

**Board Members Present:** Lois Stearns, Daniel Campbell, Chad Glover, Bernhard Porada, Bonnie L'Etoile and Tony Matteo

**Also Present:** Brian Noble, Town Administrator; Deb Mero, Town Accountant; and Bethany Walker, FINCOM Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Stearns. This meeting was video recorded and streamed live.

- **Minutes**

- The minutes from the March 7, 2016 meeting were reviewed.
  - A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Glover and **VOTED** unanimously to accept the March 7, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.

- **Communications**

- Notification/invite from Stan Rosenberg for annual municipal conference for Franklin and Hampshire regional COG to be held at GCC on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

- **Meetings Attended as Representatives of the FINCOM**

- Stearns attended the Selectboard meeting held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Noble had presented the budget at this meeting.

- **Budget Drafts from Town Administrator**

- Omnibus Draft
  - Noble advised no changes from last week were put in omnibus
  - Not ready to be voted on per Noble; figures still pending (i.e. insurance)
  - Mero looking into the School Resource Officer position and how to charge the account
  - L'Etoile inquired about the EMD treatment; Noble stated funding is still from Vermont Yankee
  - Glover asked about the School Resource Officer position and whether it was mandated or not; Noble advised it is an unfunded mandated position. Short discussion on how this position works with the district
  - L'Etoile brought up a discussion on the COLA and longevity; Noble to look into longevity with/without the COLA.

- **Special Articles**

- FINCOM was asked by Noble previously to independently prioritize each article. Noble would then compute an overall the list for the FINCOM and Selectboard.
- Noble discussed the possibility of using FY16 funds for some requested articles: NES basketball court, the fire escape at NES and creating a budget for the Community Park Committee in the amount of \$450 (not the \$800 requested as the Selectboard felt that figure was too high)
  - A motion was made by Porada, seconded by Campbell and **VOTED** to set in place a policy if a new committee requests a budget of \$500 or less then to have it automatically go on omnibus and not create a special article. In Favor Votes: Campbell, Porada and Glover. Opposed Votes: Stearns, Matteo and L'Etoile. **MOTION DEFEATED DUE TO A TIE VOTE.**
  - A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by L'Etoile and **VOTED** unanimously to have the creating of the Community Park budget to continue as a Special Article
  - FINCOM discussed the importance for new budgets to go before the Townspeople and also the ones requesting the new budget should be the ones to read the motion at town meeting.
- Discussion on Articles
  - Noble advised that the article for the Boy Scout House is to be postponed.

- Noble and Barb Brassor (Treasurer) are working on Bond scenarios for the town; how much and for how long. Noble gave suggestion as to what town could use funds from bonding for. Stearns recommended only having (1) item bonded at a time.
- A motion was made by Glover, seconded by Matteo and VOTED unanimously to recommend to the Selectboard to take to town meeting an article to authorize to borrow up to \$250,000 for an ambulance for the Town of Northfield.
- Noble read his personal list of prioritized articles. Noble gathered all FINCOM members prioritized list for next meeting.
- L'Etoile brought up discussion on the repayment of the Stabilization fund and where it should be on the list of priorities.

- Next Meeting
  - 3/21/2016 at 7pm

A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Glover and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the FINCOM Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Submitted by:  
Bethany Walker  
FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 3-28-16

Approved By: Loren M. Stearns