

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2017

The meeting convened at 7:03pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. In attendance: Chairperson Ken Szajda, Clerk Benjamin Sparrell, Vincent Murphy, Dan Alfred, Suzanne Nersessian and Tim Maxwell. Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer was absent.

Mr. Szajda reported the good news that there are no outstanding issues from Fiscal Year 2017 and that Town Accountant Sharon Emerick estimated that free cash account will be between \$1 and 2 million. He suggested the possibility of funding the Downtown Traffic project, with a current estimate is \$1,048,697, showing that good financial management is a good benefit to the town.

Mr. Szajda also reported that the renovation of the Veristat Building had been completed and that there was approximately \$15,000 leftover which the Municipal Modernization Act allows the Town to use to offset the debt budget.

Mr. Szajda then reported that the Flagg School had been demolished -- on time and under budget.

Mr. Szajda informed the Committee that DPW Director Sean Reese is looking for \$8mil for a treatment plant. Mr. Szajda advises that this be presented at the May Town Meeting. Mr. Alfred asked whether this will raise taxes. Mr. Szajda said that it would likely require a debt exclusion for DPW/Water.

Mr. Szajda noted that the Committee needs to understand the impact to the school budget while the teachers are working without a labor contract. He suggested meeting in an Executive Session with members of the School Committee to get an update on the negotiations.

Regarding the Policy Document changes, Mr. Szajda discussed the blanket update to all figures from the Town Accountant; determining percentage of budget for capital outlay; and the relationship between free cash and debt.

In a discussion about the OPEB fund, Mr. Sparrell said that he would look into the Middlesex Retirement Liability fund rules regarding the proposal to establish a trust fund to hold liability contribution out of the Middlesex County fund.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting, which Ms. Nersessian seconded and the minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Committee set the deadline for capital requests as September 8, discussed the upcoming meeting and executive session schedule, and discussed items from the Board of Selectmen including the caboose for Blair Square, the idea of a new pay study, the Planning Board expedited permitting under 43R, and possibility of increase to number of liquor licenses.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Ms. Nersessian seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm by a vote of 6-0.

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