



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

Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, April 3, 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

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:15pm

Mail

A letter from the MMA was passed to all Finance Committee members to read.

Highway Clerical

The Highway Department is asking for 10 more hours per week for their Secretary. Gordon asked if 5 hours would suffice and Stu replied that he felt that 5 hours would probably work. Peg mentioned that the current Admin does a lot of Chapter 90 work which is very time consuming. Apparently, for a long time there was a lot not getting done in that office. The current Admin has picked up a lot of that slack. There is a lot more required by the State and DEP so the need for more hours could be justified. She feels the hours are merited. Gordon is recusing himself from the discussion, however he would like the Committee to remember that we are not supporting any increases for other departments and shouldn't in this department either.

Schools

Should the \$157,500.00 being paid to Silver Lake by Pembroke this year be returned to the towns? Peg feels that this is just a reimbursement and will work on covering the retirement for this budget; therefore the towns technically are getting the money back. Gordon feels that there was another revenue source that was not disclosed and he would never have supported it as it affects the budget's sustainability. Peg reminded everyone that Silver Lake is similar to their own municipality and a 2.5% increase is what we should stick to. It is the only thing we can control of their budget. Plympton has not weighed in yet so the discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.

### Article 5 Line Items

Line 82 – Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$38,012.00 (5 hour increase) for Highway Clerical. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Nikki Newton and Gordon Andrews abstained. All other members in attendance voted yes. Motion passed.

### Special Town Meeting Articles

- 1- Summer Schmaling made a motion to recommend \$7,000.00 for Veteran's Benefits for FY14. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2- Recommendation at Town Meeting
- 3- Recommendation at Town Meeting
- 4- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$10,000.00 for Unemployment Compensation Fund. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$30,000.00 for Fire Department Wages for FY14. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6- Stu Hall made a motion to recommend \$1,000.00 for Ambulance Supplies for FY14. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Karen Fava abstained. Motion passed.
- 7- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$5,000.00 for Fire – Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance for FY14. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8- Recommendation at Town Meeting.
- 9- Summer Schmaling made a motion to recommend \$5,000.00 for Data Processing for FY14. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- 10- Will be passed over.
- 11- Recommendation at Town Meeting.
- 12- Recommendation at Town Meeting.
- 13- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$5,000.00 for Communications Center Wages for FY14. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- 14- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$7,000.00 for Fire Chief Salary for FY14. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- 15- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$2,405.00 for the Sealer of Weights and Measures Salary. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

All members present voted by roll call to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining at 8:25 pm.

All members present voted by roll call to return to regular Session at 8:35pm.

### Annual Town Meeting Articles

- 1- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2- Hold
- 3- Hold
- 4- Hold
- 5- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend continuing the Revolving Funds. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

- R1- Karen Fava made a motion to recommend a Solar Project Revolving Fund. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$75,000.00 for the Reserve Fund and \$25,000.00 for the Water Dept. Reserve Fund. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- 7- Hold
- 8- Hold
- 9- Hold
- 10- Hold
- 11- Hold
- 12- Hold
- 13- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$150.00 for the Trustees for County Cooperative Extension Service. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A1- Hold
- A2- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$150,000.00 for maintenance of Town Roads. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- A3- Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend \$86,000.00 to purchase and equip a new Toro Lawn Tractor. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A6- Will be passed over
- A7- Hold
- A9- Summer Schmaling made a motion to recommend \$40,000.00 for the flat roof at the Halifax Elementary School. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A11- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$20,000.00 for matching share funds for Monponsett Pond grants. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A12- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$5,000.00 to purchase and repair radios and pagers for the Fire Department. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- A13- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$20,000.00 for new turn-out gear for the Fire Department. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- A14- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$8,000.00 for SCBA bottles for the Fire Department. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.
- A15- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to NOT recommend \$3,000.00 for two dry suits for the Fire Department. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A16- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$10,000.00 for Fire Station radios. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- A17- Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend \$2,000.00 for a file cabinet for the Assessors Department. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A18- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$10,000.00 for Assessors FY17

- Triennial Revaluation Account. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- A19- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$7,500.00 for Wetland Fund expenditures. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.
- A20- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$1,800.00 for 3 copiers funded from Office Machines. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.
- A21- Nikki Newton made a motion to recommend \$4,500.00 for computer hardware and software for the Holmes Public Library. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A22- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$350,000.00 for repairing /repainting/renovating the Halifax Water Tower. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A23- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to NOT recommend \$2,900.00 for COA phone systems and a phone line. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- A24- Summer Schmaling made a motion to NOT recommend \$13,640.00 for 19.5 hours additional for a COA secretary. Seconded by Stu Hall. Motion passed unanimously.
- A25- Stu Hall made a motion to recommend \$3,500.00 for South coastal counties Legal Services. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A26- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$25,000.00 for computers etc. for the Halifax Elementary School. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A27- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$25,000.00 for Town unemployment. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A28- Stu Hall made a motion to recommend \$76,000.00 for two police cruisers. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A30- Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$35,000.00 for Other Post Employment Benefits Liabilities Irrevocable Trust Fund. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.
- A31- Stu Hall made a motion to recommend \$31,500.00 for a MSBC truck. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- A33- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$31,500.00 for the roof at the Police Station. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.
- A34- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$53,760.00 for the alarm system at the Elementary School to be funded from Stabilization. Seconded by Karen Fava. Summer Schmaling abstained. Gordon Andrews voted no. Stu Hall, Peg Fitzgerald and Karen Fava voted yes. Motion did not pass.  
Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$53,760.00 for the alarm system at the Elementary School to be funded from Transfer or Raise and Appropriate. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A35- Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$13,500.00 for flushing, testing and repairs of the sprinkler system at the Elementary School, Town Hall and Police Station. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

- A36- Summer Schmaling made a motion to recommend \$3,856 for the Water Department roof. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.
- A38- Karen Fava made a motion to recommend \$1,600.00 for the alarm system at the Holmes Public Library. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.
- A40- Hold
- A41- Hold
- AZ- Recommendation at Town Meeting
- ??- Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$3,500.00 for South Shore Women's Center. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

4/7/14 – Wage and Personnel, please have them come in around 8pm.

Highway line and the 2 school budget lines.

Any remaining Articles on the Warrant.

9:32 pm Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nikki Newton  
Corresponding Clerk