



Finance Committee
Town of Halifax
499 Plymouth St.
Halifax, MA 02338

Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 25, 2019

		Frederick McGovern	Leonard Teceno	Bill McAvoy	Melinda Tarsi	Vacant	Vacant
Present		✓	✓	✓	✓		

Also in attendance was Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant, Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Kim Roy, Selectman, Troy E. Garron, Selectman, Tom Millias, Selectman

Melinda called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting was recorded by Area 58

First item on the agenda: The nomination of Brad Graham to the Finance Committee. Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Brad Graham be nominated to the Finance Committee.

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Len Teceno

Before the final vote, Bill asked if we have to dictate a term for the acceptance. Melinda stated we should put the newest nominee in for the longest position. Bill then amended his motion to the following: Recommend Brad Graham to the longest term position available.

Second: Len Teceno

AIF

Melinda asked the Selectmen for a joint vote on the nomination of Brad Graham.

Melinda again, entertained a motion for the longest available term. Kim Roy clarified that she believed the term would be until May 30, 2022.

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Len Teceno

AIF

Next on the agenda: Voting of Articles

Melinda read Article #1 – Fire Suppression System - and asked if there were any questions or discussions. There were none. Melinda entertained a motion to accept Article #1.

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

Before a final vote was taken, Bill McAvoy stated that he is struggling with the cost and asked if we have a full breakdown. Charlie Selig stated yes. He stated that the project is not going to get any cheaper than now. Even if the town were to do this project in sections, it would still cost as much. This work can only be performed in the summer. There was a one week time frame between the sub bidders and general contractor bidders. Bill asked why a general contractor would be qualified to do all work except the fire suppression work. Charlie stated the general contractor is qualified for all other work and paperwork associated with the project, and oversees the project. The general contractor chooses the sub bidders he wants to work with. The first time the project went out to bid, which was for the roof, doors, windows, siding and fire suppression, the town did not receive any bids. Tom believes the reason for this was the town originally attached a number to it. Bill asked how much Pope's Tavern was. Charlie stated close to three million. Fred pointed out that the \$977,000 may have been too low. Kim pointed out this article is what's before us now and we have to decide. Tom and Troy both stated there isn't a good "out" in this. Bill then asked if we have a breakdown between material and labor. Charlie stated no. Len then asked what the alternative would be. Charlie stated we wait until it fails. We're putting band aids on it, but it will fail. If we piece mail it, we end up spending more money because it has to go out for multiple bids, etc. He also stated we have money left over from windows, doors and siding. We will bond the fire suppression project in 2020. Sandy stated we bonded for three million +, but we don't know how much will be left. We voted seven million but we're not actually borrowing it. We bonded for just under four million.

Melinda then asked if everyone was comfortable calling for a vote. She entertained a motion to accept Article #1.

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Len Teceno

AIF

Melinda read Article #2 – Highway Garage Doors - and asked if there were any questions or discussions. There were none. Melinda entertained a motion to accept Article #2.

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

AIF

Melinda read Article #3 – Upgrade Town's Website – and asked if there were any questions or discussions. Fred stated that he was confused about the \$7,500.00 cost for both Virtual Town Hall and Granticus. He also questioned the functionality differences between the old website and the new one. Charlie stated there may be more functionality with the new company and that it is a more robust company. Fred asked if the town votes no, do we have to vote on the \$4,500.00 cost of Virtual Town Hall. Charlie stated the current website is up on April 1, 2019. He will try to commit to Virtual Town Hall and will have to sign a contract. The Town cannot go without a website as there are legal ramifications to that. We must have a website. Fred stated he can't get a handle on

spending the extra \$1,000.00 if functionality will not be much better. Charlie stated he is hoping to leave town meeting tonight with something so he knows he will have a website on May 1, 2019. Fred stated he is leaning towards the \$4,500.00 with Virtual Town Hall. Melinda asked if we had a motion to recommend \$7,500.00 for a new website or should we let it stand. Len Teceno stated he wanted to amend the article. Bill McAcroy moved to let it stand. Fred moved to let it stand, but then changed and moved to recommend \$4,500.00 with Virtual Town Hall. Bill stated he thinks the timing of Virtual Town Hall regarding the website is questionable and withdrew his motion.

Motion: Fred motioned to recommend to transfer \$4,500.00 from free cash to upgrade the Town Website

Second: Len Teceno

Bill McAvoy was opposed

The motion passed by majority vote.

Melinda read Article #4 – Monponsett Pond – and asked if there were any questions or discussions. Bill asked for clarification on the word “appropriation”. Sandy, Kim and Charlie all clarified it as a transfer. Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article #4

Motion: Bill McAcroy

Second: Len Teceno

AIF

Melinda read Article #5 – Approve Pilot for Solar Field on Franklin Street – and asked if there were any questions or discussions. There were none. Tom stated that there is a lot of chatter about this and that much of it really depends on what we do with the \$19,000.00. Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article #5.

Motion: Fred McGovern

Second: Len Teceno

AIF

Melinda read Article #6 – Approve Negotiations for Pilot on River Street – and asked if there were any questions or discussions. There were none. Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article #6.

Motion: Fred McGovern

Second: Len Teceno

AIF

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Clark, Secretary

Len Teceno, Clerk