



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

Meeting Notes
 Monday, January 7, 2013

	Gordon Andrews	Peter Beals	Karen Fava	Margaret (Peg) Fitzgerald	Paul Weckbacher	Nikki Newton
Present	✓		✓	✓		✓

Others in Attendance: Kendra Kelly, Finance Committee Secretary; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Elaine Fiore, Chairman Kingston Finance Committee; Susan Ossoff, Chairman Plympton Finance Committee; Christine Healy, Silver Lake School District; Several other members of Kingston and Plympton Finance Committees.

Meeting called to order by Susan Ossoff at 7:35pm

Silver Lake Budget Discussion

Christine Healy began the discussion. Silver Lake will be looking for over a 6% increase this year that will include insurance, Contractual Staff Increases, addition of an Early Childhood Teacher and Technology upgrades for obsolete equipment. Silver Lake's next meeting is Thursday evening at 6pm in the Middle School Library. There will be an open Agenda at the beginning of the meeting where anyone can speak.

Gordon Andrews said that this increase equaled approximately 900,000.00 and we are still not sure of State Aid. Halifax's appropriation has changed, what about the other towns? Halifax FY13 was 33.9% and FY14 will be 34.8%. Kingston FY13 as 55.0% and FY14 will be 54.3%. Plympton FY13 was 11.1% and FY14 will be 10.9%.

Elaine Fiore stated that Kingston has asked for a level serviced town budget to include contractual increases only. Kingston would not be able to do a 6% increase. However, in their thought process right now is the possibility of putting an Officer at the school. The thought would be that any Officer salary needed at the school during school hours is paid by the Region and Kingston absorbs the rest of the salary for that Officer. It is relatively often that an Officer is called to the school and is routinely gone for 2 hours or more. It is draining Kingston's resources. Peg Fitzgerald mentioned that it really is a School Committee decision as our input is purely budget based.

If everything stays the same, Sped rates are expected to go up approx 4%. Tuition rates are set by the state. There was just a 30K increase per student (2 students affected) for

this current year alone. The 6% total budget increase does not include out of district Sped. That would be included in the K-6 budgets for any students up to 22 years of age.

Elaine Fiore asked where we should go from here. Another meeting? All Finance Committee Members agreed that they would have a better idea in a month and we will meet again the first week of February. How do we convey our message to Silver Lake? Elaine Fiore, Gordon Andrews and Lisa Hart will attend the Silver Lake Meeting. A real level service budget is what will be requested. Monday, February 4, 2013 at 7pm in Halifax will be the next joint meeting.

Susan Ossoff made a motion to adjourn at 8:23pm. Seconded by Lisa Hart. Motion passed unanimously.

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk