

2024-9-9 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 5:02 P.M.

Attended by: Robert Baker, Roberta Wooldridge, Susi Westwood. David Honneus joined later.

The minutes from the August meeting were deferred for approval to next meeting.

Committee was joined by Peter Lapointe to discuss building work to be done.

The painting of the town hall and replacement of fire escape still need to be done but Peter would like to use the money to fund an architectural estimate of making the basement of the Hallock building into offices for the many people who now work in the upstairs. He will ask the rest of the building committee for permission to put an article on the annual town meeting warrant to change the designation of the \$88,161 set aside for the town hall work.

He will be attending the next meeting of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to ask for help getting money to hire a grant writer. Will also ask Peg Keller who is a rep to the HCDC to see if there is something they can help with.

We need to build up a set aside account for capital improvements.

There was discussion of all of these items as well as work to be done on other buildings.

Discussion of a possible split tax rate. David needs to talk to Gina about how it works so it can be explained to our tax payers that are concerned about it affecting them adversely.

Bob said he hasn't been able to work on the wording for a policy re stipends. We will defer discussion til later.

The 6% tax rate for B&Bs, etc. is in place.

The new fire truck is on order and now we need to decide how to pay for it.

The next meeting will be on Oct, 7, 2024 at 5 p.m. via zoom.

Meeting ended at 6:11p.m.

Submitted by Susi Westwood