

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 4, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:30 P.M.

All members present.

Discussed the school project.

Met with the School Committee and the Superintendent at approximately 7:15 P.M.

Discussed the new school project and what plans might be in place should the project fail. Also discussed if there were any plans to deal with high school education on a long term basis as large sums will probably be needed to care for the building and/or operating costs entailing further overrides. Generally, there were no plans to deal with these issues. Also discussed was how to proceed with financing options, and it was determined that the School Committee chair would approach the Select Board for a joint meeting to discuss options, particularly the use of stabilization funds to reduce the override and to consider 30 year financing so that the override increase per cent would be less than 10%.

Discussed the overdrawn/over-spent school accounts and grants amounting to approximately \$492,000 that limit the amount of free cash that the Bureau of Accounts could certify. The Superintendent believes that the problem is that requisitioned grant funds were not reflected on the town books but were on the school books. The lunch account is not supposed to be run with a negative balance per the contract with the provider.

Also discussed was that about \$170,000 of unused transportation money was spent on other than transportation expenses and not returned to the general fund. This calculation was made by Chris Martin, as the Town Accountant, further reducing free cash. The Superintendent believes an agreement had been reached between Chris Martin, as Town Administrator, and the former Superintendent that this money could be used for unexpected special education expense. Further research will be done on these issues by the Fincom.

Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously to adjourn at 10:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Glesmann, Clerk