

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2013

Lanesborough Town Hall

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

Guest Present: Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

1. Meeting called to order at 6:20 PM

2. **Cemeteries:** There was discussion on the condition of the Town Cemeteries, and how the money budgeted would be spent. It was decided to ask Mary Reilly, Cemetery Committee Chair, to meet with the Finance Committee at our next meeting.

3. **School Lunch Deficit:** Al Terranova reported from the discussion at the last Selectmen's meeting and it was felt that a meeting of a group, i.e. Fin Com, Selectmen, LES Committee, District Officers, etc. was not necessary at this time. Paul Sieloff stated that he had added \$5,000 for FY-2014 but it seems that it will not be enough. Some of the increased costs are as a result of the change in State regulations regarding the food servings. Ron Tinkham stated that he has sent a e-mail regarding the budget, and that when George St. Pierre was the School Superintendent the money was allocated to cover only the funds needed to keep the equipment up to date, and not to include salaries or food expenses. The LES Committee is meeting on Wednesday, August 14 at 3:00 PM and Ron Tinkham will be there to film the meeting, and can express the concerns at that time. Christine Galib stated that she may be able to make the meeting as well. It was decided to invite the District Business Manager to our next meeting to discuss the concerns.

4. **Berkshire Carousel:** Paul Sieloff stated that the Berkshire Carousel has received approval for a \$250,000 grant from the State, which per the town vote indicates that the Town is to provide \$250,000 as a result of the Annual Town Meeting vote. However he just discovered that the Town By-Law requires an approval by voters in an election to authorize spending in amounts above \$200,000, so without that vote, we cannot provide the \$250,000. The town could borrow up to \$199,000 without the vote, and Berkshire Carousel would need to make up the \$51,000. It was his understanding that they were looking at four sites: Laston Field, Berkshire Mall, the Party Barn property, and Vacation Village. If it were to go into the Mall, the Town would not be able to provide funds to spend on the Mall.

5. **American League Building:** Due to a dispute between the DiLego's and the American Legion over the boundaries of the ownership, the Town will be doing a title search to determine the exact boundaries.

6. **Senior Work Off Program:** Paul Sieloff stated that Lorna Gayle the new Assistant for the COA has just started in that position. W. Stevens suggested that we wanted to see a complete listing of all those on the Senior Work-Off Program, and a description of the duties of each. Also, he suggested that a

guideline for income eligibility be established. The Legislation approving the program only provided guidelines for the pay rates, but left all other details, i.e. the number of positions, position descriptions, financial requirements, etc. up to the Selectmen. The Selectmen in the past have advised the COA director that they had approved a given amount of money to be allocated for the work programs and it was up to the COA Director to assign the participants, with no regard to financial need.

7. **Police Department:** Al Terranova raised the question as to how Richmond can operate with one Police Chief and four part-time officers, while Lanesborough requires 7 full time officers and 7 part time officers. A general discussion followed relative to the need to control expenses in all departments, and schools to keep the tax rate under control. It was recommended that we establish some guidelines by early October to advise the departments.

8. The next meeting will be Monday September 16, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectively submitted,

William V. Stevens, Chairman