



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

Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 22, 2016

	Gordon Andrews	Linda Braga	Mel Conroy	Nikki Newton	Stu Hall	Julianne Crawford	Vacant
Present	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Others in Attendance:

Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Joy Marble, Halifax in Lights Committee and COA; Barbara Brenton, COA Director; Sharon Hartz, Vice Chairman COA

Chairman Gordon Andrews opened the meeting at 7:06pm.

The meeting was recorded by Area 58.

Meeting Minutes

Nikki Newton made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 1/25/16. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Reserve Fund Transfer

A Reserve Fund Transfer request was received in the amount of \$200.00 for shredding. Mr. Seelig informed the Committee that he has found an alternate source of funding so he withdrew the Reserve Fund Transfer Request effective 2/22/16.

7:15 Halifax in Lights

Joy Marble, Chairman of the Committee was present to request \$2,347.21 in funding for a police detail for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks evening celebration. They only have two people on the Committee and they are having difficulty with fundraising. She took the amount from what was spent on the detail from last year and used that as the requested total. The total amount that they need to raise per year is overwhelming. The Fireworks cost \$10,000.00 for a 15 minute show and they aim for a show longer than that. The Committee has never before received funding so it will need to start as an Article if it will become a yearly budget line item. It does not qualify as a Capital Plan request as it is less than \$5,000.00.

### 7:30 Council on Aging

Barbara Brenton, Director of the COA, was present to discuss the FY17 budget. She would like to add an extra 2 hours per week for her van drivers. It would increase the van driver's salary line by \$3,346.00 for FY17. The demand for the vans has increased as Halifax does not have a taxi service and Helping Hands is low on drivers. Trips average \$3.00 for in town, \$6.00 - \$10.00 out of town and up to \$30.00 for a trip in to Boston. Residents can also purchase a ride pass for \$20.00 for a certain amount of trips to save a little money. By adding two hours to the van driver's hours, it would add \$150.00 per week to the Revolving Account. Currently there is approximately \$700.00 in the account. The budget allows for 80 hours per week for the van drivers. When they are over the 80 hours, the extra hours are paid out of the Revolving Account. That account has been drained down lately due to the increase demand previously discussed.

There is a place holder on the Capital Plan for repointing the chimney on Popes Tavern if the proposed renovations do not get approved. All other increases in the COA budget are contractual.

### Tri Town Meeting Review

Gordon feels that Silver Lake needs to cut \$600,000.00 from their current budget in order for Halifax to be able to afford the proposed assessment. If they were to cut \$600,000.00 it would still mean a \$200,000.00 increase and that is not inclusive of an increase beyond 12% to the insurance line. Right now Silver Lake has budgeted the insurance line at a 12% increase, however it looks as though it may be as much as 20%. Charlie will know more in a little over a week.

The average family plan for one of our employees is about \$2,179.00 and the town pays 50%. Charlie will talk to the BOS about sending a letter to our employees to warn them of the impending substantial increase.

### Liaison Updates

Mel attended the Wage and Personnel meeting tonight. They may be proposing a change to the longevity program. 3 spreadsheets were copied and handed out outlining the possible scenarios.

A 2% increase in wages for Wage and Personnel employees this year will be approximately \$85,000.00.

### Calendar

2/29/16 – schedule Rick Greeley, Meals Tax Article, level funded lines

3/7/16 – schedule Gerry Elliot

Nikki Newton made a motion to adjourn at 9:05pm. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mel Conroy  
Clerk