Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday September 21, 2021**

**Committee Members Present**: Tom Connolly, Michael Bennett, Michael O’Brien, Cheryll Zarella Burke and Jon Schmaling.

Also, in attendance in the audience were: Sandy Nolan

**Tom called the meeting to order at 6:25pm**

**Tom entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/8/21**

Motion: Cheryll

Second: Michael Bennett

**AIF**

Sandy began discussion of the articles. She said there had been some changes since the 9/8/21 meeting. Most changes were in the way articles were being funded and that was due to recent negotiations with the union. Sandy said the Board of Selectmen had agreed to a 1% across the board increase with most of the unions. Sandy said the Selectmen therefore intended to keep the previous funding sources for articles (9/8) on the table so that in May 2022 that money would be available to hopefully fund a 1% increase for the non-union employees, and that would keep the across the board increase equitable through all positions. Tom Connolly said he thought 1% was getting out of it cheaply. Cheryll asked about the Finance Committee getting any say in the 1% but Sandy said the Board of Selectmen are the ones who negotiate for the union.

**Tom entertained a motion to recommend the 1% increase and funding sources and figures for articles 3-7**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Cheryll

AIF

**Tom entertained a motion to once again recommend Articles 11 and 12 with the new funding source of Raise and Appropriate**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Michael O’Brien

**AIF**

**Tom entertained a motion to once again recommend Article 19 with the new funding source of Raise and Appropriate**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Michael O’Brien

**AIF**

Sandy said she had done her work on the recap, and it looked as if the taxes would go up about 5% but the tax rate would go down to about $16.12. She mentioned the values had gone up on homes due to recent sales. She said the committee will still have not used the full $300,000 that they try to stay under the levy. It would be closer to just over $233,000 under now.

Tom mentioned that this meant the Committee was recommending all of the articles with the exception of the Civil Service article, which they were giving no recommendation on.

Michael O’Brien mentioned that if it was not for the increase needed for the Silver Lake Assessment, the committee would have been able to still stay over $300,000 under the levy limit.

Linda Cole mentioned that she had (as requested) reached out to Todd Dargie about if he was still interested in joining the Finance Committee. He had said he was.

**Tom entertained a motion to recommend appointment of Todd Dargie to the Finance Committee**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Cheryll

**AIF**

Tom said it was important to have the liasions on the agenda for next week so it would be good to know if Todd would be on the Committee.

**Tom entertained a motion to adjourn to Special Town Meeting at 6:50pm**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Cheryll

**AIF**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tom Connolly, Chair