

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2013

Members Present: W. Stevens, A. Terranova, C. Galib, R. Tinkham

Guests Present: P. Sieloff, Town Administrator

Shea Garner, Berkshire Courier

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM in the Selectmen's Office at Lanesborough Town Hall

**Reserve Fund Transfer:** Request made to transfer \$1,500 to the Consultancy line account to pay for a survey of the Laston Field, Mach property. The town lost a lawsuit over the right of way over the property and the Selectmen have requested a survey be done to properly delineate the right-of-way boundaries. It will aid in determining how the right of way can be provided as decreed by the Judge. The present balance in the account is \$5,000, but there is an expenditure working for about \$3,500 for OPEB liability evaluation which will leave a balance of approximately \$1,500. It has been estimated that the survey will cost \$3,000 and thus an additional \$1,500 is required. R. Tinkham expressed the opinion that the organization that built the park should be financially responsible for the expenses incurred as it was that organization that destroyed the right of way when building the park. The converse argument is that the town owns the property and therefore is responsible for the settlement. The transfer was voted in favor 3-1 (R. Tinkham in opposition).

**American Legion:** A. Terranova requested an up-date on the status of the American Legion building. Paul Sieloff advised that it is presently in a holding pattern, and there will be a meeting with the American Legion/VFW representative in the near future. W. Stevens asked Paul Sieloff to check with the Veteran's Agent to get a definition Federal requirement to the Town as regards housing for the American Legion and VFW.

**Trybus Issue:** A. Terranova asked for update in investigation into possibility of insurance payment for costs incurred due to an error on a town representative in providing a building permit in an area with likely contamination. Paul Sieloff invited Al Terranova to come to the office and he would place a conference call to the insurance agent to have the question answered.

**Conflict of Interest Training:** Ron Tinkham inquired if all Finance Committee members had completed the Conflict of Interest Training as required. He was informed that all members have completed the training and received the certificates.

**Executive Session minutes:** Ron Tinkham asked Paul Sieloff if any of the executive session meeting minutes of lawsuits that have been settled have been released to the public yet, i.e. de-classified. Paul Sieloff indicated that he did not believe any had at this time, and there may still be some issues relative to the Mall Tax issue that would prevent them from being released. Paul will review with Carmella in this regard.

**Annual Town Meeting:** Ron Tinkham asked if there had been any thought to move the Annual Town Meeting back to May. Paul Sieloff advised that at this time it is still planned for June.

**Lanesborough Lunch Program:** Ron Tinkham asked the status of the lunch budget for FY-2014. It was decided to invite the LES officials to the February Finance Committee meeting to provide a status report and plan to control the expsness. W. Stevens will invite the LES committee and Administration to the February meeting (2/3/14).

**Lanesborough Elementary School budget:** Ron Tinkham reported that Bob Barton has recommended that the Lanesborough School Committee should not 'hide' money in the budget for un-expected expenses, but to rely on the ability to come back to the town for additional funding if necessary. Ron advised that we should be prepared for such requests in the future.

**FY-2015 Budget:** Paul Sieloff will be sending the budget requests out to the departments in the near future and should allow 2-3 weeks for responses. He should have those numbers available for the January meeting, but the two school budgets will not have been presented by then. Paul is planning to have Free Cash articles for Police Building Repairs, Highway Department heating system repair, and possible some road work.

Per R. Tinkham, MGRHS is scheduled a hearing for the public, selectmen and finance committee for their budget at the Town Hall on March 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Paul Sieloff will also be looking at the capital expense plan to include some expenses in the FY-2015 budget.

**Next meeting:** The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014 in the Selectmen's Office, the proposed agenda will be posted prior to the meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectively submitted,

William V. Stevens, Chairman