

**NORTHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 11, 2022, 6:00 PM**

**VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**

**PARTICIPATING FINCOM MEMBERS:** Lois Stearns, Chair; Dan Campbell, Sue Kaczinski, Tony Matteo, Jack Spanbauer (6:00pm-7:11pm) and Bernhard Porada

**PARTICIPATING SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** Heath Cummings, Selectboard Chair, Barbara “Bee” Jacques, and Bernie Boudreau

**ALSO PARTICIPATING IN VIDEO CONFERENCE:** Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Bethany Walker, FINCOM secretary; Kayla Drumgool, BNCTV

Live via BNCTV & Recorded via Zoom

Stearns called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

The Selectboard meeting was already in session

• **SHARE FINCOM RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE SELECTBOARD RE: FY23 BUDGET & SPECIAL ARTICLES**

- Llamas had proposed changes to the drafted Town Meeting Warrant regarding the Towns Capital Stabilization Fund
  - If the Town votes “yes” to purchase the property for the EMS facility, then the Selectboard will need to sign the contracts for continuing the work with the OPM and the Architect/Designer; currently there is enough in the EMS Facility budget to get us to cover costs until Town Meeting; but not beyond.
  - Llamas suggest taking the \$400,000 that the FINCOM had recommended raising on the tax rate and raise it right to the Emergency Services Building Account budget and vote to take \$600,000 from the Capital Stabilization account and move it to the Emergency Services Building Account. That account will then be at \$1,000,000. This amount is needed to cover the full fees for the designer and OPM.
  - To do this, Llamas needs to change the Article for the \$400,000 to new language and add in an article for the transfer from the Capital Stabilization Account
  - ***A motion was made by Spanbauer, seconded by Porada, and VOTED unanimously to rescind the previous capital stabilization article and instead propose \$400,000 to Emergency Services Building Account and \$600,000 from Capital Stabilization to Emergency Services Building Account***
  - The Selectboard will vote/recommend at their next meeting
- Jacques had question on the Room Occupancy Tax article and what the FINCOM position was on it
  - Brief discussion; FINCOM is recommending this article
- Stearns stated that the FINCOM is recommending everything on omnibus except for the school budget and the Selectboard stipend increase request.
  - Not recommending the school budget because they did not have the figures (until this morning), up for further discussion
  - Discussion on the FINCOM’s position of not supporting the request for the stipend increase for the Selectboard
- FINCOM has no position on the Water District article as it is a non-money article
- FINCOM recommending a 6% COLA to all employees and those that receive stipends
- Article 10 for the \$20,000 sewer project to repave the existing access road to the sewer plant; Llamas to add in that the FINCOM recommends this article
- The PVRS budget is about a 2% increase
  - Cummings had a few concerns about the areas of increase within the budget. Llamas reminded that the school budget needs to pass as a whole or not at all; cannot pick out certain parts of it. Cummings would like more information from the school committee to clarify some of the proposed increases/changes. Cummings would also like to have more involvement and togetherness between the Selectboard, FINCOM and School Committee to show solidarity and needs to have a more committed process. Llamas stated that when she puts together the



budget calendar in November, she will aim to have a meeting with the PVRSD school committee.

- *A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Campbell, and VOTED unanimously to accept the PVRS budget figure as presented to be included in the omnibus*

*A motion was made by Jacques, seconded by Boudreau, and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:15pm*

- **REVIEW AND APPROVE 4/4/2022 MINUTES**

- Minutes from 4/4/22 meeting were reviewed

- *A motion was made by Porada, seconded by Matteo, and VOTED unanimously to approve the 4/4/2022 minutes as written*

- **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

- The Town Clock project is complete. The bill has been paid, and clock is working well. Now Llamas is working on exploring options with left over money from project to see how it could be used to fix the bells

- **REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED REPRESENTING FINCOM**

- Porada (Emergency Services Facility): 4/11/22 (earlier today) meeting was held – Porada did NOT attend. A chart was put together for public to show all the sites that were considered
- Matteo (CPA): nothing to report

- **OTHER ITEMS NOT GENERALLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING**


- NONE

- **NEXT MEETING**

- t/b/d
- 5/2/22 Town Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

Submitted by:   
Bethany Walker  
FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 5-23-2022  
Approved By: 