Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday , December 13, 2021**

**Committee Members Present**: Tom Connolly, Michael Bennett, Cheryll Zarella Burke, Jon Schmaling and Todd Dargie

Also, in attendance in the audience were:, Cesar Calouro, Sandy Nolan and Chief Chaves

**Tom called the meeting to order at 6:06pm**

**Tom entertained a motion to accept the minutes of 11/29/21 and 12/6/21**

Motion: Cheryll

Second: Michael Bennett

**AIF**

Tom asked Sandy for any newe information about the budget. Sandy said there is still no budget information and as far as she knew there was nothing from the interim Town Administrator. She said she had uploaded the 10-year comparison of budget increases and tax increases into the Shared Drive. She said they would see that the Raise and Appropriate has gone up much more than the local receipts are going up. Tom asked Sandy to review those terms for new members. Sandy said that Raise and Appropriate is what the Town Meeting votes to spend on the budget lines and things like union articles and the Reserve Fund. Tax Levy is what we have to get in from the taxpayers to fund those votes. She said what is known as “the cherry sheet” is what the State is giving us for local aid. Local Receipts are money raised through different departments for things like permits, licenses and fees. We use the local receipts so that we don’t have to tax as much through the levy. Over the 10 years the there has been an increase of about 123% in Cherry sheet and local receipts and there has been an increase in Raise and Appropriate of about 134% The state aid and local receipts are not going up as fast as the expenses. Tom asked Sandy what her thoughts regarding that are on FY23. She said she wasn’t sure how the local receipts and state aid would do, she doesn’t always follow that, it is usually the job of the Town Administrator to follow that. She said the Governor’s budget would come out in March and that would give them a better idea.

Tom asked if it was too early for Fin Com members to be making calls to their liaison departments about their budgets. Sandy said now was a good time to be doing that. You can talk to the departments ahead of the budgets being turned in and get ideas of what they are looking at.

Tom asked Linda if she could once again send the list of departments and liaisons to the Fin Com members for review of what departments they were in charge of handling.

Under Public Participation Sandy Nolan said she know the budget is going to be tight but she wants them to consider the employees as a priority. She thinks they are the biggest asset the town has and she believes it is important to retain employees who have proven themselves to be an asset to the Town. Tom said philosophically everyone is in agreement with that fact. He said the data is showing that Halifax is lagging behind other municipalities. He said the jobs that are not contract driven are falling behind in the pay scale the most.

**Tom entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19pm**

Motion: Michael Bennet

Second: Cheryll

**AIF**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

Michael Bennett, Clerk