

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 1, 2013**

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Senior Center with Mr. Smith and Mr. Chabot also present.

Finance Committee members Eric Hevy, Sheila Orsi, and Chet Lubelczyk were present, but not in session since there was no quorum.

Mrs. Walter opened the meeting and explained that she did not have copies of the FY14 Capital Improvement Planning report and the budget calendar, but she will send them along via e-mail tomorrow.

Mrs. Walter noted that the goal this evening is to determine which of the requested articles will be placed on the final town meeting warrant by the Board of Selectmen. There is not a lot of discretionary money, so priorities will have to be weighed very carefully. In addition, she noted that perhaps the Town should consider a capital debt exclusion in May for requests like the police and fire vehicles.

The group reviewed a draft warrant for the November 1st Special Town Meeting that included all 16 articles requested by town departments. (Attachment #1) Mr. Smith stated that he would like to see the article requesting the use of Free Cash to replace funds from the Group Insurance Account be placed first on the warrant. Mr. Hevy stated that with the current deficit of \$247,226.00 and Free Cash certified at \$255,023.00 there is not a lot of extra money. Mr. Lubelczyk stated that we need to pay our bills first, the Free Cash should be put on the deficit. It was agreed to use Free Cash to fund the entire deficit.

A request from the Board of Health for \$95.00 for a prior year bill was discussed, and it was agreed that this amount should come from the Board of Health's current year budget.

Three requests for new vehicles and another for the repair of an existing vehicle were taken off the warrant due to a lack of funds. Again, the Selectmen stated that perhaps we will be able to do something in the spring to fund these vehicles. If the Police Department and Fire Department received new SUVs the current Fire Department SUV could be passed down to Emergency Management.

There was general agreement that the Fire Department request for new turnout gear should be funded, as it is a public safety issue. The yearly payment of \$8,750.00 can be taken from the department's \$10,000.00 annual equipment line item, but the \$4,855.00 down payment will need to come from the Town.

At 8:00 PM Debbie Maggio of the Finance Committee joined the meeting. Mr. Hevy called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order since they now had a quorum.

Requests for extra hours for the Highway Clerk and a raise for part-time plow operators were removed from the warrant because these decisions are under the purview of the Board of Selectmen, and the funds can probably be taken from the Snow and Ice Account. Mr. Lubelczyk suggested that the Town look into hiring contractors who use their own vehicles to plow snow instead of the current arrangement of hiring drivers who use the Town's trucks to plow.

A request for an additional payment of up to \$1,000.00 per year to any treasurer or collector who becomes certified by the state was also placed on the warrant.

In the end it was agreed to place nine articles on the warrant, and to take approximately \$7,305.00 of Free Cash to fund those articles, in addition to the \$247,226.00 already to be taken from Free Cash for the Group Insurance Account.

Mr. Hevy asked for a vote of the Finance Committee to recommend these nine articles as discussed to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Lubelczyk so moved, and Mrs. Maggio seconded. So voted.

It was agreed that the Selectmen and Finance Committee would meet again on November 1st at 6:30 PM immediately preceding the Special Town Meeting. Leslie will post this meeting.

Mrs. Orsi moved, and Mr. Lubelczyk seconded, a motion that the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned. So voted.

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Chabot seconded, a motion that the Board of Selectmen adjourn at 9:00 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant