

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2019

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

The Committee reviewed the budget for the Planning Board with Town Planner Karen Sherman and Board member David Thorn. The discussion included staff salary and longevity, the shared phone lines billing problem, whether the professional services line is sufficient to cover pending litigation, and the value of permitting software to operations and communication with Assessors' office.

Director of Library Leslie MacDonnell presented the budget request for the Library. The discussion included an increase to full time for the Children's Librarian, access to and use of State aid, energy costs and equipment, status and insurance coverage for structural repairs and upcoming capital needs.

Town Clerk Elizabeth Greendale presented budget requests for Elections which included costs for early voting for State elections and for presidential primary in March 2020. Ms. Greendale's budget request for the Town Clerk's office had an increase of 3.98% due to phone costs added in.

Ms. Sherman presented the budget within guideline for the Zoning Board of Appeals, noting that the by-laws changes made a big change in the number of variances.

Town Administrator Jeff Ritter presented a budget for Public Buildings with slight increases in equipment and maintenance of MUNIS and communications. Mr. Ritter discussed status of proposed project to install solar field at the Marshall St. landfill. Mr. Ritter also presented the Selectmen's budget request, noting the FY20 is a collective bargaining year and that he recommends staying ahead of the costs of protracted negotiations. Regarding the budget for Solid Waste, Mr. Ritter reported that they are reviewing bids and that someone will present to the Finance Committee shortly.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn. There was no second.

Mr. Ritter noted that he has been working with Selectman John Cronin to meet with department heads on salary comparisons.

Mr. Szajda reported that he is working with Chris Meo to examine our options for phone service throughout the town.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

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