

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2016
Respectfully submitted by Sherri Thompson

Attendees: Mr. Al Terranova, Chair; Ms. Chris Galib; Mr. Stephen Wentworth; Mr. Ron Tinkham; Mr. Ray Jones; Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Manager

Meeting called to order: 6:00 p.m.

Motion to accept Minutes of February 1 meeting: Mr. Tinkham moved for a discussion.

1. Mr. Tinkham indicated that there were two sets of Minutes received with no indication of what changes had been made, and two different adjournment motions were listed as well as two different next meeting dates. Corrections were made and revised Minutes will be resent.
2. Regarding motion to accept the Mt. Greylock Project, Mr. Tinkham requested the reason for a “no” vote be recorded in the Minutes from February 1. Minutes were modified to reflect these changes. This change was made and Minutes will be resent.
3. Mr. Tinkham requested revised Minutes from the January 4 meeting that had been approved with changes suggested by Ms. Galib, i.e. double period at end of **Budget Update** section. No other changes were noted. Revised Minutes will be resent.

A motion was made by, Mr. Tinkham moved to approve the Minutes with modifications, and motion was seconded by Mr. Wentworth. All in favor

Public Comment: None

Mr. Terranova indicated that the committee did not get copies of the Minutes until this meeting so they had to read them before this meeting could start. He asked about the Minutes from October 6 and November 2 that had been approved with modifications; were the modifications made? Need to be sure the Minutes are posted to the web. The last Minutes posted are from July, 2015. Minutes will be sent to Diane for posting.

Budget Summary: Mr. Sieloff and the Town Accountant are close to finishing the first version of the Town Manager budget and will provide the Police, Highway, and Fire District budgets to the Finance Committee prior to the next Committee meeting on February 29. Mr. Sieloff will invite the Department Heads of Police, Highway, and Fire District to attend the February 29th meeting to discuss the budgets further. Ms. Galib requested copies of the budget to review prior to the meeting dates. Mr. Sieloff will provide the budget within the week prior to the scheduled meetings.

There was discussion regarding the Berkshire Mall anchor stores closing and how that will affect the budget because of the loss of tax revenue. Mr. Sieloff indicated that not all the closings will take effect this year. After much discussion on this matter, Mr. Galib moved to end the discussion until more specific information is available. All in favor.

Meeting Date Revisions: Mr. Sieloff requested changes in the Finance Committee meetings for the next two months, asking to meet again on February 29 due to the Mt. Greylock budget meeting scheduled for March 14 at the Lanesborough Elementary School. He will request the Select Board move their meeting from the 14th to the 7th which would require the Finance Committee to move to February 29. Mr. Sieloff requested the Finance Committee attend the Mt. Greylock budget meeting on March 14. Mr. Terranova suggested the Finance Committee meet again on March 21 to review the final budgets in preparation for the Town Meeting, and the committee agreed.

Financial Articles: Mr. Jones requested information on ability to pay based on forecasts and needs. Mr. Jones suggested the zoning be updated to allow for new businesses to come in. Ms. Galib suggested hiring someone to market the Town.

Reserve Funds Transfer Procedure: Mr. Tinkham requested that when funds are requested, the Finance Committee receive information on these requests for review prior to meeting. Mr. Tinkham specifically asked for details on what the money will be spent on and how much additional may be requested/required.

1. **Veterans Benefits:** Mr. Sieloff indicated that the requested funds were for the remainder of 2016.
2. **Animal Control:** Mr. Sieloff indicated that the requested funds were for the remainder of 2016.
3. **Law Accounts:** Mr. Sieloff indicated that more funds may be needed as there could be unexpected situations that could come up that cannot be controlled. Mr. Tinkham asked if this could be modified to be a monthly retainer in order to control the spending. Mr. Sieloff indicated that this would not be feasible because there are too many areas of legal expertise required.

Unforeseen matters: None

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Galib made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wentworth. All in favor

Next Meeting: February 29, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.