Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday October 19, 2020**

**Committee Members Present**: Melinda Tarsi, Cheryll Zarella Burke, Fred McGovern, Bill McAvoy, Drew McGlincy, Tom Connolly and Lauren Carmichael (joined at 6:18)

Also, in attendance in the audience was: Charlie Seelig

The meeting was recorded by Zoom

**Melinda called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:01 pm**

Melinda asked Charlie if there were any budget updates. Charlie said he was looking at a couple unexpected expenses he is waiting for more information on before he brings it to Finance officially. He said there were problems with the sign in front of the Fire Station and that we may need a new PA system for meetings. Charlie said the current system can only allow for a total of 5 microphones. He said we need a minimum 6 microphones (5 committee members on the bigger boards and 1 for the audience). Charlie asked Scott to investigate systems that could handle up to 8 microphones. Charlie said when he had more information on the cost of the two issues, he would come back to Fin Com. Melinda asked Charlie if we expected to be able to follow the “regular” budget cycle in FY22 and meet with department heads in December for the first step of the FY22 budget cycle. Charlie said the usual cycle would work and hopefully we would have a better idea of FY22 state aide figures by December. Melinda asked if the Finance Committee should anticipate any Reserve Fund Transfer requests due to the extra costs of the Annual Town Meeting having been stretched over several nights and unusual set up costs due to COVID. Charlie said he expected most of the costs could probably be covered by CARES act money.

**Melinda entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 10/5/2020**.

Motion: Bill

Second: Cheryll

**4-0-2 (Drew and Tom Connolly abstained because they were not at that meeting)**

Correspondence: Linda Cole said there was just the note from the Selectmen approving the appointments of Tom Connolly and Lauren Carmichael to the Finance Committee. Melinda mentioned the emails about the Association of Town Finance Committees (ATFC) classes on 10/22 and 10/29 and 11/12. She asked who might like to attend and Cheryll, Melinda, Tom Connolly all wanted to attend.

Melinda entertained a motion to expend $75 from the finance Committee expense so that members could attend the ATFC trainings

Motion: Bill

Second: Cheryll

5-0 (Tom abstained as he had not been sworn in yet)

Public Participation: there was none

As May Arise: Drew said he had some questions. He wanted to point out that the school budget seemed to have gone up 8% since 2016 and he was wondering why. He also wanted to state that he thought it would be a good idea for the Town to subsidize solar panels on people’s homes. He thought maybe the Town could increase the excise tax in order to fund solar subsidies. Drew mentioned that if the Town decides to do any solar projects, he would like to personally bid them for the price because he feels he has the experience. Drew said he also had some questions about solar farms in Halifax. Melinda suggested maybe it would be best for Drew to speak with the Conservation Commission if he was interested in solar farms. She mentioned to Drew that the Finance Committee just deals with money issues for the most part and doesn’t get involved in bringing about new projects. She said if Drew wanted to discuss starting up projects then the Conservation Commission would be the place to start. Drew said maybe he would look into that. Melinda said that would be good because the Finance Committee only deals with financial issues.

**Melinda entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:23pm**

Motion: Bill

Second: Cheryll

**AIF**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cole, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fred McGovern, Clerk