

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of Friday, November 4, 2016
North Brookfield Elementary School @ 6:30 p.m.

Present: Debby Maggio, Sheila Orsi, Rob Miner, Chet Lubelczyk, Pete Dupell
Absent: Bob Locatelli
Guests: Mary Walter, Eric Hevy, Dale Kiley

The Meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Sheila Orsi. Sheila chaired the Meeting.

1. The Board of Selectmen met with us to discuss the articles on the warrant for tonight's Town Meeting. The Finance Committee discussed our concerns about giving 5% raises and paying for them with Free Cash monies instead of building raises into the budget process. Fixed operating costs are never to be funded with Free Cash monies as those monies aren't guaranteed each year. The Board of Selectmen said they are supporting 5% raises for non-union town employees as they haven't received raises in five years. Sheila Orsi provided documentation that these employees have received two raises during that time period, for a total of 8%. We suggested that the town move to a merit based raise system rather than continuing to give across the board raises and build raises into the 2018 budget process. Pete Dupell suggested we meet halfway and support 2.5% raises. Debby Maggio said she was opposed to giving any raises paid for with Free Cash as it is never a fiscally sound decision, regardless of the percentage. FinComm decided to not recommend passage of the raise articles as a committee.
2. We recessed our meeting at 7:01 pm for the Town Meeting to commence.
3. Meeting reconvened at 8:29 pm
4. Debby Maggio announced this would be her last meeting as a member of the FinComm. For personal reasons she no longer has the time to dedicate to the position.
5. FinComm members feel we need to meet with the BOS at our next meeting. There is frustration over the quality and the quantity of information we are receiving (or not receiving) from the BOS and whether or not it would make sense to dissolve the FinComm. Sheila will be sending an email out to the BOS to invite them to our next meeting.
6. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the North Brookfield Police Department Community Room. Debby moved that we adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. and Chet seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Maggio

11-16-2016
in attendance
approved
Chet, Rob,
Pete
Bob abstained.