

# Finance Committee Minutes

## June 25<sup>th</sup> 2015

A joint meeting was held with the selectmen for the purpose of transferring funds from delinquent accounts to other accounts that had funds remaining. Attending were the three selectmen, namely chairman Michele Shalaby, Ms. Tara White and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem. From the Finance Committee were Mr. David Herrick, Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. Burt Imberman and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Mr. Chuck Loring Highway Superintendent and Mrs. Mari Enoch Town Administrator were also present. The meeting was opened at 7:00PM with the circulating of the last Finance Committee Minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015. The minutes were accepted as read, Mr. Imberman 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Pshenishny 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The following accounts required transfers from the Reserve Fund [95781.00]:

Selectman's Salaries [10122.00] \$237.50, one of the selectmen received an extra month's salary by mistake and will refund it by personal check but that will go into the general fund.

Tax Title [10149.00] the bulk of this request is made up of lawyers' fees charged by an hourly rate, the remaining was payment for the auctioneers etc. The town's delinquent payers are either paying up or the land is going into land trust prior to being able to be offered for auction. If the delinquent payer pays back taxes the cost of the tax title is added to the taxes.

Berkshire County Retirement Fund[90911.00] \$74.39

Insurance Expense [90914.11] this amount results from the purchase of the new highway truck.

Veteran's Benefits Chapter 115 [90918.00] \$992.00

Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital [30001.00] \$1.00

Household Hazardous Waste [70439.00] \$57.30

Administrative Assistant [10129.00] \$4,000, this sum was included because Mr. Joe Kellogg the town's temporary administrator, although having finished doing that job for the town is still in the process of teaching the new administrator and this figure will allow him to receive payment for his services on an hourly basis.

Insurance Proceeds [7005.00] \$4646.96, earlier in the fiscal year the highway garage suffered a break-in losing some tools. They were replaced prior to the insurance payment for them. There was some question as to why the town would have to take a loss when the insurance

company should pay for the tools. The Finance committee did not approve of this transfer until further investigation takes place.

**Massachusetts Works Grant** [5600.00] this amount is for postage etc. of the forms for the grant.

**Town Counsel** [10124.00] \$.08 result of a book keeping error!

**Assessor's Salaries** [10141.00] \$1.32 another book keeping error!

**Board of Health Salaries** [70510.02] \$ .04 last book keeping error.

All of the above transfers were approved with the exception of the Insurance Proceeds [7005.00] for reasons explained above.

Mr. Loring then presented a transfer of appropriations:- from the **Highway Diesel Account** [20422.19] to the **Roads and Bridges Account** [20422.05] the amount of \$4,000. This transfer was necessary because he stated that the outstanding bills would require this transfer. Mr. Carson 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Pshenishny 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The selectmen then passed the same accounts as the Finance Committee holding the Insurance Proceeds account until further information became available.

Mr. Yohalem then spoke to the Finance Committee regarding a committee that was being formed to further explore the information about the Wired West and the other questions about MBI etc. so that the voters will have the opportunity to vote on the issue with all the pertinent information. The Finance Committee understood that Mr. Ira Yohalem would be willing to serve on this committee, and he was accepted as the member from the Finance Committee.

Prior to the close of the meeting Mr. Imberman informed the members that he had bought a house in Florida and expected to spend a large part of the winter there. The main part of the budgetary process takes place during the months when he will not be able to be present. The members stated that rather than lose his expertise they would suggest that he remain a member of the committee and be provided with all the information about the meetings and take part in the deliberations via conference calls.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary

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June 26<sup>th</sup> 2015