

TOWN OF HARVARD
Finance Committee
Minutes

Meeting Date: Saturday, January 19, 2013

Meeting Place: Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Alice von Loesecke, Laura Vilain (Associate), Steve Colwell, Alan Frazer, Heidi Frank, George McKenna, Don Ludwig (Associate)

Members Not Present: Bob Thurston, Rudy Minar

Others Present: Tim Bragan – Town Administrator

- Economic Development Committee (EDC): Elaine Lazarus (Chair)
- Park and Recreation Committee: Jim Dyer, Anne M. Waters, John Lee

Meeting Time: 9:08 AM Adjournment Time: 10:32 AM

Discussion and Actions

- Meeting Minutes – Minutes of 1/2/13 and 1/9/13 were approved as amended (5-0)
- Public Commentary – NA
- EDC FY14 Budget Request Review; 9:15 AM – 9:25 AM
 - Elaine responded to questions, posed in advance by FinCom relating to the FY 14 Budget request submission. Elaine advised that the initial \$15,000 request to fund a website had been reduced to \$5,282. Discussion ensued identifying the potential of tapping into a pool of Town technology-centric volunteers to aid in this website design effort as well as similar types of technology-related requests that have arisen across other boards and departments.
- Parks and Recreation FY14 Budget Request Review; 9:25 AM- 9:45 AM
 - Jim, Anne and John addressed;
 - A willingness to engage with The Library, The Schools and The Center on the Common to determine how these four groups might coordinate and collaborate to address the question of after school activities in response to the tremendous increase in after school Library traffic.
 - Remaining open questions with replacing PayPal with Sage as well as technology challenges related to integrating with the Town's website.
- Finance FY14 Budget submission review – deferred
- Board of Selectmen FY14 Budget submission review – deferred
- Schools FY14 Budget submission questions follow-up
 - School Superintendent submitted written response to FinCom questions;
 - Clarification on SPED Reserve Fund
 - Elaboration on top 7 “FY14 budgetary needs that exceed level service guidelines”
- FinCom responded with two additional follow-up questions; one pertaining to the timing of the SPED request and the second relating to the procurement process for textbooks
- Town Administrator Report – Tim
 - Tim opined that the governor's intention to seek increases to state income and gasoline taxes, in spite of also seeking a reduction in the state sales tax, could affect the Town's willingness to support increases to the budget.

- Town Hall Project update
 - 1/15/13 – A variance request was filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a hearing scheduled for 2/13/13.
 - The BOS is scheduled to commence selection process for temporary relocation of TH. Potential sites are; The Old Library, Appleworks and a site at Devens
 - The plan precludes relocation before next Spring's ATM and occupancy of the refurbished TH until after the ATM in the Spring of 2014
- Finance Director Report - NA
- Liaison Reports
 - Schools Superintendent Search Committee – Laura advised that the School Committee had temporarily postponed the search for a new Schools Superintendent
 - Capital Committee – George informed us that CPIC met 1/17/13 and, among its accomplishments, had worked through their ratings criteria for this year's capital requests
- Meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM