

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

The meeting convened at 7:03pm in Room 105 at Town Hall. In attendance were Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Committee Clerk Vincent Murphy, members Suzanne Nersessian, Tim Maxwell and Daniel Alfred.

The meeting began with the approval of past meeting minutes.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2016, as amended. Ms. Nersessian seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2016, as amended. Ms. Zeamer seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 5-0, Ms. Nersessian abstaining.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve the minutes of August 23, 2016, as amended. Mr. Maxwell seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016. Mr. Murphy seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016, as amended. Mr. Murphy seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Maxwell abstaining.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of October 24, 2016, as amended. Mr. Maxwell seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2016, as amended. Ms. Nersessian seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of November 29, 2016, as amended. Mr. Alfred seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of December 13, 2016, as amended. Mr. Maxwell seconded. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6-0, no abstentions.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the process and ground rules for budget reviews over the upcoming months. Mr. Szajda reported that the preparation for the reviews by Town Treasurer Mary Bousquet and Town Accountant Sharon Emerick are going well and noted that there would be a change in the schedule for Ms. Bousquet's presentation to accommodate the receipt of current benefits figures. A discussion regarding the benefits group West Suburban followed. There was general interest in exploring other options in the interest of more savings to the Town and better value to employees.

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Nersessian reported that they had met with their liaison department, Parks and Recreation, and that the department's budget request was completed and that the budget would come in over Guideline to increase staffing. Mr. Szajda clarified that a department presenting a budget that is over Guideline will need to show the Committee how they are going to get to 1%.

Ms. Nersessian, requested that the liaisons to the School Committee, request that when the School Committee presents the FY17 to the Finance Committee that the presentation be focused on the budget requested and the presentation be limited to information specific to the needs of the Finance Committee. Ms. Nerssarian stated that this would to allow more time to discuss critical financial issues. Both Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Murphy concurred with Ms. Nersessian's request.

Mr. Szajda set ground rules for the budget presentations. Everyone on the Committee would get a chance to speak following the presentations. He requested that members request recognition to speak from the Chairperson before addressing the presenter.

Selectman Jay Leary informed the Committee of a possible request from the Reserve Fund for a search for a replacement for Police Chief John Moore who will retire in April 2017. He also said that there would be request for funds for engineering on a possible property acquisition.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Alfred. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Murphy, Jr.
Clerk

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