

Finance Committee Meeting
March 12, 2013

M, S, V
13-0-0
3/13/13

Meeting called at 6:35 pm

Present: Ted Murray (Chair) David Newell, Janet Rogers

3.5.13 minutes approved w/ changes

Ashfield House - no longer an asset of the town, currently property of Rural Development, Inc. and operated by the Franklin County HRA. Town does retain a vested interest. Ted will report to Select Board results of Ashfield House Report and further recommend it be monitored annually.

3.13.13 Special Town Meeting Articles discussed.

Ashfield Vocational Education - report presented by David Newell, letter of proposal to establish Ashfield School Committee to help oversee basic budget as well as school transportation issues.

7:05 pm joined w/ S.B. - Ron Coler, Tom Carter, Paulette Leukhardt

Discussion about Special Town Meeting Articles.

Article 1 - FinCom recommends unanimously

Article 2 - FinCom makes motion to amend Article 1 to read, Vote to transfer up to an additional \$7000 from Free Cash to Legal Expense, or act relative thereto. seconded and approved unanimously

Article 3 - FinCom recommends unanimously

Article 4 - FinCom agrees w/ SB's recommendation to pass over this Article

Article 5 - FinCom recommends unanimously

Article 6 - FinCom recommends unanimously

Article 7 - FinCom recommends 2-0-1

School Committee Budget discussion - Emily Robertson, Poppy Doyle presented - discussion followed

Ted proposed writing letter to School Board recommending against approval of school budget.

Motion made to send letter from FinCom only (not SB) with modified wording to decrease vitriol - seconded and unanimously approved

VoTech Educational expenses - Dave presented information and recommended to reconstitute an Ashfield School Committee to oversee and monitor Ashfield's relationships with the MRTSD and the vocational schools. Dave & Poppy volunteer to form Vocational Advisory Committee. SB to write letter to ask Plainfield, Hawley & Charlemont to join.

Ted recommends SB monitor Ashfield House annually. Letter to be attached to meeting minutes.

Parents of MTRSD students voiced opinions about school and town budgets.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Rogers