

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2011

Members Present: Brian Johnson, Bill Stevens, Al Terranova, Mike Murphy

Members Absent: Aaron Flynn

Articles for Special Town Meeting, Tuesday August 16, 2011 7:00 PM

Article 1: Transfer \$30,000 from Overlay Surplus to Mt. Greylock Regional School Expense account. Copies of the letter certifying the Overlay Surplus for FY12 in the amount of \$34,415.54 was distributed to committee members. Bruce Durwin sat with the committee and explained the Overlay Surplus account, and how the money was obtained for FY12. He noted that until the amount was certified on August 1, 2011, the amount was not available. The Overlay Surplus account for FY11 was less than \$2,800 and thus these funds were not available at the time of the Annual Town Meeting.

At 7:40 PM, the meeting was moved to the Selectmen's office for discussion of the warrant. It was generally agreed that Article 1 would be recommended to the voters to cover the requested budget amount from Mt. Greylock Regional High School. Due to changes in state aid and state charges, the budget is still projected to be \$17 thousand over the levy limit. Paul Boudreau advised that he was expecting the receipt of an additional \$20,000 in state revenue before the end of October, and the budget does not need to be finalized until the tax rate is set, and the Tax RE-Cap sheet is finalized.

Should Article 1 pass, Articles 2-10 will not be brought to the floor. If Article 1 does not pass for the \$30,000, then Articles 2-10 will be brought to the floor. The finance committee would have some ideas as what values to use should this occur. (it will be discussed later in this meeting).

Meeting was re-convened at 8:30 in the Library

Article 1 was moved to be recommended by the finance committee by Mike Murphy, seconded by Bill Stevens, voted in favor 4-0.

Bill Stevens moved to recommend no action by the finance committee for articles 2-10, seconded by Mike Murphy, voted in favor 4-0.

There was general discussion as to what amounts to use for articles 2-10 should they be brought to the floor at the town meeting:

Article 2: Transfer \$2,000 from Stormwater Management account. Since Paul Boudreau oversees this account, it was assumed that he recommended that amount.

Article 3: It was felt that the finance committee could operate with \$5,000 less in the Reserve Account, and would likely recommend this article in that amount.

Article 4: Transfer from the Stabilization Account. The consensus of all members was that we would not recommend using any further funds from the Stabilization account and would not move this article.

Article 5: Transfer from the Lanesborough School Expense. It was suggested that in order to make the \$30,000 needed, most accounts would need about \$5,000 each. It was suggested that \$5,000 be used for this article.

Article 6: Transfer from the Lanesborough School Health Insurance: See comments for Article 5. Suggested \$5,000 for this account (It was thought that there may be extra funds available in this account due to layoffs, reduction in force, etc. Bill Stevens to contact Bruce Durwin to see if he can advise us regarding the available amount).

Article 7: Transfer from the Police Department Salaries and/or Expenses: See comments for Article 5. Suggested \$5,000 for this account

Article 8: Transfer from Highway Dept. Salaries and/or Town Roads and Dept. Maint.: The remaining amount was suggested to be split between the remaining three articles at \$4,333 each.

Article 9: Transfer from Fire Dept. Expense: see comments for Article 8.

Article 10: Transfer from Senior Transportation Salaries and/or Expenses: See comment for Article 8.

It was noted that none of these numbers were voted by the Finance Committee to recommend for these Articles, but were done to get a general idea of the extent of the cuts necessary. If these articles were to come to the floor, the committee would then discuss individually, and make a recommendation at that time.

Article 11: Finance Committee by-law for removing an inactive committee member: It was felt that the missed meetings should be severe enough to warrant removal from the committee, and that six un-excused absences in a fiscal year would warrant action. Bill Stevens is to draft suggested wording for this article and e-mail to committee members for review and comment so we will have agreement at the town meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectively submitted,

William Stevens, Secretary