



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

Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 30, 2012

Board Members in attendance: Peter Beals, Nikki Newton, Gordon Andrews, Peg Fitzgerald, Nikki Newton and Paul Weckbacher.

Others in Attendance: Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Kim Roy, Selectmen; Barbara Brenton, COA Director; Elaine Dolan, COA Member; Joy Marble, COA Member; Carolyn Vinton, COA Member.
Meeting called to order at 7:02pm
Meeting Adjourned at 10:15pm

Paul Weckbacher made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 9, 2012. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Peter Beals made a motion to accept the Executive Session meeting minutes from April 9, 2012. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 23, 2012. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Mail

Notification received of a course on basics for new Finance Committee Members. It helps with each different aspect of each Financial Department. Class is Tuesday, May 29, 2012 from 8:15am to 3:30pm.

School Committee

Peter was not able to get in touch with Plympton or Kingston to discuss the Silver Lake Budget. The override passed in Kingston so our only option is to talk with Plympton. Peg feels that the Committee should appropriate the funds as the other two towns have approved it and we are going to have to pay it no matter what. We can always address it with the other towns earlier next year in order to try to make a change. The correct number is printed in the Warrant; it just has a note attached to it that it is not supported by the Finance Committee. The number is 3,939,451.00.

Council on Aging

Barbara Brenton, Director of the Council on Aging along with her Board came to discuss the need for 8 more hours for a Van Driver. They are running out of Transportation Funds this year so Barbara is concerned for FY13 as there will be even more of a

demand. Realistically they are on track for approx. 1600 runs for FY13. She is hoping to get through June 2012 without a Reserve Fund Transfer by paying the drivers out of the Revolving Account and cutting back on the services provided. Sandy wants the Revolving Account to be used for anything over 70 hours and that has not been done yet. Peg said it is not our intention to have the COA cut services. The Committee wants her to encourage people to pay for services and donate if they are able. The Revolving Account should almost be at zero each month. Paul asked where the van fuel comes from. It is included in a separate line item. He figured that the average ride is taking in \$3.12 according to the documentation that Barbara provided. He would like to see the actual costs associated with the vans so that the COA can know their true costs and possibly adjust their rates accordingly. Paul offered to help Barbara set this program up if she obtains the information. The increase of one van driver by 8 hours would be an additional 6,273.00 to the wage line. Peter explained our level funding/service dilemma and that it really wasn't fair to increase the COA services when every other department was asked to level fund/service. In order for the Finance Committee to vote on this matter, it will need to be submitted in writing.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

2 – Discussion was had regarding the increase in taxes as a result of the wage increase of 1.5% vs. 2%. Sandy is not totally comfortable with the increase in local receipts of 165,000.00 which the Committee previously voted in. Discussion was tabled until next week so Karen can speak on behalf of Wage and Personnel.

16 – Hold until Peter and Paul can speak to Bob Badore.

19 – Discussion regarding funding the painting and repair of the water tower to be as follows: 100,000.00 from MBTE, 300,000.00 from Funded System Development Fund and 700,000.00 from a bond paid from the water revenue. The source of revenue is water revenue so there will not need to be a debt exclusion. Paul asked why not use all of MBTE? Pegs said that the fund is also for the preservation of lake quality and there is still an algae issue and too much phosphorus. We are still funding remediation on this issue and it will be a long term battle. Currently there is 232,000.00 in MBTE. Charlie said that there may be other water projects in the future that need funding. There is currently 393,672.00 in the Water System Development and there is a 2-3% interest rate on Municipal bonds. Water bills will go up 15% but there will be an outside company that comes in, evaluates and calculates what the rate should be. Gordon asked if it might be a better investment to purchase a new water tower for 2 million dollars. Will the current tower last longer than 10-15 years when it needs to be repaired/repainted? Paul said that the consultant did not have those answers when he was here. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to fund with 100,000.00 from MBTE, 300,000.00 from Funded System Development Fund and 700,000.00 from a bond paid from the water revenue. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Gordon Andrews made a motion with an amendment that the revenue from lease of the water tower go to water revenue for the life of the bond and then back to 50/50. Vote was 4 yes, 1 no. Motion passed.

20 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend from water/system Dev. Fund. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

24 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend purchasing 2 vehicles, 1 marked and one unmarked and for the 77,000.00 in funding to come from overlay surplus. Seconded by Peter Beals. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to amend the motion to purchase 3 vehicles and for the 112,000.00 in funding to come from overlay surplus. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Nikki and Peg voted yes. Paul, Peter and Gordon voted no. Amended motion does not pass. Vote on original motion was also 3-2 so that motion did not pass. Hold for more discussion next week.

26 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend funding 3,000.00 from Overlay Surplus. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

30 – Hold

33 – Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend 500.00 to purchase new chairs for the Selectmen to be funded from Overlay Surplus. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously. Gordon made a motion to rescind the recommendation and Peter seconded that motion. The vote on the motion to rescind was 3-2. The motion to rescind did not pass, so the original motion for \$500 stands.

34 – Peter said he has not spoken to the chair of Holidays in Halifax. Peter made a motion to recommend \$750. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

38 – Charlie expects that this will be passed over at Town Meeting. No need for a vote.

39 – Gordon will move any money that he can find.

44 – Peter Beals made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

45 – Charlie said the owner does not want to keep the land and will not continue to pay taxes. Lloyd Wright inherited the land from his father. Gordon Andrews made a motion to not recommend and then rescinded his motion. Gordon Andrews made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Motion passed unanimously.

47 – Kim explained that if someone stole something and a Pawn Shop in Halifax had it they would have to hold on to the items for 30 days. Kim felt very strongly that the police are the experts and we should trust in their judgment. Nikki Newton made a motion to not recommend the Article. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher. Motion passed unanimously.

48 – Lien property in a case where a person lost in court but refuses to pay. It will occur after the appeal is made in Plymouth Court (Clerk Magistrate) and then there would be an option to appeal to District Court. Peg made a motion to recommend. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Paul disagrees. If there are more fees then there will be more interest. Why should the homeowner be responsible for the hassle and expense of going to court? Peg voted yes. Paul, Peter and Gordon voted no. Nikki abstained. Motion does not pass.

Special Town Meeting Articles

9 – Hold as the old COA van may be able to be used.

10 – Hold

11 – Article will be passed over.

Gordon Andrews made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Nikki Newton. Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Wright, Corresponding Clerk