

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lois Stearns, Dan Campbell, Bernhard Porada, Bonnie L'Etoile, Sue Kaczinski and Tony Matteo

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Gilfeather-Girton, Town Accountant; Bethany Walker, FINCOM secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Stearns

This meeting was video and voice recorded

• **REVIEW BUDGET REQUESTS AND DETERMINE RECOMMENDATION**

- Gilfeather-Girton provided document/spreadsheet with a majority of all requests; budget summary, omnibus budget and Warrants (and 5 additional warrant articles from TA)
- Stearns asked if there were any concerns with any of the departments requests
 - Discussion on the \$40,000 from taxation for the EMS Enterprise Fund. Discussion on the current agreement with the Town of Bernardston.

• **REVIEW SPECIAL ARTICLES**

- Currently 16 articles (in no specific order)
 - \$8,599.03 FY2018 Technology Invoices; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$0 10 year Recycling Contract; non money article
 - \$35,000 Technology updates and improvements; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$5,000 Financial Cloud Service Platform: **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$16,000 FY2019 Financial Audit; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$5,000 OPEB Compliant Audit; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$40,200 Kitchen Renovation (town hall senior center area); **FINCOM PENDING DETERMINATION**
 - \$9,000 NES Carpet or Tile 3 Classrooms; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$150,000 NES Electrical Upgrade and Communication Replacement; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$20,000 Open Space Committee Ch. 61 Option; **FINCOM DOES NOT RECOMMEND**
 - \$4,000 Open Space Committee OSRP update; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$40,000 Fire Department SCBA Tanks; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$50,000 Fire Department engineering and consult services; **FINCOM PENDING DETERMINATION**
 - \$60,000 Highway Dept. ¾ ton pickup truck; **FINCOM PENDING DETERMINATION**
 - \$52,000 Police Department cruiser; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - \$10,018 Police Department radio system; **FINCOM RECOMMENDS**
 - Walker advised of a situation where the Assessors will be submitting a money article in the range of \$20,000-35,000. Northfield may need to hire out for a full Appraisal of First Light; **FINCOM PENDING DETERMINATION** (Walker stated this article may in fact be removed, however the BOA office will not have an answer as to whether or not this article will in fact be needed until next week)
- Warrant articles close Monday, March 25th 2019 at 6pm

• **DETERMINE COLA AMOUNT**

- 7:31 Campbell recused himself from the meeting
- Stearns advised that in the past, the FINCOM generally follows suit with whatever the Federal does for an increase; this year it was 2.8%

NORTHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL 69 MAIN ST

- L'Etoile would like to propose 3%
- Gilfeather-Girton will provide information scenarios for each of the proposed percentages
- 7:36 Campbell joins FINCOM meeting again - discussion of COLA ended before his return

- **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes from the March 12th, 2019 were reviewed
 - *A motion was made by L'Etoile, seconded by Campbell and VOTED to accept the March 12th, 2019 minutes as written. (1) Abstained: Kaczinski*

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Copy of a letter that Bernardston Selectboard and FINCOM members had written to the Commissioner of Education asking that the recent Supt of Schools contract be invalidated.
- Copy of a letter written by Andrea Llamas to be signed by Tracy Rogers (Selectboard Chair) and Stearns (FINCOM chair) to be sent to the Commissioner to the Commissioner of Education; asking the same action.

- **MEETINGS ATTENDED REPRESENTING THE FINCOM**

- Porada (Emergency Services Facility Committee): no meeting scheduled to date
- Porada (Town Governance Study Committee): On March 13th there was a public forum that was well attended by the public. The Committee explained their preliminary report; Porada gave recap of that report to FINCOM
- Matteo (Community Preservation Committee): 2 of the 3 applicants were approved for funds by the CPA (now just has to go to town meeting). The Recreation Commission and the Field Library.
- Matteo (H.E.A.R.T.): Met with the school committee and presented the district agreement proposal/recommendation. All tasks have been completed that were asked of this group so Matteo is not certain if and when there will be another HEART meeting. Matteo also noted that the HEART committee wrote a note to the Commissioner as well.
- Stearns, L'Etoile and Kaczinski attended the 4 town Selectboard & FINCOM meeting held in Bernardston on the 18th.

- **NEXT MEETING**

- March 27th 2019 at 6 pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Submitted by:

Bethany Walker

FINCOM Secretary

Approved On: 3-26-19
Approved By: Laura M Stearns