



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

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, March 31, 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; Kim Roy, Selectman; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; John Campbell, Municipal School and Building Committee.

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:06pm

Meeting Minutes

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2013. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Capital Planning

Capital Plan is recommending that the Elementary School Article that is requesting money for school computers be changed to \$25,000.00 with the understanding that going forward the request should be for \$20,000.00.

Per Sandy, some new funding sources have been put in. All of the moves in funding sources have made it possible to afford all of the Articles on the list. A financial team meeting is still needed.

Silver Lake Tri-Town Meeting Recap

Gordon Andrews was present at the meeting that included some Finance Committee members and Selectmen from the three towns as well as the Superintendent and School Committee Chairperson. At that meeting, John Tuffy gave a power point presentation on the budget. The general feeling of the towns was that anything more than a 2.5% increase to the Assessments was more than what could be afforded. Looking ahead to FY16, it will mean \$350,000.00 for all of the towns if a 2.5% increase is adhered to. The increase for steps and lanes and raises alone is \$364,000.00. In Gordon's opinion, this is an unsustainable budget. He suggests voting no to the schools number at this time. We asked for a level service budget from all departments and they have neglected to provide what was asked for. Peg feels that the 3 towns agreed to vote jointly and we need to know their plan first. She suggests voting a 2.5% increase if the Committee wants to vote

a number tonight. Karen said that in order to keep consistent with the other town departments, we would back out the 3 increases in order to achieve a level service budget; Charlie agreed. She feels that you are only as good as your word and Silver Lake should be given a number. It would still give a no vote but it will inform the public that there is an issue. Summer would be inclined to request a 2.0% budget so that the School Committee may come back with a 2.5% budget instead.

Going on a quick run of the numbers, \$88,800.00 would be the increases that were asked for above a level service budget. Sandy and Gordon will go over the number with the correct calculations and come back with a number next week. Gordon will draft a memo to Silver Lake along with Kingston and Plympton Finance Committees to advise.

All members present voted by roll call to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss negotiations at 7:38pm.

All members present voted by roll call to return to regular Session at 8:37pm.

### HES

The current request is for \$5,018,010.00 and that number includes all steps, lanes and raises. There was a lot of talk of recommending a 3% (\$4,979,249.00) or a 2.92% (to match what was recommended for Silver Lake, \$4,974,415.00) instead. In the end, the vote shall establish the total appropriation but it will not limit the School Committee on how to spend it. Gordon is going to speak to the Attorney regarding the ramifications of recommending a different number than what is requested before making a recommendation and voting.

### Article 5 Line Items

Line 73 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$29,200.00 for Telephone. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Line 78 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend \$4,165,867.00 for Silver Lake Assessment. Seconded by Karen Fava. Summer Schmaling and Peg Fitzgerald voted no, all other members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Line 115 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$7,455.00. Seconded by Karen Fava. Nikki Newton abstained, Summer Schmaling voted no and all other members in attendance voted yes. Motion passed.

### Upcoming Meetings

4/3/14 – Highway and Elementary School Budget Lines, Article recommendations.

9:35 pm Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nikki Newton  
Corresponding Clerk