



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

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, September 28, 2015

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

Others in Attendance:

Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant.

Chairman Gordon Andrews opened the meeting at 7:09pm.

Mail

A letter from the MMA was read regarding upcoming training sessions. The Annual Meeting will be 10/17/15 from 9am – 3pm in Sturbridge this year. There is still time to sign up if interested.

Resignation

A letter was received and read from Peg Fitzgerald. As of 9/14/15 she is resigning from her seat on the Finance Committee. Gordon will deliver the letter that Kendra wrote and all members signed. A proclamation from the Governor will be presented to her as well. There was some discussion regarding filling her vacant seat by possibly pulling from Capital Plan. What are the Board of Selectmen’s feelings on this? Gordon will plan to attend the next BOS meeting to discuss.

In the meantime, Peg’s liaisons will be reassigned as follows; Gordon will take Fire, Police and Communications. Nikki will take Civil Defense, Dog Officer and Weights and Measures. Mel will take Wage and Personnel. Stu will take the COA.

Special Town Meeting Review

The Fire Chief did a great job. Nikki Newton was especially impressed with his presentation. Stu feels better that accommodations will be made to the Fire House.

Meals Tax

Would be a ¾% increase to the 6.25% rate already in place resulting in a 7% rate. Most of the surrounding towns do it at this point. A check would come from the state but it would be considered local revenue. Stu feels it is worth a debate. Gordon will look it up and get the appropriate info.

### Tech Plan

The 20 hour per week person has started in the Town Hall. No emergency calls have been made this month. He is currently working on formulating a replacement plan for the current equipment and is also working with Mass IT. Hopefully he will start working at the school as well once things at the Town Hall are running smoothly. He has a budget to work with currently. Mel is looking more for long term. Charlie is working on it some more and will check in with Finance later.

### Stabilization

There was discussion of posting the current policy on the website. Kendra and Sandy will begin a search for the policy. It is in a binder and should be in the files somewhere around 2011. It does require a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting to establish a Stabilization Account. Gordon will get the data from the Region of the SPED over the years.

Kendra will write a letter to all 3 towns Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee's and Silver Lake School Committee regarding the upcoming FY budget meeting.

### Next meeting

Meeting Minutes  
Stabilization Fund  
Meal Tax  
Fire Study

Nikki Newton made a motion to adjourn at 8:10pm. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margaret Fitzgerald  
Corresponding Clerk