Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 23, 2019**

**Committee Members Present**: Melinda Tarsi, Bill McAvoy, Fred McGovern, Leonard Teceno

Also in attendance in the audience were Town Accountant Sandra Nolan and Town Administrator Charlie Seelig

The meeting was recorded by Area 58

Melinda called the meeting to order at 7:00pm when all members were present.

Halifax resident Cheryll Zarella Burke met with the Committee to discuss the Talent Bank application the Committee had reviewed in the prior meeting. Ms. Zarella Burke stated that she had been a Halifax resident for about a year and a half and that she found she would like to be involved in the community. She felt her background would be helpful on the Finance Committee. Chairperson Tarsi discussed how the Finance Committee works as an Advisory Board, reviews all budgets, and helps set recommendations for Town Meeting on how to spend the money in the Town. Melinda emphasized that the residents at Town Meeting are the ones who actually decide how the money is spent in the end. The Committee members discussed their background and community volunteer experience, and then Ms. Zarella Burke discussed her background and her understanding of the community. She stated she was eager to be involved in a Town Meeting form of government.

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they appoint Cheryll Zarella Burke to the Finance Committee.**

Motion: Bill

Second: Len

**AIF**

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of the Meeting on 9/9/19

**Melinda entertained a motion to approve the minutes as printed**

Motion: Bill

Second: Len

**AIF**

The Committee decided to table any discussion on appointing liaisons for departments until after the new member has been officially brought onto the Committee

The Committee discussed the note that Charlie Seelig had sent to the Silver Lake Regional School Committee regarding speaking to them at one of their meetings about the FY21 budget. This discussion led to Melinda questioning if it would be a good idea to get the Regional Towns (Kingston, Plympton and Halifax) together at the beginning of the budget season to discuss impacts of the upcoming SLRSD FY21 budget. Melinda requested the secretary reach out to the other two towns to try and set up a meeting because they had been unable to have a joint meeting for several years.

Melinda questioned Charlie about whether the COA Building Ad Hoc Committee had been more formalized? Charlie stated that nothing formal had been done yet, it is still in the works.

**Melinda entertained a motion to approve the thank you letter to former Committee member Brad Graham, as it had been printed by the secretary.**

Motion: Bill

Second: Len

**AIF**

The committee discussed their upcoming calendar. The secretary had informed the Committee that they should expect members of the Planning Board to attend the Fin Com meeting as an invitation had been extended by the Fin Com secretary (per the prior request of the Finance Committee) and the secretary to the Planning Board had said she expected members in attendance at the 10/7/19 meeting. Melinda mentioned that the next meeting after the 10/7/19 meeting would be the meeting on 10/21/19 (at 6pm) when they would meet at the school just prior to the Special Town Meeting that night. Charlie discussed the fact that most of the articles would be about Planning, Zoning and Storm Water. There may be some small financial housekeeping articles such as the shortage in the Unemployment Fund. Melinda questioned Charlie to make sure that all articles in the warrant would say, “Recommendation from the Finance Committee will be made at Town Meeting.” Charlie agreed that since the Committee would not have time to review the articles before the warrant went to print, that is how the Recommendations would read.

There were no Reserve Fund Transfer requests.

Sandy Nolan notified the Finance Committee that even though there were no Reserve Fund Transfer requests tonight, they should probably expect one eventually from the COA. The COA van had a transmission problem and the full cost was $5500. The COA had taken $3000 of that from the Elderly Transportation account but they had to take the other $2500 from the COA expense account and that is a “big hit” to the expense account for them. The Committee thanked Sandy for putting them on notice.

**Melinda entertained a motion to adjourn**

Motion: Bill

Second: Len

**AIF – meeting adjourned at 7:26pm**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Fred McGovern, Clerk