



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

Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 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 Blackwood, Superintendent of Schools; Christine Healy, Financial Director of Schools; Summer Schmaling, Chair of HES School Committee; Cassandra Hanson, HES School Committee Member, Robert Johnson, HES School Committee Member; Robert Slager, HES School Committee Member; Kayne Beaudry, HES Principal.

Chairman Gordon Andrews opened the meeting at 7:09pm.

The meeting was not recorded.

Mail

Mel Conroy would like a letter written to Senator Brady thanking him for attending our STM and going to bat for us at the State level when it comes to getting grants and other funds to help with our senior center.

Stu Hall made a motion for Mel Conroy to write a letter to Senator Brady and give it to Kendra to process. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

A thank you note from Helping Hands of Halifax was read in regards to the donation made on behalf of Peg Fitzgerald.

The Fire Department submitted the Articles that they plan to put on the Annual Town Warrant. Gordon read the Articles and they will be discussed when the Committee discusses the Fire Department Budget.

The January 2016 volume of the Beacon was available.

The Registration Form for the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show on January 22 & 23, 2016 were made available to all members. Cost is \$160.00 per member and extra charges for dinner each evening. Any interested member can see Kendra for more info and a registration form.

A letter from Tallage was read stating that it will once again have a booth at the MMA trade show. Please feel free to stop by.

Meeting Minutes

Nikki Newton made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from 5/13/15. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Stu Hall made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from 5/18/15. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Nikki Newton made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from 5/26/15. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Julianne Crawford made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from 6/22/15. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Julianne Crawford made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from 7/13/15. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Nikki Newton made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from 10/5/15. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Budgets

Most departments got their budgets in on time. The water department meets tomorrow night so they will probably finalize and submit theirs then. The Veterans Agent still hasn't turned his in. On a first glimpse of the overall budget, the SPED line is sticking out so Gordon will ask the School Committee tonight for more information during the meeting.

Liaison Updates

Library - They have submitted 2 different budgets this year. One will guarantee Certification and one will be questionable. They would like to come in and discuss these budgets with the Finance Committee. Kendra will call and schedule an appointment.

Wage and Personnel – They are talking about increasing the longevity scale so they may be in to discuss it at a later date.

Board of Health – Exploring the possibility of having an assistant, with Wage and Personnel right now.

Stu mentioned that he would expect to see a decrease in the Gas and Oil budget line considering the current prices. Mel suggested calling Rick Greeley to see if he had any insight on what he expected the prices to do over the next year.

Landfill is going out to bid this year.

FY16 is the last year of the Police Station Debt.

8:00 Meeting with HES School Committee

So far the School Committee has heard nothing as far as State Aid numbers. They will possibly have an idea on January 23rd when the House releases the other numbers. The SPED numbers have increased as a new student moved into District and is living in a residential facility. That is why the transportation line did not increase. They will be applying for extraordinary relief for FY17 to try to ease this expense. In the submitted version 1 budget, they figured the Circuit Breaker at 50%. If it comes back at 65% (which is what it was at for FY16) that will be a decrease in the budget by \$96,000.00. They have also received 2 written letters of retirement for FY17 at this time. That will mean a decrease of roughly \$60,000.00. Kim Roy asked that if in fact these decreases do come to light, that the School Committee please not add more things into the budget to use up the excess funds until the Silver Lake numbers are in. 12% Insurance numbers are being used for figuring and we are expecting large numbers to come from that side.

The HES budget includes \$19,300.00 to replace desks, chairs etc. for one grade level. This would be a 7 year plan to replace one grade level per year within the budget. Also included within the budget is an equipment line totaling \$16,175.00 which includes the following (items are in priority order):

- Floor Scrubber Nobles Speed shine 2000hd 20" - \$1,237.00
- Kaivac 1250 no-touch bathroom cleaning system - \$3,100.00
- Genie AWP 36s 42' working lift - \$9,325.00
- Tanaka backpack blower TRB65es - \$599.99
- Simplicity single stage 22" snow blower - \$649.00
- Tanaka string trimmer split boom - \$289.99
- Pole Saw attachment - \$209.99
- Chainsaw 18" Jonsered - \$369.95
- Edger Attachment to #6 string trimmer - \$149.99

Gordon felt that this initial submitted budget would be a good one if the Circuit Breaker money came in at 65% and the two retirements remained decreasing the budget by \$60,000.00. Gordon feels that a 2.7% increase is reasonable. A vote was not taken by the Finance Committee.

There will be an Article on Annual Town Meeting to put phones in every classroom.

On a side note, Kayne Beaudry explained that he was able to find the manufacturer of the swing set out in the rear of the building. It was installed 19 years ago and they are warranting the broken clips and parts.

Calendar

1/25/16 – Update on Silver Lake, possibly schedule Fire Chief, Police Chief and Communications

2/1/16 –

2/8/16 – 8:00 HES School Committee

Mel Conroy made a motion to adjourn at 9:22pm. Seconded by Julianne Crawford.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mel Conroy
Clerk