town meeting. The town meeting vote is noted to be very confusing if this is the case, and it was suggested that we get the opinion in writing.

Salt Shed: Ned notes that there have been recurring statements for the last 10 years that the building needs to be replaced. Questions were raised about the cost of replacement – that is unknown at this time.

Mention of **3 transfers**, 2 were approved at the last meeting,

The third, was approved at an earlier date by the BOS. for approval of legal fees. Ned looked into this and Kara said that the amount in legal fees is low, partially because of zoning by laws by Jim Hawkins, and current bill for legal fees for town meeting and questions related to the old school building.

Alice made a motion to Transfer \$800. from BOS operating expense and \$1,700. from Community Hall maintenance to the legal expense line. Seconded by Jan, unanimously approved. We may need additional funds at another time since individuals were contacting town council separately with repetitive questions.

Next meeting June 4th, BOS meets at 6, with 6:10-6:30– public comment time, meeting with fin com scheduled at 7 with BOS. Fin Com will meet at 6.

Ned would like a final review of the numbers. Meet 6:30-7:00 to review final numbers. Questions about roof - Titan Roofing will give an estimate next week.

Motion made to adjourn by Alice

Seconded by: Jan

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Inman