Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday April 12, 2021**

**Committee Members Present**: Fred McGovern, Joe Vetrano, Tom Connolly, Cheryll Zarella Burke, Drew McGlincy and Deb Pasquale

Also, in attendance in the audience were: Charlie Seelig, Chief Chaves, Sandra Nolan, Bob Ross, Gordon Andrews and D

The meeting was recorded by Zoom

**Fred called the meeting to order at 6:00pm**

**Fred entertained a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 04/05/21**

Motion: Cheryll

Second: Joe

**AIF**

Sandy let the members know there were new budget spreadsheets available in the One Drive (see attached). She said if the SLRSD budget is voted in as proposed then it would go $80,811 into the $300,000 levy buffer. She said if the SRO is also voted then you are looking at $116,811 into the $300,000 buffer. Fred asked if we have heard of any adjustments on the Vocational budget yet and Sandy replied that she had not.

There was no new article information for voting, same articles are still on hold for more information.

Charlie said he had left the wording on the Wage and Personnel amendments in the warrant flexible in wording in case changes were made between now and ATM.

There was discussion on the RFPs for Zoning bylaw reviews. Tom questioned if the one proposal was really “all in” as it seemed versus the other proposal which seemed more “a la carte.” Charlie said he hadn’t looked at them at all but he could in the next two weeks if Fin Com wanted him to. The members agreed that seemed like a good idea. They want to make sure he understands it the same way they do. Tom said the proposal from Blatman, Bobrowski and Haverty seems like the better deal if in fact he is proposing changes to all of it. Tom said the other firm is only offering a few minor changes and then a very comprehensive look at the Multi-Family part of the bylaw. Fred agreed he liked how Bobrowski was willing to fix the minor issues quickly and then tackle the bigger issues. Joe agreed he felt the Bobrowski proposal was the better offer. Fred asked Linda to let the firms know that the Fin Com had discussed it and that they would make a final decision on 4/26/21.

Linda said there was correspondence from Shirly Graf about the nip bottle ban. Joe said he felt the proposal was well put together, but he doesn’t feel comfortable banning a certain version of alcohol. He thinks it is more about educating the community on not littering. Cheryll said she had concerns that if Halifax bans it, the residents will just go spend their money in next door communities, giving those Towns the business then just bring the nips back here and leave the trash anyways. All the members agree they don’t feel the need to speak with Ms Graf. They sympathize with her plight but will keep their recommendation the way they have it.

Chief Viveiros submitted correspondence about clarification on his budget. He said he intended to lower the Fire Wages line for call fire fighters so he could increase the overtime line for the Administrative Assistant, and so the budget would remain the same, not increase. The Fin Com said they were fine with that as long as the numbers were the same. They asked Sandy to double check the numbers with the Chief and if it was a net wash, they had no problem with that. Tom did caution that the Fire Wages line might be more of a flexible line in the fact that if you have a higher number of fires, you may need a higher amount of wages but Sandy said the figure to up the overtime shouldn’t be significant enough to make much of a difference.

There was a Reserve Fund Transfer for the Telephone account.

**Fred entertained a motion to transfer $10,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Telephone budget**

Motion: Cheryll

Second: Tom

**AIF**

Public Participation: Gordon asked Sandy about some formulas on the Fin Com overall synopsis spreadsheet. Sandy said she had updated in the afternoon and Gordon didn’t have the latest one with the corrections. Sandy gave Gordon the new figures and Gordon thanked her.

Calendar: Next meeting is 4/26 and then 5/3 and then right before ATM that night.

**Fred entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:30pm**

Motion: Cheryll

Second: Joe

**AIF**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tom Connolly, Clerk