

Town of Sandisfield
Finance Committee Meeting
December 20, 2014, at the Sandisfield Library

Members Present: Kathy Jacobs, John Burrows, Dave Hubbard,
Donna Newman

Meeting Called to Order at 9:05AM

The minutes of Oct. 18, 2014 were approved as read.

Mileage reimbursements for Donna and Kathy to attend Wired West financial meetings were approved.
Motion to approve by JB, seconded by Dave.

Discuss Wired West financial information: Dave reviewed the Power Point presentation from Wired West, worst case scenario after funding from the Commonwealth is 2.2 million. There are 22 towns signed up for Wired West program.

40% of our town must commit. There is not a \$2000 out of pocket cost for each home to connect, that figure was used in the total cost calculation.

A non-binding resolution to allow the Town Residents to vote must be signed by the Selectboard prior to December 31, 2014.

Between Jan 1, 2015 and May 9, 2015 a subscription campaign will be held. (ex triple play \$119 per Month)

The Finance Committee recommends the Selectboard sign the non-binding resolution so the residents can vote on the Wired West project. We recommend at least two informational meeting to be held prior to the Town Meeting, along with an informational article in the Sandisfield Times, and a direct mail piece, to inform all of our residents of the costs and benefits of fiber optic cable for internet, phone and TV.

Town services, new town facilities, increase in tax base, and economic development all blend together to affect our annual budget processes. BRPC survey supports second homes and tourism in the Berkshires. (There are 625 taxable dwellings in town, of which 351 are second homes or businesses) We have Happy Bang's station on RT 8, and proposed Athena rehabilitation and nursing home on RT57 that we support.

For Sandisfield to be in good financial shape going forward the budgets need to remain even, with no increases.

We need to have financial recording with time clocks and GPS for vehicles

School budget talks on Feb 4, 2015

Our next meetings will be Jan 17th and Feb 21, 2015, to work on town budgets

Need to look at any Town properties that could be sold and put back on the tax rolls. Also, follow up on the application on Forest Stewardship presented by Tom Ryan, DCR at the Nov 10th Selectbord meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM, JTB

Kathy Jacobs_____

John Burrows_____

Dave Hubbard_____

Donna Newman_____