



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

Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6, 2014

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

Others in Attendance: Kendra Kelly, Finance Committee Secretary; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Kim Roy, Selectmen.

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:12pm

Mail

A copy of the Beacon was provided and taken home by Karen Fava.

Gordon Andrews was given a survey from the Town Auditor that needs to be given to Sandy Nolan when completed.

A letter was received from the Comm. Center. They are in need of a PT dispatcher. The \$1,048.00 in the training budget has been exhausted and there will be a \$3,538.35 deficit in the line. Fin Com cut the training budget by \$8,000.00 at the last minute last year. When the Comm. Center trained the last two PT dispatchers, the contract was not approved so the grant was not in place. Therefore the PT shifts are being filled by FT dispatchers on overtime. There are FT contract shifts and 6 PT shifts per week. The supervisor takes 2 of the PT shifts and leaves 4 shifts (24 hours) open to be filled. This is part of their wage line. Karen Fava asked how many dispatcher turnovers they have had in the past year. Kim Roy said they lost Jeannie Steele and the last two part timers that they began to train. At this time, this is just for informational purposes. Kim suspects that the Board of Selectmen will give the ok to hire a new PT dispatcher.

Joint Fin Comm. Meeting

Representative Calter and both Senators Murray and Kennedy have been contacted. As far as Charlie knows the state is not giving numbers by Town. Charlie will ask John Creed to see if he knows. The assessments will be discussed. Also the committee would like the State Officials to know the effect of the July 27th release of numbers and the poor effect it had on the Towns. Fy14 assessment changes and FY15 budget and expectations should be on the agenda. What to expect for this FY and each of the Towns financial states should be looked at as well as OPEB. Peg would like to call Rep. Calter to ask

about the individual Town assessment numbers as she would rather he not be blindsided by the question.

OPEB

Some towns have borrowed the money and put it on a 20 year bond. Is this a good idea? The richer towns are doing it (Arlington and Weston for example). Peg feels we should be putting in more than we currently are. 11.5 million is our liability and it grows by \$650,000.00 per year. Towns had a choice to put in ½ up front or pay as they go. Now it is too late to back out. The public employee pool is shrinking and it increases the annual costs. Stu asked if it made sense to keep paying when you could borrow at a 2% interest rate. What are the chances the state could require everyone to fully fund? Peg said the employee pays 50% and that is the lowest we can go. Very few towns still pay that and it does help us out. Sandy said that the state is working on OPEB reform to lower the liability of the towns. Peg feels we should be supporting that. One meeting per month should be dedicated to discussing OPEB and long term liability.

Motion to have the first meeting of the month dedicated to discussing OPEB and long term liability. Motion by Gordon Andrews, Second by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

HES

Kim Roy texted numbers from the School Committee Meeting. HES budget is up 3.5%.

First Version

FY15 - \$6,621,060.11 (with SPED and Transportation)

FY14 - \$6,395,273.10

FY15 - \$5,050,009.23 (without SPED)

FY14 - \$4,834,221.78

FY15 - \$99,000 Out of District Vocational stays the same.

FY15 - \$1,571,050.88 (Out of District SPED)

FY14 - \$1,561,051.32

Warrant Discussion

No real questions so far on current proposed articles submitted. There will be a new position for the COA coming in but Charlie has not seen it yet.

Some things that are going to be proposed will be:

Taking the Com Center telephone out and putting it in its own line.

Postage account separated into one large account.

Traffic light account to include the school zone sign

Snow blower account for gasoline.

Board of Health

Cathy Drinan spoke with Karen Fava today. She will need to come in and discuss some changes. Her description is included in the budget but the amounts of subcontracting and fees, etc. will need to be discussed.)

Upcoming Meetings

1/27 – need to begin budgets so they can be complete by the end of March. Sandy will email a list as soon as it is completed.

2/10 – Schedule the Library and the Board of Health to come in for a discussion of their budget. 30 minute appointments starting at 7:15pm.

8:50 pm Karen Fava made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk