



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

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, January 12, 2015

	Gordon Andrews	Karen Fava	Margaret (Peg) Fitzgerald	Nikki Newton	Stu Hall	Julianne Crawford	Vacant
Present	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Others in Attendance: Kendra Kelly, Finance Committee Secretary; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Kim Roy, Selectmen; Mel Conroy, Capital Plan Member.

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:05pm

Mail

Two copies of the Beacon were available for all members.

A letter regarding the MMA Annual Meeting was read. The annual Meeting is January 23, 2015. It is not too late to register. Sign up can be done on the website.

Joint Capital Plan / Fire Chief Meeting

Chief Viveiros and the Capital Plan held a meeting and invited the Finance Committee to sit in as well. The Fire Department is in need of a new engine to replace the ladder truck. The Chief is suggesting going with a Quint style truck to double as an Engine and a ladder style truck for added efficiency. Our current ladder truck is a 1989 and is exceeding NFPA standards. It does have low mileage but it does not have a pre-piped waterway on the truck. In addition to no pre-piped waterway, it does not carry a pump, hose or water so a second truck always needs to travel with it to pump to it.

Being proposed is a 75' aerial platform Quint truck that has hose, water, ground ladders and an aerial device. The bucket on the back at the end of the platform will hold 2 Fire Fighters at a time (1000 lbs in the bucket when fully extended). The Chief envisions this piece of equipment being a 1st line piece for commercial calls. It would take under 30 seconds to set up. The bucket is beneficial for rescue as well as opposed to a straight ladder. This truck is a single rear axle instead of a dual axle. The Dual axle adds \$250,000.00 to the price. To replace our Engine 2 which is a 1996 would be over \$500,000.00. Replacing the ladder makes more sense as adding a third pump to the Fleet. More problems are starting to come up as it gets older. Last year the ladder truck initially failed the certification due to broken leaf springs.

\$765,000.00 is the approximate cost to purchase this Quint. There are also leasing options through Leasing 2 at 2.87%. He is unsure of the Warranty that comes with it but will get that information back to the committee. Stu is also looking for a lifecycle time line cost. He has applied for Grants but there is almost a zero probability that we will receive one. Retraining should be covered under the regular budget. Two, eight hour classes are included from the manufacturer.

Reserve Fund Transfer

Kathy Shiavone submitted a request for a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$850.00 to be transferred to Treasurers Clerical Budget for Clerical Wages due to the computer crash and ensuing issues.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Meals Tax

Most of our surrounding towns do currently charge this tax. .75% is the extra amount normally charged. Peg feels that getting it through Town Meeting is going to be a problem. An extra \$74,000.00 would be helpful to the town.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion for Finance Committee to develop an Article regarding the Meal Tax for the Warrant. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Preservation Act

Community Preservation Act adds up to 3% to the tax bill. It can be used for Open Space, Affordable housing, Historical Preservation items. We put in money by surcharging the property tax. The match is around 30% from the State. At least 10% has to go to each category listed above annually. Peg asked if it was worth doing this the same year as the Meal Tax. Stu suggested that it may not be a battle that we wanted to wage at this time.

Julianne Crawford made a motion to drop the discussion until next year. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Schools

There is going to be an increase in the budget for this year. The Vocational line will see a credit of approximately \$150,000.00 but the SPED line will be up about \$458,000.00. The estimated circuit breaker number will be at 55% and that will be \$226,000.00 for in house numbers. The State revenues for this year are in a crisis. Silver Lake asked for \$276,000.00 ion increases. Peg is concerned that we be honest about what we can actually spend. It is important that we can be trusted with our word. 5.6 million dollars for HES is the new school spending number for the year we are in. Gordon said we are no longer at “wants” for the budget, we are at the very least at needs. Kim Roy suggested a discussion with the Board of Selectmen in order to discuss the priorities of the town. It

was decided to meet with the Board of Selectmen on 1/26/15 at 7:30pm for the above discussion. The next SL budget discussion will be 1/29/15 in the Large Group Room at the High School at 6pm.

There is discussion about spending \$619,000.00 of E&D money on Capital needs. Gordon will get specifics.

Upcoming Meetings

1/26 – Mail, Discussion on Budget then right into meeting with BOS

9:15 pm Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk