

NORTHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 22, 2021 6:00 PM

VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

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

ABSENT FINCOM MEMBERS: Jack Spanbauer

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN VIDEO CONFERENCE: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Nathan L'Etoile, Town Moderator; Beth Walker, FINCOM Secretary; Sandra Wood, Town Secretary (6:57-8:52); Barbara "Bee" Jacque, Selectboard Member (6:59-8:52); Alexander Meisner, Selectboard Chair (7:00-8:52); Heath Cummings, Selectboard member (7:02-8:52) and Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV

This meeting was broadcast live via Facebook and on BNCTV

6pm meeting called to order by Stearns

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 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting were reviewed
 - ***A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Campbell and VOTED unanimously to accept the March 15, 2021 minutes as written.***

• VOTE RECOMMENDATION ON PVRSD FY22 ASSESSMENT AND CAPITAL ITEMS

- Discussed budget/assessment; leaving it as it was originally presented
- FINCOM would like to have PVRSD/School Committee Reps from Northfield come in and present budget (similar to how Franklin County Tech School does it). If not able to happen this year, definitely want it to be a goal for next year.
- ***A motion was made by Porada, seconded by Campbell and VOTED unanimously to recommend the PVRSD FY2022 budget and capital items***

• FINAL VOTE ON WARRANT ARTICLES NEEDING FINCOM RECOMMENDATION INCLUDING FUNDING SOURCES

- Stearns advised group that it was confirmed that the Fire Department does not want article for rescue truck for FY22, it will be in for FY23
- Llamas had sent an email with some changes that affect the omnibus (discussed below on bullet points)
- Llamas advised that the Warrant closed today and no other articles have come in
- Tech School confirmed figures; those figures were the ones already in place
- Placeholder for the Boiler
- Llamas took \$2300 out of tax title omnibus and added \$5000 to fund the new tax title revolving fund
- Llamas added tax title bills she was given from FY2020 to article 4
- Town Clock- it was estimated that 3-5K would be needed to fix the clock alone, adding in electrical, the overall cost could be in the area of 10K.
 - Stearns would like to have a maintenance account created for the Town Clock.
 - ***A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Porada and VOTED unanimously to appropriate through Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for repairs to the Town Clock.***
- The (4) articles for CPC came in, Llamas to swap out the placeholders and put in the real articles.
- Llamas and Campbell are working on an electric sign for out front of Town Hall, but hoping to use COVID-19 funds to purchase this sign (this sign will replace the "sandwich boards" that are currently used to advertise happenings at Town Hall)
- Sewer repair on Mill St. Cost of \$25,000 would come from the Enterprise Fund, not taxation

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- *A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Porada and VOTED unanimously to support the Sewer Article (\$25,000 repair).*

- **7PM JOINT MEETING WITH THE SELECTBOARD**

- Present FINCOM recommendations for Omnibus and Warrant Articles
 - Meisner asked about firm number for PVRSD assessment; advised that there is a revote 3/23/2021 by the PVRSD School Committee.
 - Llamas to set up meeting with the School Committee (Northfield Reps), possibly Superintendent and Finance Director and Northfield FINCOM and Selectboard.
 - Discussed the Town Clock; all in agreement to support
 - Boiler at Town Garage; FINCOM supports, Selectboard wants to talk to T. Walker, Highway Superintendent for more information.
 - Police Academy Training; Reserve Funds are available to cover any additional costs
 - FINCOM advised that they are not supporting a request from the CONSCOM in the amount of \$2812 for wages for Secretary. FINCOM explained that there is already a boards clerk position available for this service. Selectboard stated that they have same position as FINCOM and not supporting.
 - Discussion on Building Maintenance position wages. Highway Supt wants these wages under his department, within his budget. FINCOM favors it not to be under highway, Selectboard wants it under Highway. Moderator L'Etoile suggests the it go before the Townspeople to vote as the position was under town meeting vote originally. Stearns would like to see the Maintenance Position, if it does go in Highway budget, to be a separate line item (sub heading account) so it does not get absorbed into the whole Highway wages.
 - FINCOM advised the Selectboard that they support all financial articles; Selectboard states that they, at this point, have only seen a draft of warrant.
 - FINCOM reviewed their support for the local optional taxes and are taking no position on the local option meals tax
 - Schell Bridge discussion. Town is responsible for any Right of Way /attorney fees associated with this portion of the project.
- Preparations for Town Meeting
 - Discussion on consolidating articles; L'Etoile needs to review all first. Selectboard in favor of consolidating.

The Selectboard adjourned at 8:52 and members of the Selectboard left meeting

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Nothing beyond what was mention in above topics

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

- none

- **NEXT MEETING**

- Llamas to try to schedule joint meeting with PVRSD members, Selectboard and FINCOM; date t/b/a

A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Matteo and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the FINCOM meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm

Submitted by:
Bethany Walker
FINCOM Secretary

Approved On:

Approved By:

5/10/2021
Daniel P. Campbell