

Minutes of the Finance Committee
Meeting on 08/14/2013

Presented below are the highlights of our recent meeting:

- Mark called the meeting to order with a quorum of Mark, Buddy and Tom.
- General discussion regarding the Town Manager's request to transfer up to \$5,000 from the reserve fund to cover anticipated additional expenses in the Tax Collector's office due to a leave of absence.
- Motion made by Mark and seconded by Buddy to approve the request. Motion passed 3 to 0.
- Sharon and Leigh arrived so now, all members are present.
- General discussion about the proposed hiring of a law firm to represent GB and 5 other towns in the settlement and cleanup talks with GE regarding the Housatonic River. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission approached each town and asked that they each contribute an initial amount of \$10,000 towards a retainer. The BRPC hired the Pawa Law Group to protect the environment of the Berkshires. The committee questioned the Town Manager as to why this amount could not just be paid for out of the existing budgeted amount for legal services. The Town Manager stated that this amount was an unforeseen expense and it should be tracked separately. In addition, legal monies were needed for other expenditures and she did not want to overrun the original allocation. Tom expressed concern that we were only two months into the new fiscal year and we have already transferred funds out of the reserve account. We need to be mindful of the approaching winter.
- Motion made by Sharon to transfer \$10,000 from the reserve fund into the legal fees account and tracked separately. Motion seconded by Tom. Motion passed 5 to 0.
- The committee then toured the Housatonic Fire Station, Ramsdell Library, Housatonic Community Center and the empty school building.

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