

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES NOVEMBER 7, 2016 – DRAFT
Respectfully submitted by Sherri Thompson

Attendees: Ray Jones, Chris Galib; Stephen Wentworth; Ron Tinkham; Rebecca Flood;
Paul Sieloff, Town Manager; Sherri Thompson

Meeting called to order: Chair, Mr. Jones, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Approve Minutes of last meeting:

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes from September 27. Ms. Galib seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approve proposed 2017 meeting schedule:

It was agreed to move the January 3 meeting to January 4; the April 3 meeting may change; the September 5 meeting is moved to September 6; and the October 3 meeting moved to October 4.

Town Accountant Position Update:

Patricia “Trisha” Hickey is the new Town Accountant. She has been in training with Lynn Lemanski.

Financial trend monitoring report (Steve Wentworth)

Mr. Wentworth talked about the Association for Town Finance Committees (ATFC) workshop he attended. He explained the financial forecasting process that was taught at the seminar. Mr. Tinkham asked about information on assessments of housing and how sales affect that. What is the trend of sales vs. assessed value? Mr. Sieloff will ask the Town Assessor to share those trends with the Finance Committee.

Proposed meeting with School Superintendent on December 5, 2016:

Mr. Dias would like to meet prior to the annual budget meeting. The November 28 meeting will only be with Select Board and Lanesborough Elementary School Committee.

Report on Economic Development committee and contracted staff position:

Mr. Sieloff reported that Barbara Hassan is the Chairperson. Ways to generate Economic Development to increase revenue were discussed. Gas pipeline money was used towards hiring a multi-town staff person to work with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for marketing and branding of towns. Currently the Lanesborough website does list local businesses with their website links.

Update of Town emails:

All but Mr. Tinkham have Town emails. Town Secretary to provide those emails to Mrs. Thompson.

Board of Health budget update:

Mr. Joppru, the Assistant Health Inspector, has been busy with two separate housing issues. Mr. Sieloff will invite Mr. Joppru to the December 5 Finance Committee meeting.

Ambulance/EMT budget:

Mr. Sieloff expressed his concern that the General Fund may be needed to supplement the Ambulance/EMT Enterprise Fund budget.

Other proposed projects:

Ms. Flood asked how the Select Board votes on the Commercial Tax Rate. Mr. Sieloff said that is the procedure under Massachusetts Law.

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen with 48 hours of the meeting:

None

Next Meeting: December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Ms. Galib made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wentworth. 5-0 in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Footnotes: