

FINCOM
Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2015

Members Present: Don, Steve, Heidi, Bruce, John
Not Present: Laura, Rudy, Alice
Others: Tim, Lorraine, and Bill Johnson, HCTV Committee
Location: Hapgood Room, Old Library

Don called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Minutes: The Minutes of the November 18 meeting were unanimously approved including one correction offered by Lorraine.

Harvard Cable TV: Bill Johnson presented to the committee a summary of their 10 year strategic plan. The 10 year agreement with Charter has been finalized and includes upgrading all recording and broadcast capabilities to digital/HD over a fiber optic network that will connect key town buildings, all of which will be paid for by Charter. He also shared their detailed 10 year spending and funding projections, and estimated operational and capital expenditure plans. Bill does not expect that HCTV will need any current or future taxpayer funding to operate.

Town Administrator Report: Tim informed the committee that two companies have submitted proposals for the Hildreth House work. The Town Hall renovation remains on schedule.

Finance Director Report: Lorraine distributed binders containing all the FY17 budget requests, Tim and Lorraine's questions on those requests, and any responses to those questions from the BOS review. She also distributed a preliminary recap rollup of these budgets excluding Schools which is scheduled to be approved by the School Committee at their meeting December 14.

FY17 Budget Reviews: The committee members were urged to contact any committees they were a liaison to that had not submitted a budget to do so ASAP. Tim reminded us that any warrant articles involving money are due January 15 and the non-money warrant articles will be due February 1.

After some discussion, the consensus of the committee will be to focus on developing questions about budget requests in sections 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 at our meeting December 9. If the School budget is approved on December 12 as planned, we plan to focus on that budget and Section 4 (DPW) at our December 16 meeting. Questions can then be submitted back to the committees in mid-December.

Liaison Reports: Bruce shared a concern from the COA about where they could relocate during the Hildreth House renovations. Tim assured Bruce that they could use the Old Library as he was certain town offices will move back to the renovated Town Hall before the Hildreth House project will begin. Steve shared a copy of a **Harvard Press** article summarizing the current thinking about user fees, and distributed a copy summarizing the upper Bromfield parking lot resurfacing project. After some discussion regarding the parking lot plans, the committee was concerned that the quote of \$275,000 was unrealistically low.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 9 at 7PM at the Hildreth House to review and identify additional questions for all budgets in sections 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Seeley, Secretary