

**TOWN OF HARVARD**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
Minutes

**Meeting Date:** December 16, 2009

**Meeting Place:** Town Hall

**Members Present:** Bob Thurston, Marie Fagan, John Sullivan, George McKenna, Collyn Bradley, Lori Granville, Steve Colwell

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

**Meeting Time:** 7:02 pm

**Adjournment Time:** 8:04 pm

**Discussions and Actions**

- Bob Thurston opened the meeting at 7:03 pm; He opened the meeting setting the tone that the town is in a tough financial situation with the state of the economy and the amount of dollars Harvard will be receiving from the State. Asked the Department heads who were present at the meeting for their budgets back by January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Bob also said that we were ready to release the survey to the public. He invited feedback on the survey from the department heads.
- Sought public comments on the budgets.
  - Tom Jefferson indicated he would have his budget ready by the end of the first week in January.
  - Lorraine indicated that benefits costs would go up by 8% or \$180,000.
  - Question from Lucy Wallace on the survey and whether people could have entered more than one survey response. The answer was yes.
  - Comment from Lucy on if department heads say they can't offer vital services because of budget cuts. What will happen?
    - George - Looking for the Narrative piece on the budget submissions. Help us mitigate cuts by understanding the impact that the cuts will have on Services.
    - Need to make sure we don't jeopardize the equity that townspeople have in their homes by not increasing taxes a small amount to preserve the value of their investment in Harvard.
    - Question from audience on whether we are looking out the year after next in terms of what the budget will look like. Bob commented that we are looking at it and the thinking is that the budget situation will not be any worse next year.
- Discussion on the survey
  - Should we publish all the comments that came back from the survey?
  - General discussion with department heads on whether they care about release of all comments.
  - Finance committee voted to release all the data that came back on the surveys.
- Tim said no update from the state on any budget cuts.
- No other liaison reports.
- Next Finance Committee meeting January 6th, 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 8:04 PM.