



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES / July 5, 2018 at 7pm

Town Hall-Community Room - 1st Floor posted 3:45pm on 8/3/2018

Members

Shaun Galliher
Chris Pike
Mary Rice
Heather Brown
Ray Bolduc
Russ Parks
Dick Scialabba

Absent

Viv Mason
Earl Peck

Other

Harvey Drosehn, Select Board
Bob Graves, Town Administrator

The meeting was opened at 7pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the June 7, and June 28, 2018 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

There is no accountant report for this meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a line item transfer of \$758.45 from the Unemployment Account to the Medicare Account which currently has a minus balance of \$115.21. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Graves explained an issue with Berkshire Regional Planning concerning two grants they were managing. Through this whole process, although he had asked repeatedly, it was never discussed that the town had to pay anything and then get reimbursed. One was the Hazard Mitigation Grant for 15K which is 80% reimbursable. We do have an extension until September 1, 2018. The other is the Open Space Grant which was to be 60/40 split with a bill for \$13,750.00. We budgeted for 5K. Chairman Galliher strongly suggested that we get a better explanation as to why we were constantly reassured that we had to pay nothing along the way.

The committee discussed the McNamara Law and its potential impact on the town. This concerns the mandatory retirement age of 70 years old for all firefighters. After that age they will not be covered for an accidental death by the town insurance if they were to die while on duty. There are many current and in most cases longtime members of the Fire Department that fall under this law. The Select Board is looking into this as well as the Fireman's Association. There is no action at this point, for the Finance Committee.

Bob and Chairman Galliher suggested a few areas we should be thinking about going forward. Some are as follows;

- Outsource the Assistant Assessor position
- Review the current Berkshire Pension system
- Time tracking for all employees

Capital Plan

Health Insurance split for all employees to 25/75%

Review the last year's budget process and to see what we can do better

Review the rules of the Reserve Fund and make all departments aware of the process

Supply a list of all the Grants to the Finance Committee as received

Bob Graves suggested that we review all policies every three (3) years and post them on the town website.

Ray Bolduc reported that the Plunkett Lake Dam project has been completed. Thanks to Bob Graves, the clearing of the road to the gate will be paid for with money from the renovation project.

The next regular meeting of this committee is Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:58 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Rice, Secretary