



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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 8, 2014

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

Others in Attendance: Kendra Kelly, Finance Committee Secretary; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Maureen Rogers, Wage and Personnel; Janice Hayward, Wage and Personnel; Cassey Hanson, Silver Lake and Halifax Elementary School Committee Chairperson.

Chairman Gordon Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.

Mail

A letter from the MMA was read regarding the Spring ATFC workshops. Dates are 5/1 – Legislative & Budget update, 5/8 Capital Plan and Regional School Issues, 5/15 – Long range financial planning.

A copy of the Beacon was available to read.

Article 5 Line Items

9 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$20,000.00 for Audit. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

74 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$4,979,248.00 for Elementary School. Seconded by Karen Fava. Nikki Newton voted no, all other members voted yes. Motion passed.

75 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to reconsider. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$153,000.00 for Vocational Education. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Town Meeting Articles

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to have the original Article specified when using money from an old Article to fund or partially fund an Article. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.

2 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend Article 2 sections 1-5 to include the wording changes as follows to section 5: “ In Chapter 35, Section 18 – Promotions, Change of Position, replace the following: E – Existing reclassified position do not need reposting due to reclassifications. With the Following: E – Existing reclassified positions or existing positions reclassified due to changes in the job description shall not be required to be reposted unless the changes are substantial. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

2 – Karen Fava made a motion to not recommend Article 2 section 6. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Gordon, Summer and Karen voted yes, Nikki and Peg voted no, Stu abstained. Motion did not pass. Peg will ask for reconsideration at Town Meeting once she has the correct numbers. Nikki Newton made a motion to make the recommendation at Town Meeting for Article 2, Section 6 at Town Meeting. Seconded by Stu Hall. Summer Schmaling abstained. All other members in attendance voted yes. Motion passed.

A33 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$9,300.00 for repairs and renovations of the roof at the Halifax Police Station. The additional amount will be funded from available funds. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

A35 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$15,500.00 for repairs on the sprinkler systems at the school, town hall and police station. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

A38 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$1,600.00 to upgrade the alarm systems at the Holmes Public Library and the Museum of Halifax. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Silver Lake

\$4,165,867.00 was voted as Halifax’s share of the 2.5%. That number was incorrect and should be 4,181,553.00 according to Peg’s calculations. \$163,250.00 is the increase based on \$4,165,867.00 and that is their share. Kingston has postponed all budget lines until another Town Meeting in June. Plympton is having more issues with their expected revenue from Sysco. They will need to recalculate again and they have to abate \$103,000.00 for personal revenue from last year. They still have not taken a vote on the budget at this time.

Wage and Personnel

Maureen Rogers said she was there to explain a few of the Articles on the Warrant. First, Wage and Personnel is recommending a 1.5% wage increase across the board for Wage and Personnel (non-union) employees.

The COA has a Geriatric nurse that makes \$18.00 per hour. The position is now going to be listed under the Wage and Personnel bylaw. They also have a newsletter writer and an outreach worker that are currently funded under a grant formula. They are now going to be listed in the unclassified section of the Wage and Personnel bylaw.

If a person gets hired as a dispatch trainee, they currently get \$8.00 per hour for the three month training period. Maureen feels that the entire training process is taking too long and now has been tidied up. After the training period they move to \$16.25 per hour. Matt Tucker has requested a new pay rate of \$13.40 for training (grade 2, step 1) to make it more attractive to applicants. Peg questioned that amount and will look into it to be sure it is correct.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures increase is to make up for last year's double mistake on salary.

Gordon said that if Silver Lake and HES budgets get approved, we are over the levy limit for raise and appropriate. Sandy is hoping that after tax title we will have a little relief from overlay. Summer has a big issue with the newsletter writer position and feels it should be a volunteer position. Karen doesn't care how it is being funded, if it is too much it needs to be addressed. Once it is classified under Wage and Personnel they have to be paid what it is classified as. If there is no classification then we have no jurisdiction over it.

Stu Hall made a motion to allow Gordon to write the letter from the Finance Committee for the Warrant. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting 4/28/14 need to discuss:

- Non money Articles
- COA Articles
- Minutes
- Budget Discussion

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk