

North Brookfield Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023
North Brookfield Senior Center

Present: Mike Zalansky; Chet Lubelczyk; Bob Locatelli; Kathy Crevier;
Absent: Joe Trentacosta; Karen Hubacz, Alternate

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:29

Minutes of March 2nd meeting not discussed

HIGHWAY DEPT:

Jason Benoit, Highway Superintendent, present to discuss monies due an employee who unexpectedly terminated his employment.

Sick Time: Has accumulated 50+ sick days. Town must pay 15 days

Vacation Time: Has accumulated 24 vacation days.

Voted to transfer \$2,894.00 from Reserve Account to cover 15 sick time days

Voted to transfer \$4,631.04 from Reserve Account to cover 24 vacation days

Mike Zalansky abstained from voting

Jason stated that he is short \$ 6,082.00 in his Salary Account, and was requesting funds from FinCom Reserve Account. Stated that he does have another option

Charge labor into the Chapter 90 Project.....or....go elsewhere.

Will delay any action at this time

Jason plans on increasing Clerk Salary to \$18.00/hr.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Joe Holway, Fire Chief, present to discuss Fire Department budget

Plans to increase the rate of pay for six firefighters to minimum wage

Some are leaving because wages not comparable to surrounding towns.

Will then need to increase pay of Lieutenants by \$1.00/hr.

Lengthy discussion on leases

WATER DEPARTMENT:

Mike met with Jamie Flammand, Water Superintendent

Issues at Gate House. Will have Herrick Welding do work

Water Tank needs to be painted, at a cost of \$100,000. Will ARPA funds cover this?

Project for meters almost completed

Lengthy discussion on the March 10th Town Meeting, and the inability to answer some of the questions raised by Voters regarding the proposed Fire/Highway Renovation Project. In order for FinCom to be properly prepared, we must be able to review Motions in a more timely manner. Kathy suggested that prior to the Annual Town Meeting

A meeting be held with the Moderator, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee (and others) in order to review and discuss all Articles on the Town Warrant, and anticipated Motions. This meeting should be held no later than one week prior to Town Meeting.

Mike reported that he received an email from a surrounding town (either East Brookfield or Brookfield) regarding their salary increase. Last year the rate was 6.3%, and this year it is 8.7%

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.