



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

Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 28, 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; Cassey Hanson, Silver Lake and Halifax Elementary School Committee Chairperson; Mary MacKinnon, Chairperson Kingston Finance Committee

Chairman Gordon Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Mail

The book on laws relating to Municipal Finance and Taxation was received and moved to the filing cabinet in Sandy's office for storage.

A letter to the Board of Selectmen from Linda Hurd was read concerning the potential need for a new COA facility.

A letter to the Board of Selectmen from Susan M. Scott of 28 Hudson St. was read concerning the potential need for a new COA facility.

A letter to the Board of Selectmen from Ellen Murphy of 360 River St. was read concerning the potential need for a new COA facility.

A letter to the Board of Selectmen from Scott and Karen Leavitt was read concerning the potential need for a new COA facility.

Meeting Minutes

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/10/14. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/24/14. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/24/14 Executive Session. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/31/14. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/31/14 Executive Session. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Budget Items

The Recycling Center expense line needs to be increased by \$16,600.00 and will come from either retained earnings or revenue. They were not able to get an Article on the Warrant in time. There is a proposal to repair the rust on the bottom of the building. Charlie is checking with the Attorney and John Bruno to see if there is sufficient notification to the public in order to be amended on Town floor. The amount would be added to their expense line and then decreased by that amount next year. Stu was curious what the projected length of time for the repairs would be. It will have to go out to bid so Stu will look into it further. Vote to be held for the next meeting.

#### Silver Lake

The State has approved the Chapter 74 Early Childhood Education program which will mean a significant increase in State Aid for FY16.

Cassey Hanson came in tonight to request that the Committee entertain a \$52,000.00 reduction to the overall budget. If the Finance Committee would support that number, she is confident that she can convince her Committee to do the same. She got to this number by cutting the technology teacher position. That number would represent approximately an \$18,000.00 decrease in the Halifax portion of the budget. It would mean a \$36,000.00 difference between the total budget submitted and the recommended decrease of \$88,800.00. Gordon is uncomfortable voting before the School Committee and would not be inclined to change his vote at this time. Peg would like to see the money come out of E&D to reduce the assessment. Cassey reminded Peg that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee were uncomfortable with that and that is why they decided to use the Capital line for funding. Karen agrees with Gordon, no change of vote until the School Committee votes on May 8. Peg feels that the assessment that was voted is a very real number of what Halifax can afford. Plympton is approving the number that was discussed at the working group meeting minus the \$88,800.00. No matter what number is used, if it is not the same number as what the School Committee has submitted, it is still a no vote.

#### Annual Town Meeting Articles

46 – Summer Schmalting made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

47 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

48 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton.  
Motion passed unanimously.

49 – Hold for Building Inspector's recommendation.

50 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Nikki Newton abstained. Motion passed.

51 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald.  
Motion passed unanimously.

52 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton.  
Motion passed unanimously.

53 – Hold for Building Inspector's recommendation.

54 – Hold for Building Inspector's recommendation.

55 – Hold. Charlie is checking on the open School Committee positions.

Next meeting 5/5/14 need to discuss:

Article 2

Remaining Articles that have not been voted

Tom Millias discussion regarding Stretch Code, Swimming Pools etc.

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nikki Newton  
Corresponding Clerk