

TOWN OF HARVARD
Finance Committee
Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Meeting Place: Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Members Not Present: George McKenna, Bob Thurston

Others Present: Tim Bragan, Town Administrator

Meeting Time: 7:06 PM Adjournment Time: 9:17 PM

Discussion and Actions

- Meeting Minutes
 - Minutes of January 26, 2013, prepared by Don Ludwig, were approved as amended (5-0-1)
 - Minutes of February 6, 2013 were approved as amended (6-0)
- Public Commentary – NA
- Review of current budget status
 - Tim distributed the following handouts;
 - Schools response clarifying budget status of health insurance costs for K-12 Adjustment Counselor
 - Schools FY14 Final Budget Submission incorporating last adjustments and incorporation of priority budget items recommended by FinCom
 - DRAFT FY14 Level Service & RECAP Omnibus Budget as of 2/13/13;
 - Current surplus projected to be \$52,499
 - Current RECAP includes recommendation to transfer \$150,000 from Stabilization to OPEB; discussed potential of reducing that to \$100,000 before finalizing FY14 budget recommendation; yet to be determined
 - Increased New Growth from \$60,000 to \$75,000
 - Concerning BOH budget request to increase AA hours, reviewed Personnel actual budget year to date and decided that Heidi would follow up with BOH Chair, Tom Phillipou (on behalf of traveling FinCom Liaison Bob Thurston) for further discussion, after which FinCom to make informed recommendation
 - Rudy to approach Planning Board regarding need to submit a warrant article to address 6/30/13 sunset clause of last year's approved Article 28
 - Tim provided a brief update on work status of emergency repairs identified in the Galeota Report and authorized at last year's ATM
 - 2/13/13 letter from the Land Use Board advising its unanimous vote "to not increase the existing WPB fee structure at this time"
- Review of articles for the Book
 - Heidi provided two options of photo cover and group agreed on one
 - Tim submitted, on Lorraine's behalf, the revised FY12 Reserve Fund Transfers (and 2012

Stabilization Funds Summary)

- Tim distributed, on Bob's behalf, "Bob's Annual Chart" of selected MA DOR financial measures comparing Harvard metrics against a number of like communities in the surrounding area
- Tim distributed the 12/31/12 report of the Town of Harvard Trust Funds
- Tim distributed the Non-School Omnibus Account Balances Report as of 6/30/12
- Tim distributed and provided a brief overview of his initial drafts of 19 warrant articles now in process; more to follow
- Tim distributed the 2/8/13 Town of Harvard Budget Report (YTD actual to budget)
- Alice summarized her draft content and talking points for the Finance Committee Address
- Town Administrator Report – Tim
 - Tim offered that the state budget process is underway, that the MA Taxpayers Foundation is not generally supportive of the governor's tax recommendations. Further, Tim advised that whenever both a governor and lieutenant governor are lame ducks, the practice has been for the House to take the lead in the budget process with significant input from the Speaker of the House.
 - Tim advised that the state's OPEB Commission concluded its work and released its recommendations on 1/11/13.
 - Tim informed us that he and Lorraine will participate in the 3/4/13 OPEB conference to be held in Wrentham, MA. The purpose of the meeting is for municipal representatives to review proposed OPEB regulations that may be issued by the state.
- Liaison Reports
 - Steve reported that the School Committee was pleased with FinCom's support of some, not all, of its priority budget requests (beyond Level Service), and further, though it has latitude, the School Committee's intent is to allocate any increase in funds approved at ATM to the purposes expressly recommended by FinCom
- Other Business – Discussed All Boards Meeting scheduled for Saturday, 2/16/13 at 9:00 AM
- Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM