



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

Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 14, 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; Bill McAvoy, Capital Planning Member; Kim Roy, Selectman; Diane Ruxton, Wage and Personnel Chairperson; Sue Vogt, Wage and Personnel Secretary.

Vice Chairman Nikki Newton opened the meeting at 7:11pm.

The meeting was recorded by Area 58.

7:15 Meeting with Capital Planning Committee

A handout was given with the revenue sources and recommendations on the Capital Articles. The Library Computers will be paid from the Library Budget. The Fire Department 4WD vehicle is a 3 year lease to own program. The first year is the largest payment. Mel Conroy will look into the warranty details on that vehicle. The lift that is being requested by the MSBC is different than the lift being requested by HES but it would be able to be used in the school as long as Gerry is able to purchase a propane option instead of a gas option. There is an estimate to fix the current lift of \$12,000.00 and it is not cost effective to continue to try to fix it. MTBE funds are exhausted for the weed and algae remediation. Hanson may be willing to pay some money towards the cost. They are still talking about it.

Meals Tax

Mel attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on 3/8 at 8:45pm to further discuss the Meals Tax Article and a forum for local business owners. The Board approved the Article and it will be put on the Warrant. Charlie and Kim will discuss having a public forum. We will need to have a joint meeting with the Selectmen to discuss where the funds will be directed. Kendra and Charlie will coordinate.

Insurance

Mayflower has approved a 15% increase in Insurance so far. The final vote will not take place until April, but we know that it will not go lower than the 15%

7:30 Meeting with Wage and Personnel

A handout was given with recommendations.

The Health Agent has two hours in the expense budget already to cover the increase in hours.

The Fire Chief will request 5% merit increases for Patty Forrstrom. Town Meeting will need to override the bylaw as Chief Carrico did not do evaluations while he was here. She has two evaluations at CE currently. Wage and Personnel did not approve of the request for the override.

A clothing allowance for FT employees in the Building Department will be needed next year.

Next year they will be possibly taking out the merit increase and looking to increase the longevity program.

Meeting Minutes

Mel Conroy made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 2/1/16. Seconded by Linda Braga. Motion passed unanimously.

Phones

Sandy Nolan said that the bills are handled by the Police Department. The best thing to do is have the Chief and Toni come in to discuss it. Kendra will schedule.

Budgets

There is a concern re: the lack of casino funds that have come in to the state. We should expect to see the State making cuts in aid. Gordon will follow up. Silver Lake sports and Drama club fees are going to see an increase. By increasing that fee, they should see a \$57,000.00 increase in funds. That is how SL is going to fund the food service director at \$57,000.00 in salary.

Review of Mel's Ideas for cuts

Sandy gave out a handout with her responses by line item.

Line 7 – usage is the problem. Town Hall is now open on Fridays.

Line 18 – Step increase and vacation for a Retiree in the Assessor's Office.

Line 19 – Need Liaison to talk to the Assessor.

Line 34 – Keep an eye on the line for retaining employees.

Line 35 – Linda to talk to Con Comm

Line 37 – Linda to talk to Planning Board

Line 47 – 51 – Need to talk to the Chief

Line 72 – May need to be discussed. Gordon would recommend going back to \$3,000.00. Sandy would like to keep it open a while longer.

Line 126 – May be possible to level fund. Stu to contact.

Line 156 and 157 – See Dept. Head. Decision to be made in 2 weeks.

Calendar

3/21/16 – Review Articles, Line Items, Chief and Toni

3/28/16 – Possibly cancel due to lack of quorum

3/31/16 – vote 1% and lines 156 and 157

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. Seconded by Mel Conroy. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mel Conroy
Clerk