

**Board Members Present:** Lois Stearns, Dan Campbell, Tony Matteo, Chad Glover, Bonnie L'Etoile and Bernhard Porada

**Also Present:** Deb Mero, Town Accountant; Jack Spanbauer, Selectboard Chair; Tracy Rogers, Selectboard Member; Paul Boushell, Interim Town Administrator; Sandra Wood, Town Secretary; and Bethany Walker, FINCOM Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Stearns. This meeting was video recorded.

- **TRANSFER REQUEST**

- Spanbauer advised the FINCOM that there was a request from the Energy Committee to have a detailed energy study done for the Dickinson Memorial Library. By having this study done, the library would be eligible for a grant. Time is sensitive to having the study done and the grant application process. Spanbauer stated that the Town Meeting would be too late to have the funds voted for at that time. A transfer request was submitted for \$5,500 from the Reserve Fund to the Town Maintenance Line item account. ***A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Porada and VOTED unanimously to approve the transfer request in the amount of \$5,500 from the Reserve Fund to the Town Hall Maintenance account (line item 19280).***

- **FY2018 BUDGET AND SPECIAL ARTICLE RECCOMENDATIONS**

- The Franklin County Tech School budget was presented at the 3/6/17 FINCOM meeting.
  - Northfields assessment is 569,124, a decrease in the amount of 38,814 (-6.38%)
  - **A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Porada and VOTED unanimously to support and recommend the FCTS budget for FY18.**
  - Spanbauer stated that the Selectboard also supports the FCTS budget for FY18
- PVRSD sent a letter with the school committee approved budget and assessment.
  - Mero had received a letter stating that Northfields assessment is 4,465,881, an increase in the amount of 163,774 (+3.8%)
  - Spanbauer had information stating different figures showing Northfield's assessment at ~~4,465,881~~; an increase of 178,555 (4.15%)
  - Bernardston (+2.58%) and Leyden (+.44%) also had an increase to their assessment and Warwick had a decrease (-.452%)
  - Discussion on supporting the PVRSD budget.
  - **A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Glover to support and recommend a 1% increase over last year's PVRSD assessment. In Favor: Glover, L'Etoile. Not In Favor: Matteo, Campbell, Porada. Abstained: Stearns. Motion was voted down.**
  - **A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Porada and VOTED to support and recommend a 2% increase over last year's PVRSD assessment to be in line with the remainder of the towns operating budget. In Favor: Campbell, Matteo, Stearns, Porada, Glover. Not In Favor: L'Etoile**
  - The Selectboard voted as well to recommend supporting a 2% increase in the PVRSD assessment of Northfield's portion. (Spanbauer / Rogers)
  - Spanbauer noted that in FY14 Northfield supported a 16% increase to the assessment when enrollment was down 5% from the previous year.
  - Discussion on the PVRSD budget and placement on the warrant
- Discussion on the (2) enterprise funds
  - **A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Campbell and VOTED unanimously to support the EMS Enterprise Fund request.**
  - **A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Campbell and VOTED unanimously to support the Sewer Enterprise Fund request.**
- Discussion on FY18 budget and Special Articles

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- A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Matteo and VOTED unanimously to support remaining articles not included previously, such as FRCOG Operating assessment and Insurances.
- Discussion on PVRs technology loan and capital items. Mero would like to have verification on the percentages of each. A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Campbell and VOTED unanimously to verify the number, support and recommend the certified official number from PVRs for the Technology (debt services loan)
- Spanbauer advised of a change to the Prioritized list of capital items. The Selectboard is breaking the NES Wiring project into two phases, with the first phase to be at \$15,000 in FY18(eliminating \$60,00 from the original requested amount) and using that \$60,000 to be put towards the NES Paving of the Parking Lot (moving that article up into the recommended list). A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Campbell and VOTED unanimously to support the change presented by the Selectboard in their priority list to reduce the amount of the NES Wiring project to \$15,000, allowing the remaining \$60,000 from that project to cover the cost of the NES Paving Parking Lot project.
- Mero had advised the group (via Assessors Clerk, Walker) that the new growth figure that was previously reported by the entity was incorrect. The entity called the Assessor's office on 3/13/17 to advise they had reported the wrong figure on their form to Northfield; figure was reported higher then what it should have been. Mero said that approximately \$130,000 is lost in this change. Discussion on how this affects the model. Discussion on how to make up the difference in the amount. Spanbauer asked to reduce the costs associated with the Town Hall Drainage (from \$100,000 to \$80,000), Smith Property (from \$100,000 to \$70,000), and Highway truck (\$170,000 to \$150,000).
- It was decided to meet again on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>, jointly to finalize the model and the special articles and their funding sources.

7:57 Spanbauer and Rogers adjourn their portion of the meeting and leave the FINCOM meeting, along with Wood and Boushell

- MINUTES

- Minutes from the March 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed. *A motion was made by Matteo, seconded by Campbell and VOTED to accept the March 6, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. In Favor: Stearns, Campbell, Matteo, Porada and L'Etoile. Abstained: Glover*

- MAIL

- Transfer request (see above)
- PVRs Budget/Assessment (see above)

- GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Mero will have a revised version of model before next Monday's meeting. L'Etoile requested it be emailed before the meeting.

- NEXT MEETING (S)

- FINCOM Meeting 3/13/2017 at 6:30pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

Submitted by:

Bethany Walker

FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 3-20-17

Approved By: Lou M. Stearns