Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday , February 14, 2022**

**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 Sue Lawless

**Tom called the meeting to order at 6:01pm**

**Tom entertained a motion to accept the minutes of 02/7/2022**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Cheryll

**AIF**

Tom asked for updates on the budget. Sandy Nolan said that the dispatch services line would be going up to around $200,000. She had talked to the Fire Chief and Gordon and they both had said the same thing. Tom asked what is was previously budgeted at and Sandy said it had been $163,000 but hadn’t gone up in many years. Sandy said that the Chief said it may be slightly lower but he felt it would be close to the $200,000.

Sandy said she had also looked at the Police budget after speaking with the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police and she had confirmed that the Lieutenant’s position voted at the last town meeting had been added to the budget. That was an additional $92,000. Sandy said that her understanding from the Selectmen was that the position and funding was not to be included in the budget and should only be added if the marijuana facilities happened and the money could be used to fund the position. Sandy suggested that the Finance Committee ask the Chief about it when they met with him because that would be a huge difference in the wage line.

Tom asked if there was any new information on the HES budget. He wanted to know if there had been any movement that Sandy may have heard about. Sandy said the school committees will wait for direction from the Fin Com to lower budgets. Tom asked who he should speak to about that. Sandy said a memo to the Administration and the School Committee chairs would be a good idea. Sandy said he should get the memo out soon so they can work on adjusting before the meeting with Fin Com. Linda said the schools are scheduled to meet on April 4th. Tom mentioned that Summer Schmaling had invited him to the HES meeting for tonight but he had the Fin Com meeting and so he had to be at that. Tom asked if anyone else had input about the budgets but no one did.

Cheryll asked about the Ethics training notice they had received. She questioned why if they just did training they had to do it again. Tom said he had reached out to Ed about it and he was waiting to hear back from Ed on what he said about if they had to go. Tom asked Todd about his creative revenues ideas and how he wanted to proceed. Todd said his first step would be a brainstorming session. Todd said it is a little tricky since Cesar made the file “Read Only.” Todd said they needed to be able to make notes and put in their own ideas as well. Tom said he felt there was a way it could be worked out. Todd said maybe appoint a data collection person. Cesar said department heads can put ideas in but if the Fin com puts in ideas or makes notes, it may be an open meeting law violation. Tom said he understood the open meeting law had to be considered but there also needed to be a way to work with the committee and find a solution because it seemed supported by the Selectmen when they were in the meeting. Cesar said he had an idea and he may have something by the end of the week. Cesar said he understood the task and will see what he can do. Sandy said Cesar was also offering trainings on the One Drive and Shared folders and that might be good for some of the members.

Tom said the next meeting would be on 2/28/22 due to the holiday.

There was no correspondence

**Tom entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:17pm**

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Cheryll

**AIF**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

Michael Bennett, Clerk