

**PARTICIPATING FINCOM MEMBERS:** Lois Stearns, Jack Spanbauer, Bernhard Porada and Sue Kaczinski  
**FINCOM MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dan Campbell and Tony Matteo

**ALSO PARTICIPATING IN VIDEO CONFERENCE:** Barbara "Bee" Jacque, Selectboard Member & Chair of the Historical Commission; Skip Dunnell, Fire Chief; Mark Fortier, EMS; Cameron Kennedy, EMS; Beth Walker, FINCOM Secretary, and Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV

*The FINCOM meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Stearns  
This meeting was broadcast live via Facebook and recorded for later viewing on BNCTV*

*Stearns read the following statement as per the agenda:*

*"Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL, C30A. s20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Northfield Finance Committee will be conducted via remote participation. These minutes will be posted on the Town of Northfield Website as soon as possible after the meeting"*

- **REVIEW FY22 BUDGET/CAPITAL REQUEST WITH EMS**

- Fortier and Kennedy present budget
  - Mission Statement was submitted along with budget
  - Discussion on positions, hours worked and other breakdown of the Wages and Salaries line item
  - \$39,018.73 is the amount being requested to be raised by taxation
  - Discussion on whether or not the EMS Enterprise is self-sufficient; lead into discussion on adding additional towns to service
  - The Town of Bernardston giving Northfield \$10,000 (Fortier noted that approximately \$100,000 is received in revenue from those Bernardston Calls)
  - The Town of Erving (portion of Town closest to Northfield/ Millers Falls area) will be paying the Town of Northfield \$15,000 to have our EMS service.
  - Fortier explained the need for the Radios, a cost of about \$9,000. Llamas will work with Fortier to get a 10 year plan for equipment.
  - 2027 will be the year to replace the 2007 Ambulance; Llamas and Fortier to work together on this as well. FINCOM would like to have a complete list of all capital projects to have a visual timeline of what will be needed and how funds will be made to pay for such requests.

- **REVIEW FY22 BUDGET/CAPITAL REQUEST WITH FIRE DEPT.**

- Chief Dunnell discussed the budget and highlighted the increased line items
  - Water rates are increasing , therefore the line items affected by the increase are going up \$1,340
  - Wages/Salary increase due to COLA's
- Emergency Management Level Fund
  - The stipends are still covered by funds in the VT Yankee Gift Fund account. Skip projects this account to fund the stipends for a few more years
- Discussion on Capital Items
  - Replace the chassis on the rescue truck or purchase used rescue truck to replace 1986 rescue vehicle.
  - Replace the engine/pumper truck in 2028
  - Dunnell discussed what is needed for radios for the Fire Department. For FY22 the Fire Dept. will be seeking about \$32,000 for the radio system. The state is providing \$73,000 worth of radio equipment; however, there are upgrades and additional pieces that the Fire Department needs.

7:50 pm Dunnell leaves FINCOM MEETING



- **REVIEW FY22 BUDGET WITH HISTORICAL COMM.**

- Jacques, as Chair of the Historical Commission, reviewed the breakdown of how money is used within their budget and also reasons for the increase
  - Typically about \$500 is used for historical and/or cultural speakers (\$500 is stipend paid for said individual)
  - Funds also typically used for maintenance of Historical Markers. Discussion on the upkeep of these markers and also discussion on cemeteries and headstones that are failing. Possibly seek funds from CPA.
  - Seeking an increase to Purchases line item in the amount of \$300 for reproduction of Northfield History books for the members of the commission. Discussion on ownership of these reproduction books and concerns about them not getting back to the commission once a member left.

- **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting were reviewed
  - *A motion was made by Porada, seconded by Spanbauer and VOTED unanimously to accept the January 25, 2021 minutes as written.*

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Governor prepared his budget
- Invitation from Open Space Plan
- Llamas advised group that she met with Isaac from the Sewer Department; no dramatic changes to budget. He will be bringing it to the Sewer Commissioners to review and approve and then give final request to Llamas

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

- Stearns: via zoom the PVRs budget subcommittee had a meeting; they are meeting again this week. Stearns also reported that she had emailed the chair of the school committee about the Regional Agreement and the status of it; no response from the SC Chair.

- **NEXT MEETING**

- 2/8/2021

*A motion was made by Spanbauer, seconded by Kaczinski and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the FINCOM meeting*

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

Submitted by:  
Bethany Walker  
FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 2/8/2021

Approved By: Lisa M. Stearns