

TOWN OF HARVARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting Date: January 23, 2010

Meeting Place: Town Hall

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

Others Present: Lorraine Leonard, Finance Director

Meeting Time: 9:10 am

Adjournment Time: 11:50 am

Discussions and Actions

- Bob Thurston opened the meeting at 9:00am
- Answers to our questions to the Fire Chief were received. We will review them when we meet with the Fire Chief.
- We received FY09 Actuals from the Finance Department
- Continued reviewing each department's budget. We will generate questions and send them to each department head.
- The first budget covered was Board of Selectmen
 - We discussed the narrative and the budget by line.
 - We discussed that Tim's salary should not be cut.
 - Would like to understand details about Tim's potential bonus.
- School Budget
 - We discussed the narrative and the budget by line.
 - Questions:
 - Could we get some clarification on the number of Kindergarten aides? Going from 4-6. In general we would like to understand how the requirement for aides is determined.
 - Bromfield – Acct # 51942 – Could we cost share the consultant cost with another school system. \$10K seems like a lot for the amount of work. Could you go to .1FTE?
 - How many students take advantage of the Virtual High School? What courses were taken? Who decides who can take advantage of the Virtual High School? Could we add a teacher stipend to encourage more and better use of the Virtual High School?
 - Acct # 53214 – Could we offer parents more money to transport their own children. A lot of money for this line item. Are there other things we can do to reduce this cost?
 - Acct# 54810 – Could we get a list of facilities where the children are at?
 - Athletics – Could we get more detail on the stipends – Are some paid more than others? What is in the teacher's contract and what is not?
- Missing budgets from Park and Rec, Cemetery, and Board of Health
 - Tim indicated at the January 20th we can plug-in \$0.00 for Cemetery and Parks and Rec.
- Lori provided data on towns that have requested MAR waivers. The data would suggest that there is very little risk that the Library would lose its certification if it stays at a level budget or has its budget reduced by 5%.

No liaison reports.

Next Finance Committee meeting Wednesday January 27th, 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 11:50AM

