

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2016

The meeting convened at 7:01pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. Present were Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Clerk Vincent Murphy, Members Dan Alfred and Suzanne Nersessian. Mr. Tim Maxwell was absent.

Addressing Article 5 concerning the Capital Budget of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant, Mr. Szajda said that the Board of Selectmen had informally approved all items except the \$28,000 request for a motorcycle for the Police Department. He also said that the \$116,000 remaining in the Ambulance Fund would reduce the request of \$255,000 for a new ambulance. In addition to these changes, the two requests from the Department of Public Works for equipment of \$54,006 each were moved to the Water Surplus budget. Mr. Szajda revised the total for the Capital Budget requests to \$635, 835.

There was discussion regarding the impact on the Capital Budget considering the potential reduction in local aid from the State budget from 9C cuts. Mr. Szajda said the amounts for these are not immediately available. This was followed by clarifications of some purchases, including a large format printer, a Police Department repeater, a brush truck for the Fire Department and a School Department classroom security system.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alfred, for the Finance Committee recommendation to approve amended expenditures in Article 5. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0, with no abstentions.

Following the vote on Article 5 regarding the Capital Budget, the Committee returned to recommendations on other articles on the Warrant.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 1 regarding Fund Transfers. Mr. Alfred seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0, with no abstentions.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 2 to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for the Stabilization Fund. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. Ms. Zeamer seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0, with no abstentions.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 3 to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for the Capital Expenditure Fund. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeamer. Article 3 was approved by a vote of 5-0, with no abstentions.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Article 4 to authorize the Board of Selectmen to hold a public auction and/or sale of surplus departmental equipment. The motion was seconded by Dan Alfred and approved by a vote of 5-0, with no abstentions.

Mr. Alfred made a motion for the Finance Committee to recommend favorable action on Articles 6 and 7 for funds to be used from the Water Surplus Fund for water main design work and water main replacement construction work. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersesssian and approved by a vote of 5-0, with no abstentions.

A vote on Article 8 on the Community Preservation Committee budget was postponed until October 11 meeting when CPC Chairperson Frank Chamberlain would be present.

Addressing Article 9, a confirmatory vote to borrow funds for the downtown signalization project, Mr. Szajda said that the Article was required by bond counsel and that it did not represent a referendum on the project. A deletion of the phrase "due to an internal posting error" and a change from "override" to "debt exclusion" was made. Ms. Zeamer made a motion for the favorable action on Article 9, as amended; the motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy. The motion was passed by a vote of 4-1, with Mr. Alfred voting against it.

A vote on Article 10, which seeks funding in the amount of \$600,000 for the purchase of two parcels of land identified by the Open Space Advisory Committee, was postponed until October 11 to allow discussion with Frank Chamberlain. Selectman Jay Leary noted a need for a sum of \$4,400. for an appraisal of the property prior to Town Meeting. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$4,400. for the appraisal. Ms. Zeamer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 3-2, with Mr. Alfred and Ms. Nersessian voting against it.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Nersessian. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Murphy, Jr.
Clerk