Finance Committee **Approved:**
5/7/2016

Voted: 4-0-0

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD &ASHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE
7:00 PM, April 25, 2016 at Ashfield Town Hall

Members Present: Ted Murray (Chair), David Newell, and Carol Lebold

Also Attending: Tom Carter, Chair Select Board; Todd Olanyk, Kayce Warren, Interim Town Administrator; Buz Eisenberg, Town Moderator and Audience of approximately 30 people
Absent: Lindy Gougeon, Tom Schreiber

Ted called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM [upon arrival of David to make up a quorum of the FinCom; Tom Carter had started the meeting at 7:00 to hold a public hearing on the FY2017 budget, including a proposed Prop 2-1/2 Override and Debt Exclusion Override]

FY2017 Presentation
Tom Carter reviewed the budgeting process and described the major revenue and cost components so that people had an overview of the budget and its implications for taxes. Ted followed this with a PowerPoint presentation (Doc 2), showing specific trends and major cost drivers, as well as the tax effects of a 2-1/2 override for the average property owner.

Questions and answers followed. Items of chief concern were: purchase of a backhoe; transfer station improvement program; pipeline status; relatively rapid and continuing growth of the general government category of costs; and adequacy of the town's financial reserves. In addition, Emily Robertson of the School Committee responded to a number of questions about the proposed school budget for FY2017.

After the Select Board adjourned the general hearing, the FinCom members (Carol, David, and Ted) remained for David's short update about school transportation and the work of the BEST committee on which he serves.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Murray

Document List
1. Agenda for 4/25/16
2. PowerPoint Presentation re: FY2017 Budget