

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2018

The meeting was convened at 7:01pm in room 105 at the Holliston Town Hall. In attendance: Ken Szajda, Ben Sparrell, Sue Nersessian, Tim Maxwell, and Michelle Zeamer. Absent: Vin Murphy and Dan Alfred.

The committee opened the meeting with questions from the public. First question was from Ginny Keniry of 456 Prentice Street. She asked about Article 18. Her question was about why residents with private wells, (such as herself) would have to pay higher taxes for the Water Treatment Plant. The committee indicated the Article only allowed the town to “transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money” to construct the plant. It did not mean taxes would be changed in any way. It gives the town more options to pay. The town would also have a question on the upcoming ballot to decide the question.

The second question was from Blake Lukis of 384 Underwood Street. He had the same question as the first questioner. He mentioned he helped the City of Framingham manage their water supply. He also went on to inform the committee that according to the rules established with a water enterprise fund, a water treatment plant would have to be funded from that fund, not through taxes. The committee wanted to have options when funding was to be determined at a later date.

The Finance committee then reviewed minutes from several meetings.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve the minutes of January 29th as amended. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6th as amended. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 to 0, with Ms. Nersessian abstaining.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13th as amended. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of March 6th as amended. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 to 0, with Mr. Sparrell abstaining.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of February 27th as amended. Ms. Zeamer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve the minutes of April 24th as amended. Ms. Zeamer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

The committee then answered questions from Jay Leary of Karen Circle. His first question was about the Senior Center Director position: was it eliminated (based on the wage table in the warrant)? The committee determined the position had not been included in the warrant.

Mr. Leary asked about Article 10: what was the purpose of the article? Mr. Szajda explained the state allows the town to create a by-law to make the revolving funds permanent rather than requiring re-authorization each year at Town Meeting. The amounts authorized for each account would need to be approved each year.

Mr. Leary asked for clarification about Article 23. The committee discussed the desire for any exemptions to the dog licensing fees to be needs-based for those over 70 rather than all people over 70.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to release the minutes from the Executive Session on 9/5. Ms. Zeamer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

The Finance Committee discussed creating documents to summarize line-item transfers made before July 1 and to analyze the sources of Free Cash.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Zeamer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.