Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday , May 9, 2022**

**Committee Members Present**: Michael Bennett, Todd Dargie, Jon Schmaling, Tom Connolly

There was no one in the audience

**Tom called the meeting to order at 5:31pm**

**Tom entertained a motion to accept the minutes of 5/2/22**

Tom asked Linda if she could run through the budget items that were still listed as the Finance Committee giving their recommendation at town meeting. Linda said the first items were lines 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. These were the union contracts and the Board of Selectmen had already negotiated and agreed to a 1% increase for FY23

**Tom entertained a motion to recommend a 1% increase for all union contracts for FY23**

Motion: Michael

Second: Todd

**AIF**

Linda said the next item would be the HES intercom system that Matt Durkee had come in to speak to the members about.

**Tom entertained a motion to recommend $38,800 for the new HES intercom system**

Motion: Michael

Second: Todd

**3-1 (Jon said he wanted to recuse himself or abstain from voting as he wondered if this could be pushed off to** **another year. He said he knew it was helpful for safety, but maybe this is something that could wait).**

Linda said the next article would be the one that dealt with putting any leftover money in the Plymouth County pension line versus putting it into Stabilization as is normally the case. Tom said if it is only going to be about $30,000 then that would be just a drop in the bucket when it came to the Retirement assessment but in stabilization it might be able to help make a significant difference if something is unforeseen. The members agreed with him.

**Tom entertained a motion to recommend the article to move any leftover money in to the Plymouth County** **pension fund**

Motion: Michael

Second: Todd

**0-4 Fin Com does not recommend**

Linda said the next article for discussion was the changes to the police, dog bylaws. Tom said he really didn’t feel as though this had any financial impacts on the Town. He asked other members what they thought and they agreed with that view. Given the felling in the room

**Tom entertained a motion to make no recommendation on the changes to the dog bylaws**

Motion: Michael

Second: Todd

**AIF to make no recommendation**

Linda said the next article was in regard to the Storm water bylaw changes and was mostly a housekeeping article

Tom again stated that he did not see this article having a financial impact on the Town at this time and given that

**Tom entertained a motion to make no recommendation on the stormwater bylaw changes**

Motion: Michael

Second: Jon

**AIF to make no recommendation**

Linda reviewed that the next article was in regard to the Halifax Housing Authority being repaid the amount of money that they had paid Plymouth County Retirement for an employee of both the Town and the Housing Authority. PCR had erroneously charged the Housing Authority a greater portion then they should have and they had told the Housing Authority to seek the difference from the Town. Linda said that this had come up in the last couple of years and although no one necessarily disputed the figure, no one could confirm the amount either. Tom said he was slightly uncomfortable making a recommendation with no one being able to verify the figure that was given was the difference.

**Tom entertained a motion to make no recommendation on this article**

Motion: Michael

Second: Todd

**AIF to make no recommendation**

The next article was a petition article to limit the number of retail marijuana establishments in Halifax to no more than two. Jon said he was cautious to limit the number of establishments as they are revenue sources. Tom agreed and said you could still limit by special permit authority if you wanted. Todd asked how many such a small town really needed. Tom said that two have already been approved and are we trying to let those two have a monopoly. Moving the bar now and limiting might look like a sweetheart deal.

**Tom entertained a motion not to recommend the article**

Motion: Michael

Second: Jon

**AIF not to recommend**

The next article was also tied into this situation but was part of the Special Town Meeting warrant and it would approve a change to the zoning use regulations for marijuana establishments. It would make retail establishments restricted to fewer places. The committee took the same stance that it was revenue limiting

**Tom entertained a motion to not recommend the article**

Motion: Michael

Second: Todd

**AIF not to recommend**

Linda said that votes had been already recorded on all other articles

**Tom entertained a motion to adjourn at 5:54pm (ATM at 6:30)\*\*\*\***

Motion: Michael Bennett

Second: Todd

**AIF**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

Michael Bennett, Clerk

\*\*\* two votes were taken by the committee on town meeting floor

STM #16 Soil removal permit fees

Motion: Todd Second: MB 3-0 (Jon abstained) to recommend

ATM #45 public consumption

Motion: Michael Second: Todd 4-0 no recommendation