

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 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, Vincent Murphy, Suzanne Nersessian, Dan Alfred and Tim Maxwell.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 29, 2017. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed 6-0, Ms. Zeamer abstaining.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 5, 2017. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve but not release the minutes of the Executive Session with members of the School Budget Subcommittee on September 5, 2017. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2017. Ms. Zeamer seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0, Ms. Nersessian abstaining.

Town Clerk Elizabeth Greendale made a request to the Committee for funds in the amount of \$510. for online dog licenses. Mr. Szajda suggested that the request be added to Article 1 Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments to be voted on.

Mr. Szajda reported that the Town had received certification for Free Cash amount of \$2,273,203.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to recommend indefinite postponement on Article 6 Fund Transfer to Affect the Tax Rate. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the vote passed with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article 7 Community Preservation Committee Report which will include funds in the amount of \$200,000 for repairs to the 8-Arch Bridge and \$800. for an Eagle Scout project. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Town residents addressed the Committee regarding Article 17 Trash and Recycling Collection at Condos. Larry Dunham, 20 Glacier Way, discussed the recent letter from Republic, the Town's trash and recycling service. He questioned how the company had determined the amount of \$148,000 as annual cost of service to condominiums. He and others had calculated a significantly lower rate. Mike Mitchell of Garrett Way had also calculated a lower cost. There was a discussion regarding fairness and jurisdiction of setting the policy. Mr. Alfred stated the Board of Selectmen still has to vote on this. Ms. Zeamer raised the issue of private vs. public way. Ms. Nersessian said that the matter needed further discussion and that it was a matter that should have been addressed by the Board of Selectmen months ago. Mr. Szajda suggested that the Committee vote for indefinite postponement or unfavorable action because the Board of Selectmen had not yet acted on the petition. Mr. Murphy made a motion to make a recommendation at Town Meeting and Ms. Nersessian seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 6-1.

There was a discussion of the three cash articles and Free Cash and Stabilization Fund. The \$1.4 million cost of the Downtown Traffic Signalization project will be paid out of Free Cash, making the Debt Exclusion Override unnecessary. Mr. Alfred recommended the transfer of \$250,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Committee proceeded to the revote of several Articles. Mr. Alfred made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1.4mil in Article 1 Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Adjustments, with other adjustments including \$120,000 for the Reserve Fund, \$1,165. for Town Accountants budget, \$340. for dog license online system for Town Clerk's office and \$170. for Treasurer/Collector's office. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion on Article 2 to recommend the transfer of \$250,000 to the Stabilization Fund. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion on Article 3 to recommend the transfer to the Capital Expenditure Fund the amount of \$826,890. Ms. Zeamer seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion on Article 16 to recommend that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for engineering costs for the library roof and HVAC bid specifications. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the Warrant message from the Finance Committee. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.