



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

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2023

Committee Members Present: Todd Dargie, Cheryll Zarella Burke, Jonathan Schmaling, Frank Johnston, Jim Walters

Committee members absent: Michael Bennett, Tom Connolly

Todd called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

Todd entertained a motion to accept the minutes of 01/30/2023.

Motion: Cheryll

Second: Frank

AIF

Outstanding minutes are being actively addressed and expected to be resolved in a timely manner.

The committee hosted a 3rd interview for the Finance Committee Secretary, Gina DiMuzio. Gina highlighted her nearly 10-year experience as a legal assistant, who has been responsible for minutes in the past. She is currently working out of Quincy and resides locally in Kingston. Gina does not have any municipal experience but is looking for additional part-time hours and came across the town's posting. The committee explained the hours and duties required and emphasized that the budget season is more demanding from Jan-May of each year. The committee thanked her for her interest in the position.

Todd recommended that the committee consider the three candidates and proposed to open the next meeting scheduled for Monday February 13, 2023 with open discussion on candidate feedback. Followed by a formal vote to select the next Finance Committee Secretary.

Todd introduced Bob Valery, Board of Health Department head, to review and discuss the proposed FY24 operating budget. Bob delivered his budget level funded as requested. Bob highlighted a growing concern over the rising Beaver population and the adverse impact the town needs to prepare to mitigate. As such, Bob proposed setting aside \$5,000 to cover expenses when required. The committee discussed some initial thoughts on how to best cover the expense, whether an article or budget increase may be the best solution. A formal decision to be made as part of the budget approval process at a later date.

James Perry was unable to attend to discuss the Building Inspector budget. Frank to reach out to reschedule him for the February 13 meeting.

The committee discussed scheduling of additional Department Heads and recommended Library come in on Monday February 13. Followed by Police and Fire on Monday, February 27th.

Todd advised no new revenue ideas have been submitted since last meeting January 30th. The two items under review are the Fee comparison and Special Education transportation. Todd mentioned the school had provided some details on the special needs requirements and would circulate amongst the committee for review.

Sandy Nolan mentioned that may be good to have Cody share projections for Revenue and Expenses which was previously presented to the Selectman. It was agreed the committee would schedule Cody on Monday 27th to review as that is next expected full attendance for the committee.

Exhibit List:

- Resume - Gina DiMuzio
- Proposed FY24 Dept Budget - Board of Health

Todd entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm

Motion: Cheryl

Second: Frank

AIF

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Bennett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael Bennett, Clerk