

Town of Ashby Massachusetts

**Finance Committee Meeting**

**March 26, 2013**

Regular meeting called to order: 7:10 pm by Kevin Stetson, Chair

Present: Kevin Stetson, Kathy Panagiotes, Joe Armstrong-Champ, Liryc Donald, Lillian Whitney

**Guests:** Bob Hanson, John Pankowsy, Harald Scheid, Bill Davis

Minutes: March 12, 2013 accepted with corrections. Final Draft sent to Alan Pease.  
No Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>, snowstorm.

New Business:

No RFT's

Discussion at this meeting was related to FY14 budget.

1. Harald gave a comprehensive overview of the budget line item: Map Maintenance. FinCom has concern for the \$6900.00 increase this year.

- Based on Harald's detailed presentation, this committee understands the need of this one time cost. Thank you to Harald.

2. FinCom wanted an explanation for the Warrant Article Draft # 9 and 10. John was efficient in his teaching to the committee of the fact that no taxpayer money is used. It comes from the Enterprise Fund that was designated when the landfill was closed in 2006. FinCom questioned the value of the Devens Hazardous Waste Program. John explained cost is up as Ashby did not join initially. The Lunenburg program is no longer available. Money will come out of Enterprise Fund, (earned monies from scrap metal, etc.). Thank you to John for his presentation.

- Town Meeting must vote to approve joining the Devens Hazardous Waste Program, that may begin in July.

3. Bill Davis was invited to explain details of line item: Winter Operations and other. Bill gave lengthy details of book keeping to cover winter operations when snow and ice is unpredictable. He was forthcoming with numbers of pieces of equipment and their condition to manage the 54.4 miles of Ashby roads, (an additional 11 miles are state and private roads). He was glad to have finally been able to hire a 5<sup>th</sup> person. Very few grants are available for Highways Departments. Some Chapter 90 money will go to the Turnpike Road Bridge. Thank you to Bill Davis for the discussion of his department needs.

- Suggestion is to take money out of Free Cash to cover Winter Operations, (\$95,000 at present)

4. Warrant Article review and discussion with Bob Hanson.

5. Corrected amount in Free Cash at this time, \$503, 987.00

6. Jim Hubert, representing the Ashby Energy Efficiency Committee requested a meeting with FinCom to discuss the Stretch Code Warrant coming up at Ashby Town Meeting. Since it is a non-fiscal town meeting article, it is for the towns vote only. FinCom suggested he need not come.

7. FinCom votes to concur with BOS to authorize deficit spending relative to snow and ice removal. (\$95,000 at present).

8. FinCom would like to take “No Position” on warrant items that are non-dollar articles.

Next Meeting: April 2, 7:00 pm

Adjourned 10:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathleen Panagiotes*