



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES / March 15, 2018 at 7pm

Town Hall-Community Room - 1st Floor

posted 3/27/2018 at 10am

### Members

Shaun Galliher, Vice Chair  
Viv Mason  
Earl Peck  
Mary Rice  
Chris Pike  
Viv Mason

### Absent

Heather Brown

### Other

Dick Scialabba Chair (by remote access)  
Harvey Drosehn, Select Board  
Dave Kokindo  
Bill Pike

The meeting was opened at 7pm.

There was no public comment.

There are no meeting minutes available for action at this meeting.

Vice Chair Shaun Galliher moved to the agenda item regarding the vacancy on the Committee. A letter of interest had been submitted by Dave Kokindo to fill this vacancy. Vice Chair Galliher asked the Committee if there were any questions for Mr. Kokindo. The Committee members had no questions. A roll call vote was taken with one (1) in favor and five (5) against. The Committee, therefore, will not recommend to the Select Board that Mr. Kokindo be appointed. One member pointed out that Mr. Kokindo had previously been elected to the Select Board and he quit that position. He was also elected to the Planning Board, but has not attended any meetings.

Mr. Kokindo asked if he could explain why he did not attend Planning Board meetings. Vice Chair Galliher allowed him to do so. Mr. Kokindo said he was absent from some meetings due to illness and that he had been voted out as chairman and never received notices of meetings. Vice Chair Galliher noted that it was customary to reorganize a board after an election and that there are regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

Vice Chair Galliher had answers to some of the member questions generated at the Saturday meeting March 10, 2018 with the Select Board and Town Administrator:

*Police detail* – two different rates?: The rates are specified in the union contract between the Police Officers and the Town. When doing detail for the Town, the rate is the officer's pay rate at a time and one half (approximately \$23.00-28.00 per hour). When detail is for a private company, for example Verizon, the rate is \$40.00 per hour.

*Fuel usage* – There was a question about a Town Employee observed at the fuel pump. This employee does fill his vehicle approximately once per month as he is using it on Town related work on a regular basis. One member is concerned that Town vehicles (primarily police

vehicles) have been observed at many out of Town locations, and this practice is inflating our fuel consumption. This will be made known to Chief Rathbun and discussed when she meets with the Committee to review her budget request.

*Beaver trapping* – There was a question concerning paying for beaver trapping from Highway accounts when a separate account exists under the Board of Health (BOH). If Town roads are being endangered by beaver activity then paying from Highway accounts is warranted. If other public land is endangered then funds from the separate account (under BOH) should be used. It was suggested to zero fund the BOH account in the upcoming budget and pay expenses, if they occur from Highway maintenance.

*Loader* – Annual Town Meeting appropriated money to replace the panels and fenders on the loader. In addition, sandblasting and painting was also done and paid from this account as well as from vehicle maintenance. While that work was being done, a rental vehicle was used. There was discussion about the extensive work done on the loader in addition to the fenders and that this work (including the rental) would not occur in the future. The Committee should consider this when reviewing the FY19 budget requests.

Vice Chair Galliher explained that any Committee member requesting public documents, must, as an individual, pay the fee established for those records. If the Committee as a whole, requested documents, or authorized individual member (s) to request documents, there would be no fee charged by the Town. One member strongly disagreed but this has been the policy for many years and is in accordance with the by-laws.

Vice Chair Galliher said he will invite Police Chief Susan Rathbun to our next meeting to explain her budget request, as she was unable to attend the Saturday meeting.

The Committee agreed that we will establish our own budget and work with the Select Board and Town Administrator in finalizing it.

Vice Chair Galliher reported that the Council on Aging (COA) had been approved by the Select Board to pay someone to answer the phone and sort through paper work. This is anticipated to be eight (8) hours per month at \$14.00 per hour. COA has secured a State Grant for this position and agreed that their request for \$1,500 be removed from the FY19 budget request. The Finance correspondence included a certified copy of the last Special Town Meeting minutes, and the fuel report.

The next meeting of this Committee is Thursday March 22, 2018 at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:59pm. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary A. Rice, Secretary