



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

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, May 5, 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; Mary MacKinnon, Chairperson Kingston Finance Committee; Tom Millias, Building Inspector; Seth Pickering, Green Communities Program.

Chairman Gordon Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Mail

A memo was received regarding Article 31, 19.5 clerical hours for the COA. Charlie wanted to be sure that the intention of the Article was for 19.5 hours per week for a new employee, not in addition to the 19 hours currently being worked. They will make that stipulation at Town Meeting on the floor.

An email from Charlie was read regarding a reminder of the upcoming MMA meetings.

Line Item Transfer

A Line Item Transfer was received from Acting Fire Chief Jeff Cuozzo to transfer \$3,500.00 from Fire Training to Vehicle Maintenance.

A motion to approve the Line Item Transfer was made by Peg Fitzgerald. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

A Line Item Transfer was received from Acting Fire Chief Jeff Cuozzo to transfer \$7,000.00 from Fire Training to Fire Chief Salary.

A motion to approve the Line Item Transfer was made by Peg Fitzgerald. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

A Line Item Transfer was received from Acting Fire Chief Jeff Cuozzo to transfer \$2,000.00 from Fire Training to Ambulance Supplies.

A motion to approve the Line Item Transfer was made by Peg Fitzgerald. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

A Line Item Transfer was received from Gerry Elliott to transfer \$3,600.00 from Town Building Custodian to Town Building Expense.

A motion to approve the Line Item Transfer was made by Peg Fitzgerald. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission would like a memo sent to Gerry to remind him that the Finance Committee should be put on notice before any money is encumbered/spent.

A motion to approve the memo request was made by Peg Fitzgerald. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

A Line Item Transfer was received from the Historical District Commission to transfer \$114.00 from Historical Commission Expense to Historical District Commission Expense.

A motion to approve the Line Item Transfer was made by Peg Fitzgerald. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Budget Items

Repair of the Metal siding is needed on the Recycling Center Main Building. They have a quote of \$16,600.00 and would like to amend their expense line on Town Meeting floor to include this amount. It would be a onetime increase and next year their expense line would go back to level funded. Stu would like to see things like this in a Capital Plan in the future.

Line 111 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to reconsider the line. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend \$37,685.00. Seconded by Summer Schmalung. Karen Fava voted no, all other members present voted yes. Motion passed.

#### Annual Town Meeting Articles

Article 2 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend funding within the levy limit. There was no second to her motion. Karen Fava made a motion to recommend funding with debt exclusion. Seconded by Nikki Newton. 5 Yes votes. Summer Schmalung abstained. Motion passed.

Article 3, Subsection 6 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend 1.5%. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Peg, Stu and Nikki voted Yes. Gordon, Karen and Summer voted No. Motion did not pass as there was not a majority decision reached.

Article 9 - Unable to vote as there is no agreement as of yet

Article 10 - Unable to vote as there is no agreement as of yet

Article 11 - Unable to vote as there is no agreement as of yet

Article 12 - Unable to vote as there is no agreement as of yet

Article 13 – Unable to vote as there is no agreement as of yet.

Article 14 – Will be passed over at Town Meeting.

Article 16 – Hold for Town Meeting.

Article 19 – Will be passed over at Town Meeting.

Article 44 – Will be passed over at Town Meeting

Article 45 – Hold for Town Meeting

Article 49 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend the Stretch Code. Seconded by Karen Fava. 4 voted Yes, Summer Schmaling voted No. Nikki Newton abstained. Motion passed.

Article 53 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 54 – Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Special Town Meeting Articles

2 – Karen Fava made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Summer Schmaling. 5 yes, 0 no, Nikki Newton abstained. Motion passed.

7 – Hold for Town Meeting.

9 – Karen Fava made a motion to not recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Peg, Nikki and Karen voted yes. Gordon voted No. Summer and Stu Abstained. Motion does not pass. Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Gordon voted Yes. Karen, Peg and Nikki voted No. Summer and Stu Abstained. Motion did not pass. The Committee could not reach a majority decision therefore they do not recommend.

10 – Will be passed over at Town Meeting.

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

#### Stretch Code

Tom Millias and Seth Pickering came to discuss the Stretch Code. There will be a new base code that will be effective as of July 1, 2014. The energy code that is coming in will be applicable if the stretch code is in your town or not. There is a very small difference between the two. Most differences will be with new construction. You will need to hire a HERZ rater and a computer analysis would also be submitted with the permit application. The costs to the residents would increase in that area. The difference between the Stretch Code and the new Energy Code is that the Stretch Code looks at the entire energy consumption. The HERZ rater does an actual physical inspection in addition to those that the Building Inspector does. Renovations would need a permit, but only the part within the scope of the permit would be subject to the Stretch Code. After the 5 criteria are met, the town can get free audits and qualify for a free energy comp. program that is supplied by the Mass. DOER. It would require that the town have someone that can apply for the grants that are available and the town may be encouraged to form an Energy Committee. Mr. Millias is in favor of the Stretch Code.

Next meeting 5/12/14 for Town Meeting. Need to post for 3 nights at 6:30pm.

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 9:50pm. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Nikki Newton  
Corresponding Clerk