



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

Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6, 2015

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

Others in Attendance: Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Paula Hatch, Silver Lake School Committee; Barbara Gaynor, Town Clerk.

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:11pm. Meeting is being taped by CHAT TV.

Mail

A letter was received stating that the Vocational number had increased by \$27,000.00 to \$159,000.00.

Reserve Fund Transfer

A Reserve Fund Transfer was received from Charlie Seelig for \$15,000.00 to the Veteran's Benefits Line.

A motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer was made by Peg Fitzgerald, Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Data Processing

The Elementary School did not fund ½ of a person as planned. The position was graded at a Grade 7 with Wage and Personnel. Julianne questioned whether a Coop or internship would be an option to potentially save some money. The line will be changed to a PT position at \$20,000.00. The first priority will be Town buildings with sharing with the school still a remote possibility. Total amount will be \$70,760.00.

Town Clerk

Statutory Offices needs to be manned while Town Hall is open. The Clerk is responsible for records, elections, voter registrations, burials and town meetings.

Article 5 Line Items

Line 15 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$70,760.00 for Data Processing. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 25 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend \$37,853.00 for Clerk Salary. Seconded by Linda Braga. Motion passed unanimously. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to reconsider. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$47,316.00 (30 hrs) for Clerk Salary. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 31 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend \$14,850.00 for Collector Expense. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 63 – Nikki Newton made a motion to reconsider. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously. Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend \$55,074.00 for Building Inspector Wages. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Peg Fitzgerald abstained. All others in attendance voted yes. Motion passed.

Line 75 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$159,000.00 for Vocational Education. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 78 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$4,127,189.00 for Silver Lake Assessment – Operating. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Peg Fitzgerald, Nikki Newton and Julianne Crawford voted yes. Gordon Andrews and Linda Braga voted no. Motion passes.

Line 115 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$7,395.00 for Board of Health Expense. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 119 – May need to be amended on Town Meeting Floor

Line 152 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to reconsider. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. 4 yes votes and one abstained. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$887,560.00 for Group Insurance Town Share. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Collector / Treasurer

See handout given for explanation of expense line. FY14 they had 24,322 pieces of mail @ \$10,049.14 for a total cost of postage. FY15 they have already spent \$2,998.93 on supplies. Kathy Shiavone felt that if totally necessary she could cut approximately \$1,000.00 out of her budget this year.

Vocational Ed

An additional Student will be attending so the cost has increased to \$159,000.00.

Silver Lake Assessment

\$4,127,189.00 is the recommended amount for the assessment this year including the amount for the Capital Plan items coming out of E&D. Peg feels that we have no choice; we can express whatever outrage we want, however, we can afford it and that is our job. Julianne asked what happens if the assessment does not get approved at town meeting. Gordon explained that Kingston and Plympton have not formally given an opinion that we know of. He also explained that this is not a 3 town Finance Committee. Peg was curious if this is a joint venture with all 3 towns. Her responsibility is to Halifax; however she would entertain listening to the other towns because you never know when you need a favor. However, we need to remember that a blended feeling may not be in the best interest of everyone.

Board of Health

Wage and Personnel has denied the position so they have changed their request to a level funded Health Expense line. Cathy Drinan would like to still pursue the Agent that she was unable to find last year. Gordon will get info on the Inspector of Animals from the Board of Health for the next meeting.

Building Inspector Wages

Wages were at \$63,669.00 including \$250.00 in longevity. They were cut to \$55,074.00 which is a decrease of \$8,500.00

Wage Increase

A 1.5% Wage Increase would mean \$69,250.00 overall and would include all Wage and Personnel employees, elected officials and wage openers. It can't be funded without touching the school budgets so everyone is hoping that something happens between now and Town Meeting to change that.

Article 3

Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend changing the Town Clerk Salary to \$47,316.00 (30 hrs) and level fund all others as shown below. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Peg Fitzgerald abstained. All others in attendance voted yes.

Moderator - \$200.00

Town Clerk - \$47,316

Selectmen (ea) - \$1,500.00

Treasurer-Collector - \$64,849

Assessors (ea) - \$1,500.00

Highway Surveyor – 68,798.00

Article 5 (using 4/6/15 draft)

Article 5R – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 6 – Julianne Crawford made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 7 – Will be Passed Over.

Article 8 - Will be Passed Over.

Article 9 - Will be Passed Over.

Article 10 - Will be Passed Over.

Article 11 - Will be Passed Over.

Article 12 - Will be Passed Over.

Article 13 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Article E1 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article E2 - Will be Passed Over.

Article IA - Will be Passed Over.

Article A2 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A3 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A4 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A5 – Julianne Crawford made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A6 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A7 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A8 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A9 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A14 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A15 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A16 – Recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article A 17 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A18 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A19 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A21 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A22 – Recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article A23 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A26 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A27 – Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A28 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Linda Braga. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A29 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A30 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A31 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A32 - Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Article A38 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Peg Fitzgerald voted no. All others in attendance voted yes. Motion passed.

10:26 pm Julianne Crawford made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Fitzgerald
Corresponding Clerk