

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2017

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

Mr. Szajda reported that a memo regarding compensation had been received from Health Department Director Scott Moles; he recommended discussing the issue with the Selectmen.

He also reported the amount of Free Cash in the budget was expected to be certified before Fall Town Meeting.

The Committee moved on to voting on draft Warrant Articles for Fall Town Meeting.

Concerning Article 1: Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Adjustments, Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend that the Town raise and appropriate \$17,000 for transfer to the Planning Board to cover unforeseen legal costs. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Also in Article 1, Mr. Alfred made another motion to recommend that the Town to raise and appropriate \$1,165 for the town accountant budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Again in Article 1, Mr. Alfred made another motion to recommend that the Town raise and appropriate \$100,000 for the reserve fund. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

It was noted that Articles 2: Stabilization Fund and Article 3: Capital Expenditure Fund would be voted once the amount of Free Cash was certified.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article 4: Sale of Surplus Equipment. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

Consideration of Article 5: Capital Budget began with a discussion of the capital request from the School Department for \$35,000 for a snow plow for the high school grounds. The general feeling was that this piece of equipment was not needed as the DPW already has similar equipment. Several members felt that the Department of Public Works should be responsible for snow removal at the high school and that a service level agreement should be worked out between the schools and the DPW. The SLA would set parameters needed to facilitate any early morning decision to cancel or delay school.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to recommend that the Town raise and appropriate from the Capital Fund the following requested sums as listed in Article 5 on the Capital Budget: Town Hall Door Replacement from the Selectmen for \$30,000; Sound System for High School from the School Committee for \$50,000; Technology (Miller/Placentino) from School Committee for \$100,000; Information System (New Students) from the School Committee for \$100,000; Pick-Up Truck with Plow from the Selectmen/DPW for \$52,000; Livescan Finger Print Machine from the Selectmen/Police for \$17,245; Police Vehicles (3) for \$77,645; and Fire Truck Replacement from Selectmen/Fire for \$400,000; Total: \$826,890. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

A vote on Article 6: Fund Transfer to Affect the Tax Rate was postponed until Free Cash is certified.

A vote on Article 7: Community Preservation Fund was postponed until October 17 meeting after the Community Preservation Committee had taken a final vote.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to recommend that the Town indefinitely postpone action on Article 8: 8 Arch Bridge. The Article requests \$200,000 for repairs to the 8-Arch Bridge. The funding of this is under

consideration by the Community Preservation Committee. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend favorable action on Articles 9 through 12 concerning Water Main Replacement Costs, Water Storage Tank Mixer and Vent Installation and Water Tank Cleaning. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend that the Town raise and appropriate in Article 14: Library Roof and HVAC bid specifications the sum of \$15,000 for the preparation of bid documents for repairs and replacement. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

Article 15: Rail Trail Maintenance will be considered at next meeting when Rail Trail Committee members present request.

The legal issues in Articles 16 through 19 were discussed briefly and were deferred until such time that Town Counsel could provide further guidance on their validity.

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