



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

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, January 4, 2016

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

Others in Attendance:

Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Jason Vivieros, Fire Chief.

Chairman Gordon Andrews opened the meeting at 7:15pm.

Mail

An email from Karen Trudeau, Principal Assessor, was read regarding the Gunta Merrill property on the corner of Franklin and Hayward Streets. There may be a deficit in the Assessor's budget at the end of the year due to a recording error. They are putting the Finance Committee on notice in the amount of \$385.00.

Fire Chief Update

Fire Chief, Jason Vivieros was present to discuss the two Articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Fire Study Committee conducted a 15 – 16 town study to compile the data that is being used. The cost to do an ambulance call is currently \$1,200.00. 52% of the population using the ambulance service is comprised of Medicare patients. That money is not going to change. Neither is the money coming in from Mass Health patients. Patients with commercial insurance or auto insurance will be paying more. Currently, if the FD has a Mutual Aid call, the patient that is serviced by the town that aids us, pays that town's ambulance rates. Seeing as most town's rates are significantly higher than ours, a decent amount of our residents are already paying more for their ambulance services. The Selectmen have agreed to adopt a new policy for non-aggressive billing. They will first bill the insurance. Once that amount has been received, they will send out 3 bills to the residents. If the balance remains unpaid, it will stay on the books for 3 years, at which time it will be abated. No additional collections will occur. The Chief expects the abated amount to be approximately \$500,000.00 per year.

Our rates have not been increased since 2010. The increase may in fact leave approximately \$230,000.00 on the table and make it possible to increase staffing in the near future. Mel Conroy asked the Chief if he has taken into consideration any kind of accelerated replacement program for equipment if it is going to be going out more often.

The Chief has not looked at that at this point but will be looking at that when looking into his staffing Article that most likely will be proposed at the May Town Meeting.

STM Articles

Article 2 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mel Conroy. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 3 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 3 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend passing over the Article if Article 2 passes. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned to Special Town Meeting at 7:35pm

Vote on the floor

Article 1 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mel Conroy. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 8:13pm. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mel Conroy
Clerk