

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lois Stearns, Dan Campbell, Bernhard Porada, Tony Matteo, Sue Kaczinski and Bonnie L'Etoile

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deb Mero, Town Accountant; Willie Morales, Town Administrator; Jack Spanbauer, Selectboard Member; Julia Blyth, Selectboard Member; Sandra Wood, Town Secretary; Bethany Walker, FINCOM secretary; Tom Walker, Highway Superintendent; Bob MacEwen, Board of Health Chair & Board of Assessors Co-Chair, Sam Stevens, Town Maintenance, Artie Highway Employee, Rick Highway Employee, Lisa Walker and Emily Walker

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Stearns.  
This meeting was video recorded.

• **REVIEW & COORDINATE BUDGET & CAPITAL REQUESTS FOR FY19**

- Stearns advised the Selectboard of a few items
  - FINCOM recommended all budgets with the exception of the Selectboard, Highway and schools.
  - The Alexander Hall account was dropped since no activity since 2013
  - The Maintenance position was left as a separate line item.
  - There will be (1) student going to Smith Vocational School which will cost approximately \$40,000(tuition and transportation)
  - The Financial Assistant position increase by \$7000 plus COLA
- *A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Campbell and **VOTED** unanimously to support the Selectboard budget.*
- Discussion on the highway budget. Tom Walker answered questions regarding the increase of funds for the bridges and rails account.
- *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Campbell, and **VOTED** unanimously to support the Highway budget.*
- Discussion on school budget
  - Lunch program looking to have a 3 year payoff, approximately \$90,000 each year, with Northfields portion being about 50% (about \$45,000)
  - PVRs seeks a 5.39% increase for Northfield.
  - Tech school as presented at their budget presentation Northfield would have a decrease of about \$67,000. No capital items were presented at that time. Northfield has not heard any more information about the assessment since their budget presentation.
  - *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Matteo, and **VOTED** unanimously to support both schools (PVRs and FCTS) operating and capital expenses with the understanding that the real figure could change.*
- Discussion on COLA. The FINCOM voted to recommend a 2.75% COLA.
  - *A motion was made by Spanbauer, seconded by Blyth and **VOTED** unanimously to support a 2.75% COLA*
- Discussion on Money Articles. Mero explained that everything on the 2018 Capital Items Prioritization and Omnibus List can be funded and still be below the levy limit.
- Discussion on the amount to go to stabilization.
  - *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Porada and **VOTED** to put \$300,000 into Stabilization. In Favor Votes: L'Etoile, Porada and Kaczinski. Opposed Votes: Stearns, Campbell and Matteo. **DEFEATED***
  - *A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Matteo and **VOTED** to put \$200,000 into Stabilization. In Favor Votes: Stearns, Matteo, Kaczinski and Campbell. Opposed Votes: L'Etoile and Porada. Motion passed.*
  - *A motion was made by Spanbauer, seconded by Blyth and **VOTED** unanimously to support \$200,000 going into Stabilization.*



- Discussion on money left over from compactor for Board of Health
  - *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Campbell and VOTED to support Board of Health capital item to transfer and repurpose original article.*
- Stearns updated group that the request for a "new" ladder fire truck is actually for the purchase of a used ladder truck; the word "new" is to be removed.
- Discussion on OPEB
- Matteo brought up concerns about the CPA list. Morales advised that the items will be combined into (1) article as Matteo had originally requested. Also concerned about a missing article to change CPA from ½ % to 1 %
- Discussion on COA revolving fund. Morales created an article. Not pre-funded.
  - *A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Porada and VOTED unanimously to support this article.*
  - Morales to create a "policy article" for revolving funds.
- Discussion on the Parks Committee wanting a stabilization account/gift fund. Mero advised wouldn't need town meeting vote; the Selectboard could make that a gift fund.
- Brief discussion on remaining "policy articles."
- Stearns advised Morales that school articles should be after Omnibus so Supt would be there to explain their articles.

6:58 Selectboard end their portion of the joint meeting. Spanbauer, Blyth, Wood, T. Walker, L. Walker, E. Walker, Stevens, Artie, Rick and MacEwen leave meeting

• **MINUTES**

- Minutes from the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were reviewed. *A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by L'Etoile and VOTED unanimously to accept the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes as presented.*

• **MAIL**

- No Mail

• **MEETINGS ATTENDED AS MEMBERS OF THE FINCOM**

- Porada: no meetings attended
- Matteo: Attended meeting at GCC. Representative Marks and Roseburg were in attendance. Meeting discussed multiple towns facing the cost of quality education and transportation needs. Approximately 47 people attended.

• **DISCUSSION**

- L'Etoile inquired of Morales about the town cell phones. Town currently paying approximately \$9500 a year. Morales to look into a contract for all phones (currently several different contracts)

• **NEXT MEETING**

- 4/23/2018 6pm with the Selectboard

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm

Submitted by:  
Bethany Walker  
FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 4-23-18

Approved By: Luis H. Stearns  
Chair