

TOWN OF HARVARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting Date: December 2, 2009

Meeting Place: Town Hall

Members Present: Marie Crowley Sobalvarro, Marie Fagan, John Sullivan, George McKenna, Collyn Bradley, Lori Granville, Steve Colwell

Others Present: Lorraine Leonard, Finance Director; Tim Bragan, Town Administrator.

Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

Adjournment Time: 8:40 pm

Discussions and Actions

- Marie Fagan was Chair tonight and opened meeting at 7:05 pm; sought public comments (none offered).
- No minutes to approve
- Special thanks to Lori for compiling the survey results
- Lori summarized how she pulled the survey results together
- Discussion about sending survey results to individual department heads.
 - Summary of survey will be published on the town web site
- Marc Robbins and Paul Greene commented on the survey results, suggested to look at the overall demographics of Harvard and compare them to the survey. Results could be skewed by % of respondents of people who have children in the schools and people who use the library. Both indicated that the data was pretty good but not to take the results too far.
- Paul commented on the DPW pages, there is strong consensus there.
 - No such consensus on the schools, many different views on what people care about. The exception is the physical appearance of the schools. People are not pleased with the physical appearance of the “Plant”.
 - He suggested we combine fair and poor and excellent and good response categories.
 - He suggested we include all the comments from individuals that came back.
 - Tim said not a good idea because don’t know agenda of each person who submitted response and dept heads don’t have the opportunity to respond to each person.
 - Decision was made to share results with department heads first
- Discussion on liaison work – The liaison job is to interface with department heads during budget process
 - Each Finance committee person assigned to one or more groups
 - Bob will make edits to the list and redistribute.
- Discussion on the budget letter
 - It has been sent out to department heads – no feedback yet
 - Tim will send a copy out to finance committee members
- Additional Survey discussion
 - Needs a Title page
 - George indicated the value of doing the survey every year so that we can see trends over time.
 - Lori will edit the survey summary document and resend to everyone
 - The goal is to publish the survey results to the town web site on December 17th.
- Lorraine reported on the recap sheet (Document provided to everyone)
 - Some FEMA \$\$ will be applied to the overlay deficit.
- Lorraine reported that schools will end year with a small surplus

- Schools have not allocated \$200K from their Devens \$\$\$ received. We received approximately \$700K and Schools have spent \$500K from Devens.
- Discussion on how the Devens dollars should be spent – they should be spent on one-time items and not on the general operating budget. The thought is that the town should not rely on the Devens dollars in the long term. They may disappear some day.
- Steve – School Committee liaison reported:
 - Solar panels are going up at Bromfield
 - Schools have put in request to take out the k wing. Not on urgent matter list
 - Have requests in for capital requests
 - Pickup truck
 - Retaining wall
 - Doors for K wing
- No other liaison reports.
- Next Finance Committee meeting December 16th, 7:00 pm, Town Hall.
- Future meetings will be the first and third Wednesdays every month, 7:00 pm, at Town Hall.
- Move to adjourn at 8: 40PM.