

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM  
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA  
May 3, 2017

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Chairman John Hanold opens the meeting

- Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room
- **Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Fred Bowman, Michael Naughton, and Greg Garrison. Chris Menegoni and Patricia Pruitt were absent
- **Selectmen Present:** Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson and Richard Kuklewicz.
- **Others Present:** Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen and Airport Commissioner Peter Golrick.
- The Finance Committee Chair announced that the meeting is not being recorded by MCCI, and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one else was recording the meeting.

### **Reserve Fund Transfer Request**

The Airport Commission is requesting a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$8,000 to the Airport Snow Removal Services line item.

- The account currently has a deficit of \$8,267.50. While the Reserve Fund Transfer will not fully eliminate the line item deficit, there will be balances in other line items to balance the budget and leave enough in appropriations for the balance of Fiscal Year 2017.
- Mr. Golrick noted that this winter required more visits by the contractor to perform snow removal due to the unusual number of snow and/or ice events, and that although some storms did not produce a high quantity of snow as measured in inches, the volume and weight of the snow, sleet and ice made this year a very expensive snow removal season.
- The Commission annually budgets \$6,000 for snow removal, with an actual expense range from a few hundred dollars to \$15,000. They don't want to increase it to the level of the highest expenditures, and don't want to go too low in case of a harder winter. This year it was the consistency of the precipitation that made it more difficult and expensive to remove.
- Once a new Airport Manager is hired, one of the tasks will be to analyze what happened and whether to consider going out to bid for these services for next winter. The Commission is very concerned about exactly why the expenses were so high this year, and will be reporting the results to the Finance Committee and Selectmen when the investigation is completed.
  - There was a lengthy discussion about the differences of treating and clearing snow and ice from roads and clearing runways and taxiways. The airport cannot use chemicals to clear snow and ice, and they wait until the end of each event, so it's a quite different scenario.
  - Clearing runways is made more difficult due to clearing snow from around runway lights (located 10 feet outside the runway) and removing snow banks.
  - The type of snow has a much greater impact on clearing runways than clearing roads.
- There was also lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of approving the entire request or approving a smaller amount and possibly having to approve later supplemental requests. It was noted that if the full amount was approved but not needed, any "excess" funds would flow into Airport Retained Earnings. Retained Earnings would then be used in future years to either fund a town match for airport grants, or reduce the amount of taxation requested for an annual budget.

Mr. Ellis thanked Mr. Golrick and the other commissioners for stepping up to the plate in the absence of an Airport Manager.

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Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$8,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Airport budget, specifically to line item 600-5-482-5275.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

**Minutes -**

Selectmen Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 12, 2017.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of April 19, 2017.

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

**Topics not anticipated within in the 48 hour posting requirements**

Mr. Hanold suggested that the Finance Committee deal with as many of the future items as possible before the next budget season starts and proposed that we continue to meet over the summer for this purpose.

- Where a discussion should include the Selectmen, a date will be selected for a week that already has a Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled. Mr. Kuklewicz asked that all joint meetings have a firm ending time.
- Members should let Mr. Hanold know their availability over the summer months. Mr. Hanold will then schedule dates and topics.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

May 6, 2017                      Annual Town Meeting  
May 10, 2017                    Any post-Town Meeting actions needed

**Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM**

**List of Documents and Exhibits:**

- April 19, 2017 Minutes
- Airport Reserve Fund Transfer request

**Minutes Approved** \_\_\_\_\_

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John Hanold, Finance Committee Chair

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Richard Kuklewicz, Selectboard Chair