



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

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, August 24, 2015

| | Gordon Andrews | Linda Braga | Margaret (Peg) Fitzgerald | Nikki Newton | Stu Hall | Julianne Crawford | Mel Conroy |
|---------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Present | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Others in Attendance:

Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Cassandra Hanson, Halifax School Committee; Robert Johnson, Halifax School Committee; Steve Pello, School Technical Director

Chairman Gordon Andrews opened the meeting at 7:07pm. The meeting was recorded by Area 58.

Special Town Meeting

Article 1 & 2 – This amount of money will cover the Town’s share after the grant, training for the Chief and the Firefighters and the changes needed for the station to accommodate the new truck. Article 2 will give the rest of the money back to the Town to lower the tax rate. Stu hopes there are going to be policies in place so there are no accidents due to clearance.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend Articles 1 and 2. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee would like Kendra to write a letter to Chief Vivieros recapping the discussion regarding the changes that will be made to the Fire Station. It should also touch on the policies for moving the trucks in and out of the station, is 6” of clearance really enough, have we received competitive bids for the work and if so may the Committee have a copy of them.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to have Kendra draft the above mentioned letter. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 3 – Peg Fitzgerald asked if we could come in later and ask for more money if needed. The phone system is failing as it is approximately 17-20 years old. There have been some unexpected savings to help with the funding. The A/C project came in less than expected. The switches had 50% funding from Erate. The copier came with 3 years of free ink. They will not be buying one of the printers they asked for and will use the copier as a printer instead. There will be a second phase that will need to be done at some point that will add phones to classrooms for \$24,000.00. The first phase is 18

phones. The Capital Plan is supporting this article. There will be no new wires as they will be using the current computer wires.

Stu Hall made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mel Conroy. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 4/6/15. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 4/13/15 with a change to the Building Inspectors Salary to Step 3. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 4/27/15. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 5/4/15. Seconded by Julianne Crawford. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Truck Information

The current truck being looked at is 9' 10' tall and the door is 9' 9". With the proposed changes to the station, they will end up with 5" of clearance. They have bids from Overhead Door and Acorn Door. It is a non-load bearing door so they can change the header. They will also change the exhaust vent system. \$10,000.00 should be plenty to cover the entire project including the siding. They will hold off on the ceiling project until the door is done. All training will be covered in the FEMA money and Article 1 from the STM. It should have no impact on the OT budget at all. \$10,000.00 should be the max of what can be done.

Linda Braga made a motion to have Kendra draft a letter to the Assessor asking for the tax rate without Article 2 and with Article 2 since the last Town Meeting. Seconded by Mel Conroy. Motion passed unanimously.

Reorganization

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to nominate Gordon Andrews as Chair. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to nominate Nikki Newton as Vice Chair. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Gordon Andrews made a motion to nominate Peg Fitzgerald as Clerk. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair – Gordon Andrews
Vice Chair – Nikki Newton

Clerk – Peg Fitzgerald

Liaisons were reassigned. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the changes to the liaison list. Seconded by Mel Conroy. Motion passed unanimously.

Mail

A letter was read from Diane Umbriana in thanks for continuing the funding for the senior van. The Committee would like Kendra to write her a letter back thanking her for her feedback.

A letter from the water department was read regarding a total water ban from 9/1 – 11/1 due to the painting of the water tower.

Silver Lake Meeting

The people that attended the meeting pushed for an open discussion but they did not display that. They are taking \$58,000.00 for the Food Director and putting it in the General Fund. They have been running negative since 2009. HES is having the same problem. They do get reimbursed from the State but there is a formula. Peg feels that all of this should be done at Town Meeting, not secretly. Starting in 2017 they are moving the position and not creating a new position so it will be an offset of \$330,000.00 in the January assessment. Right now there is a \$1.1 million surplus in the E&D account. Even though this money is being returned, Silver Lake still had a pretty hefty Capital Plan list to spend it. Pembroke litigation concluded and Pembroke won the appeal. There is no more money coming forward and the books are closed. The FY17 planning schedule was handed out. No firm commitment was made to move forward with these dates. Mel Conroy felt that they see the towns as an “ATM for their failures” but we should take them at their word and see what happens. The committee feels that all Fin Comms and Selectmen should meet and discuss all of this in late October. Gordon will contact everyone right after Special Town Meeting to advise.

Calendar

9/8 – STM meet at 7pm at the Elem School

9/21 – Stabilization Fund Policy, Meal Tax, Technology Plan

10/5 –

10/26 – 3 Towns

11/2

11/16 – Selectmen and Capital Plan

12/7 –

FYI

The Town has received a \$50,000.00 grant from Joe Kennedy’s office for COA Planning.

OPEB investment, Bartholomew was chosen. They will now handle all accounts and it is expected that everything will go much smoother.

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 9:12 pm. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Fitzgerald
Corresponding Clerk