Minutes for Finance Committee Meeting of October 27th, 2014

Meeting Called to Order at 5:31pm

Those present: Wayne Zavotka, Chair elect, Maggie Parent, Mitch Soviecki and Ray Wilson. Excused; Dennis May.

Minutes for October 20th, 2014 were read and unanimously approved, after Maggie moved for approval, Ray seconded.

New Business.

Wayne shared with the assembled committees (The Northern Berkshire Union, The Rowe School Committee, The Rowe Fire Department, The council on aging, the Tax Collector) the desire of the Finance Committee to more thoroughly learn and understand the budgeting process, so that, in future, the committee may be a genuine resource in the process. Everyone seemed to respond to this notion in a positive way.

Jon Lev of the Northern Berkshire Union passed a hand-out around detailing the process as it now stands. He said that a working budget should be completed by the end of November.

The Fire department have some way to go before their budget will assume any real shape, though we know that trucks are being repaired, and new gear is on order.

Marilyn Wilson of the BOS presented articles for a Special Town Meeting to be held November 12th, 2014. These articles were in draft form and subject to change. The finance committee reviewed each article as follows:

Article 1.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $15,000.00 for the purpose of repairing or replacing the town gazebo, or take any action related thereto.
Ray proposed, Maggie seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 2.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $2,300.00 to repair and upgrade the exterior lighting of the fire station with LED lights, or take any action related thereto.
Ray proposed, Mitch seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 3.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $4,000.00 to purchase more turn out gear for the Fire Department, or to take any action related thereto.
Ray proposed, Wayne seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 4.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $6,770.42 to replenish the line item Highway Superintendent Salary, or take any action related thereto.

Article 5.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $15,000.00 to purchase a new computer server, or take any action related thereto.
Mitch proposed, Maggie Seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 6.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $2,089.65 to pay Franklyn County Solid Waste District invoices from FY2014, or take any action related thereto.

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Mitch proposed, Maggie seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 7.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $112.73to pay school invoices which are left from FY2014, or take any action related thereto.
Ray proposed, Mitch seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 8.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $5,200.00 to pay for security cameras and monitors at the Town Hall Complex, or take any action related thereto.
Mitch proposed, Maggie seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 9.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $3,000.00 to create a new line item for New Treasurer Training, or take any action related thereto.
Mitch proposed, Maggie seconded, unanimously approved.

Article 10.
To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of $4,000.00 to purchase locks and meters for the fuel pumps at the DPW garage, or take any action related thereto.
Ray proposed, Maggie seconded, unanimously approved.

The finance committee learned that the budget for the Tax Collector is largely software and amounts to $3,000.00 per year.

The council on aging has an annual budget of $4,000.00

We also learned that the department heads can get monthly print-out of their department expenditures from the town Administrative Assistant without the need to go into gateway. A new budget sheet, for use by department heads during the budget process is being worked on and should be available soon.

Ray proposed adjournment, Maggie seconded, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM