Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 15, 2020**

**Committee Members Present**: Melinda Tarsi, Cheryll Zarella Burke, Fred McGovern, Drew Mcglincy, Bill McAvoy

Also, in attendance in the audience were: Charlie Seelig, Sandy Nolan, Jon Lay, Jason Viveiros, Chief Chaves, Sue Lawless

The meeting was recorded by Zoom

**Melinda called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:04 pm**

**Melinda entertained a motion to approve a Line Item Transfer from the Board of Health Expense to the Heath Inspector line in the amount of $578.77**

Motion: Bill

Second: Fred

**AIF**

**Melinda entertained a motion to approve a Line Item Transfer from Snow and Ice to Stormwater in the amount of $21,000**

Motion: Bill

Second: Fred

**AIF**

**Melinda entertained a motion to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of $7542.10 to the Law account**

Melinda asked Charlie how long these bills covered and Charlie said they covered all law expenses through May. He said there should be one more month of bills coming.

Motion: Bill

Second: Fred

**AIF**

**Melinda entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from 6/08/20**

Motion: Bill

Second: Fred

**AIF**

Melinda said there were no new updates from Wage and Personnel

Melinda asked if there was any new budget information from Charlie or Sandy. Charlie said that the email he had forwarded from the State (see attached) indicates that there might be a State budget by the end of July. Charlie said if we have a 7/11 ATM he will follow meeting ideas from other surrounding Towns on how they have handled it. That being said, he added, if we wait until after 7/31 to hold ATM (possibly 8/8) there may be more information to work with. Melinda asked if Fin Com needed to make other recommendations if the date of the meeting got changed. Charile said “no” because Fin Com already made their recommendations and he already made a 1/12th budget proposal to the State based on those recommendations. He said if it happens that a department spends a majority of their money in July (which so far they shouldn’t based on the 1/12th budget) and then we find out that the revenues are devastatingly low, that department would just have a shortage they needed to deal with at the end of the fiscal year. Melinda pointed out that the Selectmen are the ones who control the 1/12th budget.

Public Participation: Jon Lay, President of the Silver Lake Education Association, said that Silver Lake like everyone else is in a holding pattern awaiting new State information. He said that currently the budget cuts they would have to make would mean the loss of 14.4 teachers. He said they are asking the staff to hold at a 0% COLA and a step freeze as well. He wants the people to know that their Association doesn’t find it reasonable to ask the teachers to take a freeze on everything (steps and COLA). He would like the teachers unon to accept some concessions, the would like Administration moderating their requests, and the would like the Towns to try and step up funds to Silver Lake. He said otherwise it will mean cutting the teachers and that would have a large impact on the students. He wants to have the least possible impact on the students and he feels that through a compromise that can be reached. Melinda stated that we all understand how devastating these revenue cuts are and she wants Silver Lake to realize that all departments were put back to FY20 budgets to start the process of figuring out how we could fit a budget within the much lower anticipated revenues and State Aid. Melinda pointed out that Halifax is only using an 8% loss of revenues in their projections while other Towns (such as Kingston at 15%) are using much higher decreases in revenues for their budget figures. She agreed that everyone is in a holding pattern for more information, which is not necessarily the ideal position. She said everyone agrees though, that the focus is on cutting the least amount of personnel possible both in the School and in the Town. She wants to make sure it is clear that the Finance Committee is very focused on keeping the lines of communication open and keeping the dialogue going as we get new information. She took a moment to encourage people to attend meetings because it is always good to have people be part of the conversation.

Melinda said we should book 7/6 and 7/13 for upcoming dates for meetings.

Under As May Arise, Charlie asked the finance Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss possible real estate property transactions the negotiations of which may be negatively effected if the discussion was held in a public forum.

**Melinda held a roll call to go into Executive Session at 6:28pm**

Bill= yes

Fred=yes

Cheryll=yes

Drew=yes

Respectfully submitted,

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

Fred McGovern, Clerk