



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

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, February 23, 2015

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

Others in Attendance: Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Kim Roy, Selectmen; Barbara Gaynor, Town Clerk; Matt Tucker, Communications Supervisor; Ted Broderick, Chief of Police; Jason Viveiros, Fire Chief; Patty Forsstrom, Fire Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:05pm. Meeting is being taped by Comcast.

Mail

A note from Charlie Seelig was read regarding excessive absences. The Committee suggested that a vote be taken the first meeting of March if a resignation letter has not been received.

Silver Lake

Silver Lake will vote a budget hopefully this week. Just because they vote a number, does not mean that it is a concrete number. 45 days from the notification of the E&D request will be this week so a decision will have to be made about the STM as well.

Communications

Matt Tucker was in to discuss their budget. It is bare bones, contractual increases only budget. There is new 911 equipment coming in and they will need to budget 8 hours of training per employee per the State for that equipment. The hiring turnover has slowed down. There is a \$500.00 increase in the expense line. \$250.00 is for mileage for training as the training center is relocating from Taunton to Milford or Maynard. There are rumors of a deficit at the State level that would impact grant money but right now they are only rumors.

Fire Department

Chief Viveiros was in to discuss the budget. EMS supplies ran low this year. There was an increase in call volume; standard of care has changed as well. There is some reimbursement from insurance that goes back into the general fund. Ambulance funds

were reviewed 3-4 years ago. If they are going to be changed it has to be brought before Town Meeting. Right now we bill at 30% above the Medicare rate.

The newest engine is a 2007. All of the vehicles are out of warranty at this point. There is \$7,000.00 left in the line item now and there is a check list of items to get done with vehicle maintenance. Over the past 5 years they have spent \$4,000.00 over what they have budgeted. There are no new trucks on the horizon so we need to be prepared that Reserve Fund Transfers may be needed to make up the difference. Extending warranties has not been looked at so far. There is a new Quint truck on the Capital plan for \$750,000.00

### Police Department

Chief Broderick was in to discuss the budget. He is budgeted for 11 Officers. The only increases are contractual. Electricity is coming out of Police Station Maintenance. That line should actually be increased. Charlie has a formula that he uses and will adjust accordingly. They are on the Capital Plan for 2 cars this year. There is a possibility that he can cut his budget by \$10,000.00 from OT line – wages, but that means that the quads and bicycles will not be out. Things will be much tighter but he will give it a shot. If the town votes not to fund the cars, his vehicle maintenance line may need to change. He is losing some computer maintenance due to losing a 911 grant. Power outages are still happening on a weekly basis.

### Clerk

The bylaw book may not have to be done this year so that would free up \$3,000.00 in her budget. The election schedule won't hit until FY17 so the Primary won't be affected.

### Accountant

This FY has 262 days therefore it is an extra day and will affect most wage lines. Her expense account covers training for one and ink cartridges. There is no room for her to cut in this budget.

### IT

Needs to be kept in the back of everyone's mind. Charlie will be working on concrete figures. \$70,000.00 is just a placeholder for line 15.

### STM Update

Article 1 – Passed

Article 2 – Passed

Article 3 – Passed

Article 4 – Failed

Article 5 – Passed over

Article 6 – Failed (Failed at Plympton's STM as well)

### Schools

Silver Lake Revenue subcommittee is meeting 5pm on Thursday with the Selectmen. Silver Lake School Committee will be meeting at 6pm immediately following the 5pm subcommittee meeting. Both meetings are open to the public.

HES will meet on 2/24 for a budget discussion

HES roof has multiple leaks and there are buckets out. They did not apply for the funding as of this time so there is no estimated completion date.

### Impacts

Communication wages and Veterans benefits could be in trouble for this year. Sandy recommends increasing these lines for next year. Gas & Oil and Heating Oil may have some extra in them. It won't be huge but it is somewhere to look. The ok to deficit spend for snow and ice has already been given by the Board of Selectmen.

### Upcoming Meetings

2/24 – Board of Selectmen to meet with Dept. Heads at 8:30pm. Gordon will attend.

Kendra will begin to call Dept. Heads to schedule meetings on 30 minute intervals to discuss their budgets.

8:55 pm Nikki Newton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margaret Fitzgerald  
Corresponding Clerk