

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, February 9, 2016
North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium @ 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chet Lubelczyk, , Debby Maggio, Sheila Orsi, Pete Dupell, Bob Locatelli

Absent: Rob Miner

Guest: Dr. Marilyn Tencza, Mike Kiszka, Shiela LeBlanc, Eric Hevy

The Meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Sheila Orsi. Sheila chaired the Meeting.

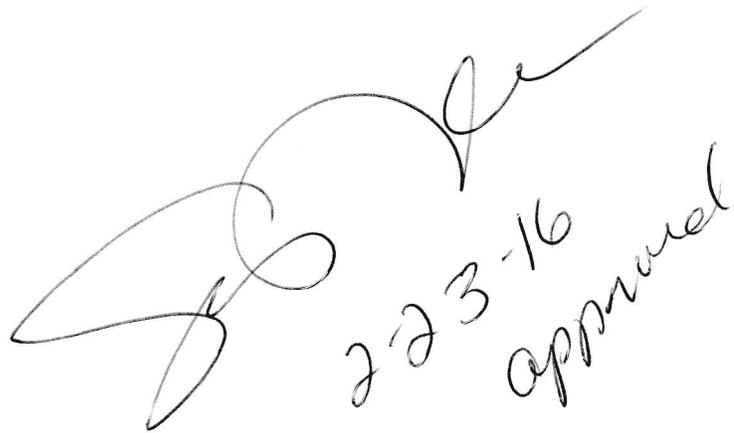
1. We reviewed the minutes from December 8, 2015. Chet moved that we approve the minutes as submitted. Sheila seconded. Unanimous to approve. Debby abstained as she didn't attend that meeting. Debby will send out minutes from October and November meetings for discussion next meeting.
2. Sheila mentioned the meeting schedule she emailed out which has us meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. She can't attend the March 8th meeting. Veterans Agent is going to come in on March 22nd (only addition to the schedule).
3. School representatives were here to discuss their FY16 budget and challenges. Dr. Tencza discussed how many employees had been laid off and what accounts were depleted in order this year to accommodate the town's budget cuts and level funded demands. She discussed that some reallocation of duties can be made but they cannot cut any more positions or budgets and meet the criteria that is required by the state. They need to add three positions next year. There are 10 years left to pay on the high school building. Quaboag has approached us to discuss regionalization. The BOS is discussing their thoughts on the idea and then deciding if a committee should be formed to consider this idea with facts before us before bringing it to the town. It would ultimately be a town decision. Dr. Tencza is discussing any districtwide roles that can be shared with another district as well. The BOS has to let them know their budget intention by June 1st as any layoffs must be announced by then contractually. They are asking for a 9% increase for this year's budget. Dr. Tencza is planning on putting together a budget presentation for the townspeople to explain the reasoning behind the requested increase.
4. Transfer request from the FinComm Emergency Reserve Fund for \$2980 to Equipment Line to replace 20 hoses. We are passing it to the BOS to discuss.
5. We discussed the departmental budget requests that have been submitted to date.
6. Eric spoke about The Friends of the Town House. They hope to raise enough capital to have enough to finish the project in the next 2-3 years, but it may require the town to vote to turn the management of the building over to the Friends in order to apply for non-profit tax credits. They are hoping to turn the lower level into rentable space and have a theater / music arena on the second floor.
7. Eric said that we've sent out an RFP for solar bids. Plan is to put solar on the police station, in the school parking lot, behind the baseball field and up by the water department. We cannot put them down by the

transfer station until we meet certain DEP requirements. The town would collect money from leasing the land to the solar companies and a kickback on the energy credits.

8. Our next meeting will be February 23, 2016 at 8:45 p.m. at the Police Station. Sheila moved that we adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. and Bob Locatelli seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Maggio



Handwritten signature and date: 2/23/16 approved