

Draft

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2016

The meeting convened at 7:00pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. Present were Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Clerk Vincent Murphy, Dan Alfred, Tim Maxwell and Suzanne Nersessian.

Ken Szajda announced that Finance Committee member Beth Liberty has resigned from the Committee because her husband now works for the School Department. The Finance Committee will have to decide whether to appoint a new member. Mr. Alfred suggested that this decision be postponed until after the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Szajda pointed out that the deadline for capital requests was today. He also reported positive results from the Finance Committee 101 informational meeting with the School Committee that occurred last week.

Mr. Szajda reported the Town Accountant, Sharon Emerick's new model of for accounts better reflects the accounts in use and the actual revenues of the town.

There was a discussion about revenue, taxes and spreadsheets, as well as Capital Budget requests for Fire, DPW, Police and IT and \$12,000 for removing a fiber optic cable from the Flagg building. Mr. Alfred said that the bottom line of the Town budget is \$125,000.

Mr. Szajda asked whether the \$255,000 request for ambulance was a real number or whether there are funds remaining in the ambulance revolving fund. Fire Chief Michael Cassidy reported that there was approximately \$45-50,000 in fund, so the actual number is about \$180,000.

Mr. Szajda began a discussion of how to deal with the capital plan budget. Mr. Murphy suggested that the Committee wait until the amount of Free Cash was determined. Mr. Alfred asked whether more money would be needed for the Flagg School remediation and demolition. Mr. Ritter said that this would be addressed prior to the May Town Meeting.

Ms. Zeamer asked whether the Board of Selectmen has voted on these capital requests, and suggested that there was no point in reviewing until the Selectmen had voted.

There was a discussion of some capital requests from departments, including the request for motorcycles for the Police Department, the request for a boiler for the Library, a new ambulance, a repeater and a brush truck for Fire Department.

Mr. Szajda noted that it is a priority for the Town to provide ambulance service to its residents with people employed by the town rather than relying on mutual aid from other communities. Mr. Szajda also noted that this is the type of decision made by the town to provide services rather than running the town government like it was a business.

Mr. Szajda noted that the Board of Selectmen will be voting on the Capital Plan on September 14. and that the Committee will have a free cash number in 2-3 weeks.

The upcoming meetings are scheduled for 9/20 and 9/27, as noted by Mr. Szajda.

Ms. Nersessian asked about the Flagg School demolition. Mr. Ritter reported that a bid opening for scrap metal will take place on Friday, and that he is working on the Request for Proposals for Andrews School.

Ms. Nersessian reported that the OPEB Trust Board meetings are occurring; and Mr. Szajda reported that Mary Bousquet is looking for new figures for the number of Town employees enrolling in Town insurance plans.

Mr. Szajda said that past meeting minutes would be dealt with at the next meeting.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Nersessian. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.