



Finance Committee  
TOWN OF HALIFAX  
499 Plymouth Street  
Halifax, MA 02338

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, August 15, 2022**

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

**Tom called the meeting to order at 6:30pm**

**Tom entertained a motion to accept the minutes of 07/11/2022.**

Motion: Mike

Second: Cheryl

**AIF**

No line item transfers/reserve fund transfers.

Tom turned it over to Police Chief Chaves. Chief Chaves requesting approval for two full-time applicants due to a lack of staffing and inability to properly staff all shifts. Optimal number would be 2.4 officers per 1,000 residents, where the town has 11 officers since 1980 (3 Sergeants/8 patrolmen). Chiefs request would be expand the police force to a total of thirteen full-time officers. Financially \$90K is available to allocate to the two positions, with an upcoming sergeant retirement next year. Additionally chief believes he may need to be able to reduce the annual cruiser request (2) to help free up some additional funds in future.

The Halifax Board of selectmen have already agreed to the request. Finance committee voting by reference to the committee's roll in wage and personnel.

**Tom entertained a motion to approve the Police Chief's request to add two additional full-time officers.**

Motion: Mike

Second: Cheryl

**AIF**

No response yet for candidates on the open finance committee secretary position. Tom will complete the meetings from the August 15<sup>th</sup> session, but the finance committee may need to consider rotating duties until the secretary roll can be filled. Cheryl is secretary of Great Lakes and may take ownership but will start with a rotation. Jon Schmaling proposed maybe searching for an intern to help fill void and will send some inquiries out to gauge interest.

Tom signed the Renewal of the membership of the association of town finance committees.

The only correspondence this week was from the Superintendent of schools, regarding the special education transportation costs. A new vendor has been selected by the school which is expected to reduce the cost by \$400/day, but will still come in over budget for the Fiscal Year. Tom communicated there is an open question on whether our Council of Aging vans could be compliant and used as an alternative solution to reduce costs.

Vote on citizen member at large(2) joining the personnel advisory committee. Was agreed the Board of Selectmen will choose one and the Finance committee will choose the second.

**Tom entertained a motion to adopt the approach of one citizen at large selection for the Board of Selectmen and one citizen at large selection for the Finance Committee.**

Motion: Michael

Second: Cheryl

**AIF**

One candidate applicant with interest in joining the finance committee. Tom to circulate the talent bank form from Frank Johnston and recommend to schedule him at next session for an interview.

Future meetings to be conducted via zoom going forward, as the state has extended the ability to hold the meetings via zoom. All finance committee members agreed on zoom as best approach.

**Tom entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:52pm**

Motion: Cheryl

Second: Michael

**AIF**

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Michael Bennett, Clerk