



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

Meeting Notes
Monday, January 14, 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;

Meeting called to order by Gordon Andrews at 7:40pm

Finance Committee Vacancies

Stuart Hall came in to talk to the Committee about becoming a member.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to appoint Stu to a 3 year term, replacing Dick Wright. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

Stu will attend the Selectmen's Meeting on 1/22/13 for appointment. Karen will attend as well.

Mail

John Tuffy sent an email to report that there is a leak in the newer of the two boilers at the school. The older boiler can handle the current heating load. The estimate for repair is \$11,000.00. There may be some kind of Reserve Fund Transfer needed in the future although not at this time.

An email was received from Charlie to advise that John Tuffy had been in touch. While one of the three students included in the vocational education budget for FY13 never did leave Silver Lake, one student is transferring in and Halifax will be on the hook starting on February 1st. In addition the student is not a senior so the amount of a full-year will have to be added to the resulting FY14 Vocational Ed Budget.

A memo was received for the Reorganization of the Wage and Personnel Board. John Grace, Chairman; Maureen Rogers, Clerk; Sally Wells, Member.

An email from Charlie was received to advise that Tom Schindler will be out for an extended period of time due to an off the job injury. That will leave Gerry Elliott short-staffed. No Reserve Fund Transfer is needed at this moment but may be in the future.

An email was received from Cassandra Hanson regarding the joint Fin Comm. meeting on February 4, 2013. She is unable to attend and was wondering if it could be rescheduled. Kendra will email Elaine and Susan to see if Monday, February 11 would work.

School Budget Discussion

Silver Lake Budget shows a Regular Day increase of 5.62%. Including the Sped Reduction, the increase would be 4.98% which would equal approximately \$300,000.00. Gordon will be meeting with Chair Lisa Gilbert on January 14, 2013 at 6:30 to hear the proposed HES budget. Without Sped, there is a proposed 4.98% increase. Total proposed increase is 7.94% which is approximately \$400,000.00. We have approximately \$310,000.00 for 2 1/2. The total town budget could increase approximately \$525,000.00 but we do have the retirement increase coming for FY15. If we spend every dollar, we will not have the funds available for that increase. Peg does not feel that HES should be held hostage by the Silver Lake budget. The population at the Elementary School is going down. There is no reason it should increase. The board decided anything beyond 3% is "unacceptable". Karen asked if the teaching increases are contractual. Gordon is unsure of the answer on HES as of now. Gordon would rather spread the money out. Schools should not get the whole budget. Peg feels the education that kids get in Elementary shapes them as a student and High School builds on that. She would rather cut at the Silver Lake level. Members were in agreement however we need to have the other towns on board in order to do that. We should be looking at a 2% increase plus the increase in Halifax assessment. Peter said that not only is it not acceptable, it is not even feasible. Peg suggested that we appropriate what we can afford and if there is more we can address it in May. Karen would like to know if the textbooks are available online. If so, would that decrease the cost?

Liaison Notes

Push Paul's liaison meetings back to the end of February. At the next meeting we will look at them more closely. The Library is scheduled to come in on January 28, 2013 at 7:15pm. Any other departments that feel they need come in can be scheduled for that evening as well.

Peg will be away during the month of February. She will email the dates once she has them.

Karen Fava made a motion to adjourn at 8:32pm. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk