

North Brookfield Finance Committee

Minutes of Meeting

September 21, 2023

North Brookfield Senior Center

Present : Joe Trentacosta, Chair; Chet Lubelczyk; Bob Locatelli; Kathy Crevier; Vaughn Schlegel ; Mike Zalansky, Alternate.

Also Present: Shiela LeBlanc, Town Accountant; Tara Hayes, Town Clerk

Minutes of September 14th accepted as corrected:

Misspelling of Vaughn's last name. Should be SchIEgel

Missed the word "town" when discussing Mike's resigning as Chair of FinCom and leaving North Brookfield

Discussion on 2025 budget and a proposed Override.

How do we prepare?

Is this a general override?

How, when?

Leicester's override was primarily for school

Discussed Fire/Highway Project

FinCom feels that this project be cut back, and for now concentrate on work which would be classified as essential. Huck's Building to Highway Dept. and Highway Dept.. building to Fire Dept.

Not do anything with current Fire Station

Informed that Jason Benoit, Highway Superintendent, is meeting tomorrow, September 25th, with People from Baypath School to discuss their involvement with work to be done at Donovan Rd. (Huck's)

Who is overseeing this project.

Jason Benoit, Highway Super and John Tripp, Selectman

Collier is Clerk of the Works

What is needed to make it functional and safe?

Are Selectmen on board with this?

Voted to meet with BOS to discuss Fire/Highway Project and the potential for an Override.

Would need a Town Meeting to rescind the \$6million Fire Renovation and change it to \$1.5million for Huck's

Questioned asked "what if a vote for Override does not pass"?

Cut Library and Senior Center

Cut Police and Highway in half

Cut School

Suggestion was made by Chet that we Choice Out all students

Informed by Shiela that we cannot School Choice Out all students. There is a lot involved

What is happening with request for a meeting with FinCom, BOS, and Regionalization Committee?

Joe to follow up with Ashley, Admin. Asst.

Discussion on benefits for Police Dept. new hire. Tara Hayes, Town Clerk was proposing an article be put on the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting requesting that we move the \$38,000 from the Police Overtime Account to Treasurer's Benefits. As a result of this conversation it was voted that FinCom

reconsider action taken on last meeting's vote by FinCom that " based on Chief Smith's statement that he had the money to cover the benefits, we move the \$38,000 from Overtime Account to Treasurer's Benefits" . This motion was made by Bob Locatelli, and seconded by Vaughn Schlegel. The vote was 2 in favor, 2 oppose, 1 abstain. It did not pass. The current motion to reconsider this vote was made by Kathy Crevier and seconded by Vaughn Schlegel. Vote taken - 4 in favor, 1 oppose. A new motion was made by Vaughn Schlegel and seconded by Bob Locatelli that "based on Chief Smith's statement that he had the money to cover the benefits, we move the \$38,000 from the Police Department Overtime Account to Treasurer's Benefits". Vote - 4 in favor, 1 oppose.

Discussed the \$122,000 we need to close out the year. Shiela informed us that \$70,000 will come from the school and we will find the remaining \$50,000.

Next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on October 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Kathleen E. Crevier, Secretary