



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

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, June 9, 2014

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

Others in Attendance: Kendra Kelly, Finance Committee Secretary; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant.

Gordon Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:15pm

Mail

A copy of the Beacon was received and made available to the members.

Line Item Transfer

A Line Item Transfer was received from The Zoning Board of Appeals to transfer \$30.00 from Planning Board Expense to Zoning Board Expense.

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

A Line Item Transfer was received from Karen Trudeau to transfer \$1,690.00 from Insurance to Principal Assessor Salary.

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

A Line Item Transfer was received from Karen Trudeau to transfer \$450.00 from Insurance to Assessor Clerical.

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

Reserve Fund Transfer

A Reserve Fund Transfer request was received from Town Administrator Charlie Seelig in the amount of \$6,250.00 to Fire Chief Recruitment for a second round of the Assessment Center.

Stu Hall made a motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer for \$6,250.00. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Meeting Recap

What went well?

Holding the Schools accountable.

Community involvement, social media.

Younger involvement.

Tractor debate was productive.

Names that came up should be invited to join the committees and get involved.

Came in under the levy limit.

Ready before we went to print. Worked with other towns to achieve a goal.

Fin Comm. explanations were good. The town relies on the Finance Committee so there should be no more abstentions on votes.

What did not go well?

Senior Center idea was not sold beforehand. Credibility was lost by back pedaling on supporting the Article. The Fin Comm. and Selectmen should have been excited about the project in order to sell it. Needed more advance preparation.

Perhaps the Committee should dig deeper before approving Capital items. Maybe a joint meeting and strengthening liaison relations would help.

Voters did not have all of the information. The info needs to get out before Town Meeting.

How can we fix it?

The order of the Articles should be Operating Budget first.

We should ask more in depth info on Articles and be more familiar with the Capital Budget.

Make sure we are up to date on the hand outs. Don't just rely on Sandy for the answers.

Capital items should be listed on the Warrant for the future. It puts the town on notice of what is coming up.

Last minute shockers need to be eliminated. Selectmen know but the Finance Committee not knowing makes a credibility issue.

Department heads should be coming in to discuss/defend their articles.

Ask for supporting documents on all Capital plan requests.

January, February and March Capital Planning meetings should be attended by Fin Comm.

Upcoming Meetings

7/7/14

7/14/14 only if needed.

Stu Hall made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk