NORTHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MARCH 11, 2020 6:00 PM TOWN HALL 69 MAIN ST. NORTHFIELD, MA 01360

FINCOM MEMBERS PRESENT: Lois Stearns, Sue Kaczenski, Bernhard Porada and

Tony Matteo (6:15-7pm)

FINCOM MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniel Campbell and Jack Spanbauer

ALSO PRESENT: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator (6:10)

The FINCOM meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Stearns; however there was not a quorum at the time the meeting was actually called to order. Additional FINCOM members joined in at a later time; see above as to when they join in.

This meeting was voice recorded only

DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

- O Discussion on the Well Article (currently article 15) for the Transfer station.
 - Wording of the article and the wording in the reasoning behind the article states for employee use; however BOH Chair Robert MacEwen at the FINCOM meeting 3/10/2020 stated it would not be for personal use, only for fire suppression, eye wash station and/or decontamination washing. FINCOM would like this clarified.
 - Porada would like to know the cost difference between digging a new well and running via a pump from the transfer station existing well.
 - Kaczenski concerned about water testing and water contaminates. If it fails water test, it will
 not be suitable for eye wash station. Cost to test water several times a year.
 - Llamas to ask for alternative to the well request (possibly use highway dept. well)
- O Brief discussion on the unpaid bills from FY19 article; Llamas stated that for the most part, there was in fact money to cover these, they just didn't get processed.
- Radio system for the Police Article (currently article 17), clarification on what are actually needed vs what is provided by state? Llamas to look into
- o Fuel Oil Tank (currently article 22) Llamas to clarify if it's oil (heating) or diesel fuel tank.
- o Revolving funds (currently article 24) these are for existing revolving accounts, nothing new
- o Articles 27, 28 and 29 are placeholders
- ADA Evaluation (currently article 31) Stearns questioned \$10,000 requested amount. Llamas stated
 it would actually be a cost closer to \$50,000, this is just to start saving for it. Porada would like
 more information in the explanation for the article so the townspeople fully see the benefit of this
 article.
- O The Preston Memorial article (\$7,000), are there alternatives to this gentleman's honor. 2018 anticipated cost was \$6,400. FINCOM concerned that this is just a temporary fix; is there a reasonable alternative that could replace this at lesser of a cost.
- o Not an Article, but follow up on a department budget presentation question with Llamas:
 - FINCOM wanted to know the legality of the plan the Sewer Commissioners have to set aside money from the user's payments to subsidize other users who cannot pay the bill. Llamas will follow up with the Sewer Commissioners to see if this is still something they are looking into, if it is, there is a lengthy process to do something like this.
- Tom Walker, Highway Superintendent, had on the capital plan a loader for FY21, but there was
 discussion as to whether or not he still wanted this, or put off, so the oil/fuel tank could take priority.
- Discussion on a possible request from Highway for road surveys.

DISCUSSION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR FY21

Stearns wants to wait until there is a better idea of available funds before making recommendations.

POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR 3/23/20 FOUR TOWN MEETING

 Stearns would like clarification of assessment before this meeting; hopeful to have response from PVRSD Financial Director by then.

PVRS BUDGET AND/OR ASSESSMENT

- Brief discussion on the latest assessment letter (read at 3/10/2020 meeting). Discussion on different versions of letter and totals between what FINCOM has and what Llamas has. Llamas emailed PVRSD financial director, Tawnya Gaylord. Llamas will forward her answer.
- Where is the savings from the closure of Leyden Elementary? What if Warwick closes? FINCOM uncertain about these issues.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

o Review at next meeting

MEETINGS ATTENDED REPRESENTING THE FINCOM

- Stearns asked Llamas on update regarding the Public Safety Building; there was concern that there was a meeting without all board members present.
 - Llamas stated that there was a small meeting with the Project manager looking for clarification on a plan that was submitted by the Fire Department, therefore the Project manager requested just a few people meet so that he could get his questions answered to be able to continue to draft up a plan. Llamas stated that she herself along with Skip Dunnell and one other member of the Fire Department met with the Project Manager and answered questions only about the Fire Department plans. These plans were not approved plans by the Committee, it was just a plan the Fire Department wanted to get cost estimates on.
 - Kaczenski asked about the funds that the article on last year's warrant generated for "repairs to current facility". Llamas stated that no repairs have been done/none of these funds have been used to fix anything at current fire station.
 - Llamas wants group to meet again before Annual Town Meeting

NEXT MEETING

o 3/24/2020 or 3/25/2020 Stearns to confirm with members not present.

Meeting closed at 8:01 pm

Submitted by: Bethany Walker FINCOM Secretary

Approved 1