



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

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, July 9, 2012

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

Others in Attendance: Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant and Herb Wolfer, Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm
 Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm

Mail

A Line Item Transfer Request was received for 250.00 from Town Hall Electricity to Selectmen Expense for unexpected mileage expenses. Peg would like to pay it from the Reserve Fund instead of a Line Item Transfer. Paul said that documentation of the expense should be required as it is from everyone else. Sandy asked that it remain a Line Item Transfer as the Town Hall Elec. is a Selectmen's account. Karen feels that it should be a Reserve Fund Transfer as it was an unforeseen expense. Gordon does not feel that it matters either way. Gordon Andrews made a motion to fund 250.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Selectmen's Expense Account. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

A Line Item Transfer Request was received for 20.06 from Board of Health Expense to Board of Health Clerical. Request is due to increased traffic in the Board of Health office for perk tests and the Monponsett Water Shed. Peter Beals made a motion to approve. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

A Line Item Transfer Request was received for 282.38 from Town Hall Electricity to Weights and Measures Expense. Herb Wolfer said that the budget that he originally asked for was approved for 100.00 less than what he submitted. Peg asked if he has unpaid bills for FY12 and he said he was 93.91 short. Peter asked what has changed to make his expenses more than planned. Herb said that the increase is due to the decrease in towns that he covers. There are less towns to split the expenses with. That plus mileage is making his expenses higher. Paul asked why the number of towns was reduced and Herb explained that he is getting older and he is cutting back. Karen Fava made a motion to amend the requested amount to 93.91. Seconded by Paul Weckbacher.

Motion passed unanimously. Peg Fitzgerald made a motion to fund it from the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Karen Fava. Motion passed unanimously.

An invoice was received from the Assoc. of Town Finance Committees for 173.00 for FY13. A motion to pay the invoice was made by Paul Weckbacher. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

General Discussion

Peter said that at the beginning of the cycle last year the taxes were an issue. It was an uphill battle and problem. The general consensus around town was that it was not a problem. The Committee tried to focus on it and address it. Peter does not want it to be forgotten. Peg agrees regarding OPEB. She did the research on the tax rate. Our tax rate is in the bottom third. It is in the housing makeup that is different than other towns. Condos pay as to the valuation and the Mobile Homes have no taxation. Valuation of property is paying taxes according to the rent collected. The average of 335.00 per unit is being paid in property taxes per year. Peg is doing more research. She doesn't want to see services stripped because of a tax rate. Peter said that no matter how we measure we always end up on the top. Karen doesn't feel that we spent enough time on budgets and in the end it is up to the taxpayer.

Reorganization

Peter Beals nominated Gordon Andrews for Chair. Seconded by Karen Fava. All were in favor.

Peter Beals nominated Paul Weckbacher for Vice Chair. Seconded by Gordon Andrews. All were in favor.

Peg Fitzgerald nominated Nikki Newton for Clerk. Seconded by Karen Fava. All were in favor.

Kendra will send a memo to all depts. regarding the reorganization of the Fin Comm.

Liaisons were also reorganized. See Liaison List.

Charlie mentioned that the Annual Audit Report is available on the Town website and it will also be emailed to the Committee. Peg feels that the Fin Comm. should be advised of the next Auditor's Meeting.

Summary

Nikki Newton made a motion to cancel the meeting scheduled for Monday, July 23, 2012. Seconded by Peter Beals. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting is Monday, August 13, 2012.

Paul Weckbacher made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Peg Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously.

Nikki Newton
Corresponding Clerk