

Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes Aug 23, 2017

Members present: John Seeley (acting chair), Mark Buell, Steve Colwell, Peter du Bois, Richard Fellows, Jennifer Finch, Charles Oliver

Not present: Don Ludwig (chair), Bruce Nickerson

Others: Tim Bragan - Town Administrator

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

John Seeley (acting chair) called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Minutes: The minutes of the June 21, 2017 meeting were not distributed, approval moved to next meeting. The minutes of July 12, 2017 were approved unanimously.

Public Commentary: None

Town Administrator's report: Tim Bragan stated that the STM will be the first week of Nov.

- Cap committee will be requesting \$35,000 for truck lifts for the DPW
- ConCom will be requesting \$200,000 for their reserve fund.
- Old Library accessibility will be asking for \$500k-\$600k

On Aug 29 Lt. Gov Karyn Polito will be visiting to sign the community compact. Harvard excelled in financial management and our comprehensive IT strategy noting that we had more and more things online. Steve asked if there were grants possible and Tim said yes.

There is a meeting with Tim Kilhart, Ken Swanton, and Tim Bragan on Sept 19 to report on spending with regards to the public buildings. The police station has had about \$75k for their repairs, including \$35k for HVAC.

The state budget has been approved. No changes to Harvard. The statehouse may try to overturn the Governor's vetoes. The state's credit rating has been downgraded ½ a point.

Charter Commission has submitted an estimate for expenses through next May ATM:

- \$3500.00 for publishing the full charter in the local paper

- \$200.00 for advertising the public forum on Sept 13
- \$480.00 for outstanding expenses
- \$160.00 for a recorder for the Sept 13 public forum
- \$660.00 for a town wide mailing.

On 9/13/17 there will be a public forum for the Charter Commission. Article 6 addresses changes to the budget process and the FinCom. The BoS will be finalizing the budget document and goals by Nov 1. It was noted by several FinCom members that on sections 6.4b and 6.4c - the dates for getting the FinCom book are too short. They are noted that they say "at least 30 days" and "at least 15 days" - however it was suggested that they say "at least 45 days" to allow for time for printing. FinCom will be getting a budget binder from the BoS by Jan 1.

The MSBA has approved the new school building proposal should move to the schematic design phase.

The BoS meeting on 8/22/17 discussed moving the retired teachers from GIC to the town retirement and healthcare plans. The BoS vote will be on 9/5/17.

Finance Director's report: David Nalchajian - was not present

Liaison Reports: discussed above

Other business: none

Motion to adjourn by John Seeley, seconded, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday Sept 6, 2017, 7pm, All boards meeting, Town Hall Meeting Room

Wednesday Sept 20, 2017, 7pm, Town Hall Meeting Room

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Finch

Associate member, FinCom