

TOWN OF HARVARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting Date: Sept 16, 2009

Meeting Place: Town Hall

Members Present: George McKenna (Chair), Steve Colwell, Marie Crowley Sobalvarro, Marie Fagan, Lori Granville, John Sullivan, Bob Thurston, Collyn Bradley

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

Meeting Time: 7:16 pm

Adjournment Time: 8:27 pm

Discussions and Actions

- Fin Comm Chair opened meeting 7:16 pm; sought public comments (none offered).
- No minutes to approve.
- Fin Comm members discussed option for the 0.25 percent local excise tax on meals. Although the sum of money to be collected will likely be quite small (so that the impact on the town budget, as well as the impact on local businesses and their customers would be small), it was generally felt that we should let the Board of Selectmen know we are in favor of adopting the tax. This would send a message to the State that we are grateful for the opportunity to expand our local tax base.
- Fin Comm Chair informed committee members of a Tri-Board (plus other boards) meeting Sept 30, 7:30 pm, to review and discuss the Board of Selectmen Action Items for Achieving Goals FY2010-2011. All Fin Comm members will be able to attend except Collyn.
- Fin Comm members discussed next steps on survey: agreed Marie Fagan will send reminder press release to Harvard Post, Harvard Press, Harvard Hillside, to be printed in Sept 25th papers. No interim survey results will be mentioned in the press release.
- Finance Director reported on FEMA funds: \$375,000 still owed to the Town. She will submit the request soon, but it could take a month or more to be paid.
- Finance Director reported on ARRA funds: \$160,000 still to come, to help replace circuit breaker funds cut by the state.
- No liaison reports.
- Election of Fin Comm Officers. 1) For Clerk: John Sullivan nominated by Marie Crowley-Sobalvarro, seconded by Marie Fagan; John accepted nomination; nomination passed (7-0). Steve Colwell agreed to be backup clerk in John's absence. 2) For Chairman: Bob Thurston nominated by George McKenna, seconded by Marie Crowley-Sobalvarro; Bob accepted; nomination passed (7-0). For Vice-chairman: George McKenna nominated Marie Fagan, (John Sullivan seconded); Marie accepted; nomination passed (7-0).
- George McKenna thanked the committee for good work, and the ability to come together for productive solutions during a financially challenging year. The committee thanked George for his efforts and hard work, too. George will remain the Fin Comm liaison to the Capital Committee.
- New Chairman Bob Thurston asked all members to consider the format for budget submissions as a beginning agenda item, for our next meeting.
- Next Fin Comm meeting Oct 7th, 7:00 pm, Town Hall. Future meetings will be first and third Wednesdays every month, 7:00 pm, at Town Hall.
- Move to adjourn at 8:27 PM.