

Board Members Present: Lois Stearns, Dan Campbell, Tony Matteo, Bonnie L'Etoile and Bernhard Porada

Also Present: Deb Mero, Town Accountant; Richard Martin, Franklin County Technical School Superintendent; Russ Kaubris, FCTS Business Manager; Jack Spanbauer, Selectboard Chair; Tracy Rogers, Selectboard Member; Sandra Wood, Town Secretary; and Bethany Walker, FINCOM Secretary

Board Members Absent: Chad Glover

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Stearns. This meeting was video recorded.

- **Budget Presentation by FCTS Superintendent & Business Manager**

- Martin and Kaubris presented a slide show providing a synopsis on the status of the budget process, how it affects Northfield, the enrollment (Northfield) and community impact.
 - Martin explained some changes to staffing structure in a few departments
 - Student enrollment down
 - Wednesday March 8th, the FCTS school committee will vote on the assessment, Martin stated that Northfield's proposed assessment is 569,124. That is about \$16,261 per pupil. Assessment is actually a decrease by 6.38%.
 - Martin stated that as of now, only 3 new students have enrolled for the next school year-from Northfield
 - Kaubris advised FINCOM that the bonding projects/payback would start in FY19 budget

6:56 Kaubris and Martin leave FINCOM meeting

7:00 the FINCOM starts a joint meeting with the Selectboard

- **DISCUSSION ON SPENDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TOWN MEETING**

- Spanbauer said there were no changes to the prioritized list from last week's FINCOM meeting
- PVRs Assessment is pending and unknown at this time (School Committee next meeting is 3/7/17)
 - Stearns had attended the public hearing with the PVRs school committee last Thursday March 2. Towns were vocal in opposing the amount of the suggested increase.
 - Spanbauer had presented a budget review and opened up a discussion on Northfield's assessments over the last several years. Spanbauer had received (2) assessments, the first showed the assessment had decreased and then the second version showed a 9% increase.
 - FINCOM and Selectboard concerned with the School committee providing no documents or back up explanation to the increase to the assessment. Concern about the decline in student enrollment and higher assessment.
 - Discussion on having the school budget separate from the omnibus.
 - Discussion on where the PVRs capital items fall on the priority list.
 - *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Campbell and **VOTED** to recommend to the Selectboard to pull out of the omnibus the PVRs budget and have it in a separate Article at the end of the warrant.* In-Favor Votes: Stearns, Campbell, L'Etoile, Porada.
Opposed Votes: Matteo.
- The model that Mero had generated dated 3/1/17 did include the capital items
- FINCOM and Selectboard agreed to meet again jointly on 3/13/17 at 6:30; hopefully have a figure. *A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by L'Etoile and **VOTED** unanimously to meet have a joint meeting between the Selectboard and the FINCOM on Monday, March 13th, 2017 at 6:30 pm.*
- Spanbauer stated that Pat Shearer (PVRs school committee) will be attending the Selectboard meeting at 5 pm on 3/7/2017.

7:48 Spanbauer, Rogers and Wood leave meeting, adjourning the joint meeting

- **MINUTES**

- Minutes from the February 27, 2017 meeting were reviewed. *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Matteo and VOTED unanimously to accept the February 27, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.*

- **MAIL**

- The Northfield Elementary PTO is sponsoring an All About Town Spaghetti Dinner on April 8th to all residents to learn about Town Government. Members of departments/committees are encouraged to present a 2-3 minute presentation to talk about their specific roles. Stearns advised she would speak on behalf of the FINCOM and Campbell said he will be attending as Town Clerk. Matteo stated he would be presenting on behalf of the CPC.
- February Balance Sheets

- **MEETINGS ATTENDED AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FINCOM**

- Porada stated that the next Emergency Services Facility meeting will be 3/20/17 at 4pm
- No word on a meeting for the Town Governance committee
- Matteo advised that the CPC met on 2/28/2017. They do now have a member from the CONSCOM; however, name is not released at this time. Matteo is happy to announce that the CPC has Lara Dubin taking on the responsibility for the group's webpage on the Northfield Town site. The CPC had a discussion on raising the percentage from ½% to 3%; not looking to do it for FY18, but keeping it thought for upcoming years. CPC will have (2) articles for CPA funds; library \$850 and NES \$75,000. A third article is for allocating the money according to the CPA.

- **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- L'Etoile inquired about the money from the electrical work done in phase 1 being under budget; could money then be used towards phase two. Mero stated that article was written to cover all phases/the project as a whole and yes, any left over money would stay within that article.

- **NEXT MEETING (S)**

- FINCOM Meeting 3/13/2017 at 6:30pm

A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by L'Etoile and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the FINCOM Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

Submitted by:

Bethany Walker

FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 3-13-17

Approved By: Lois M. Stearns