

Finance Committee Minutes

May 2nd 2016

A meeting was held prior to the Town Meeting to review the budget and decide who would answer questions from the floor should they arise.

Present were Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Thomas Stalker, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. Robert Miller, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding, Ms. Mari Enoch, Mrs. Michele Shalaby, Ms. Tara White and Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem.

Minutes for April 14th were circulated, and approved as read, Mr. Stalker 1st, Mr. Robert Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem asked the committee to withdraw their “not recommending” the school budget, because he stated that they had cut their budget, and in order to solve the problem created by a large error made by the business manager last year, they had taken money from the E&D fund and rebated \$55,000, to clear the debt to New Marlborough from the last year’s mistakes. This money would be transferred to our town and placed in the Free Cash account and would be used to pay in part our assessed payment for FYI 2017, although it actually belonged to 2016. He stated that the school had made an effort to affect this transfer. He also stated that he had examined the school capital budget and did not see any “deadwood” in it, and the required items that were on this budget would reoccur at a later date and cost more money. He added that the SBRSD was discussing merger with Farmington River School which might in the future come to fruition and save the districts some money on administrative costs (however this would not be realized during the upcoming fiscal year). He added that there will be five new school committee members elected and these members might be interested in closing the outlying schools which would save the district some funds. He added that the increase that New Marlborough is facing is partly due to an increased in the number of children that go to the school from the town.

The Committee discussed this request seriously, and voted let the “not recommended by the Finance Committee” remain on the Town Warrant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM when the Committee Members went up to the Town Hall to take part in the Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

Prudence Spaulding
May 4th 2016