

Approved: 11/2/2017
Voted: 4-0-0

ASHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 09/14/17

Called to order: 7:05 p.m.

Members present: Chair Ted Murray, Melinda Gougeon, Carl Satterfield, Carol Lebold, Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Also attending: Town Administrator, Kayce Warren, Select Board member Tom Carter

Minutes. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting with one clerical amendment. Motion voted, passed 5-0-0.

Audit and Management Letter update. Town Administrator Warren discussed steps taken toward closing the FY17 books, expectations of a November Free Cash certification and ongoing improvements to town accounting and reconciliation systems including new cash management software.

Town Administrator Warren also reviewed various town trusts and some trust reorganization issues, and the OPEB trust and possible future OPEB actuarial planning. M. Gougeon and M. Fitz-Gibbon will work on trust reorganization issues and information.

Broadband. Carol Lebold shared information on broadband developments and the August broadband meeting, including pole work completion and likely placement of the switching hub in the library basement. Some discussion of improved property valuation expectations, T.A. Warren will work on comparable examples.

VEAC. David Newell has developed a proposed agreement to formalize the work of the non-district towns vocational transportation committee within the MTRHS District. The proposal is being reviewed by Ashfield and Hawley town counsels. The proposal will go before towns' Annual Town Meetings as an amendment to the Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement.

Next meeting: November 2, 2017

Meeting adjourns at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fitz-Gibbon
Finance Committee

Documents:

1. Minutes of July 12, 2017, as approved
2. Town of Hawley letter to Western Massachusetts Office of the Governor regarding vocational education transportation cost reimbursements