



Finance Committee  
Town of Halifax  
499 Plymouth St.  
Halifax, MA 02338

Meeting Minutes  
Monday April 24, 2017

	Gordon Andrews	Mel Conroy	Linda Braga	Stu Hall	Diane Ruxton	Melinda Tarsi	Bill McAvoy
Present	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Also in attendance was Kim Roy, Selectman; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant; Tom Millias, Selectman; Barbara Gaynor, Town Clerk; Bert Gaynor, Building Committee; Gerry Elliot, Building Maintenance; John Campbell, Building Committee; Gerald Joy, Building Committee; Keith Swanson, Water Superintendent; Dick Clark, Water Commissioner.

Gordon Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Meeting was recorded by Area 58.

#### Mail

The GASB packet was received in the mail from Linda Cole.

A memo from Pam McSherry was received stating that the BOS had received Julianne Crawford's resignation letter.

#### Meeting Minutes

Linda Braga made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/27/17. Seconded by Diane Ruxton. Melinda Tarsi Abstained. All other members in attendance voted yes. Motion passed.

#### Meeting with the Water Department

The Finance Committee still has question on the costs on the data sheets that the Water Department provided them. There is no way to tell when the filter is going to fail. If the town has to replace the media (green sand & coal) it would cost about &50,000.00 Right now it has come back but it is 9 years old. The lifespan is usually about 10 years. Maintenance on the lagoons is at an hourly rate to truck the sludge north of Boston and it is expensive. Keith is trying to work with local towns to reduce the costs of hauling that sludge. The total cost to maintain one lagoon is close to \$50,000.00 and the town has 3 lagoons total. If we have to empty Lagoon #2 and also have a media failure, \$100,000.00 isn't going to be enough and that doesn't include regular maintenance. What are the

chances of that happening? Let's hope it doesn't. Keith thinks the discharge system should be changed. They are comfortable with \$100,000.00 in this line. Keith would say approximately \$20,000.00 to maintain a lagoon per year, every year and that is an estimate. Mel would like to see a more solid number in that line, not one that spikes so much. #3 and #4 well in the next 10 years will need to be done (at the Y Camp) and that project will be approximately 4 million dollars. Richmond Park would be much less in Mr. Clark's estimation. Sandy Nolan feels that if they need to increase \$25,000.00 in the Water Reserve Fund they can vote for both lines on Town Floor.

#### Council on Aging, Building Committee and BOS Meeting

The addition being proposed will make the COA a multiuse Building. The Basement will have 2 rooms and a mechanical room. The first floor will have a kitchen, elevator, 70-80pp room and the Second Floor has two new rooms as well.

Mel Conroy asked if the 2 Million is a firm number and does it include site work. John Campbell explained that it will include the windows, changing the burners to gas. The actual numbers should come in under that and will include site work. Mel asked why the number is not closer to the original \$750,000.00 number. John explained that this is a different Architect. Mel was curious what has been done to reel them in cost wise. Tom Millias explained that the Building Committee told them not to go with the expensive glass to match the antique windows; just regular glass would be fine. That was a cost savings. They have done their due diligence. Cost includes kitchen items. Generations is hoping to pick up most of the furniture. The existing rooms will be renovated. Cement board, azec board etc. will be used to save on future maintenance.

Mel is concerned that one year is eating up half of our increase in the levy limit. It will be a 5-7% increase in the tax bill in two tax bill cycles; however, there will be no increase until we are bonded. Both projects are likely to hit at the same time. We will need to relocate the seniors once construction starts. They are working on a plan that will work for that.

#### Debt Exclusion, Fire Suppression

Per the Board of Selectmen, we want to leave room in the levy for emergencies. There is possibly some money available from the landfill (approximately \$100,000.00) and \$200,000.00 from the State

#### Articles in the ATM

Article 19 – Mel Conroy made a motion to recommend \$977,000.00 to not be Debt Excluded. Seconded by Linda Braga. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 21 – Bill McAvoy made a motion to recommend the COA Article as presented. Seconded by Linda Braga. Motion passed unanimously

Article 22 – Can be made on Town Meeting Floor if necessary.

#### OPEB

Gordon Andrews suggests that next year we should sit down with the Board of Selectmen and look seriously at funding this.

Diane Ruxton made a motion to adjourn at 9:02pm. Seconded by Melinda Tarsi. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Linda Braga  
Clerk