

## Town of Holliston Finance Committee

### Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2019

The meeting convened at 7:04pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. In attendance: Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Clerk Ben Sparrell, Sue Nersessian, Vincent Murphy and Dan Alfred. Absent: Tim Maxwell

The meeting was convened for FY2020 budget deliberations. Committee business included the review and approval of meeting minutes.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on March 19, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 5-0, Mr. Sparrell abstaining.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on December 4, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alfred and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on January 22, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Zeamer made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on January 29, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Nersessian made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on March 12, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on March 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on December 10, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeamer and passed by a vote of 4-0, Mr. Sparrell and Ms. Nersessian abstaining.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes for the meeting on January 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nersessian and passed by a vote of 4-0, Mr. Sparrell and Ms. Nersessian abstaining.

Article appropriations for deliberation included \$40,000 for Tax Exemptions, \$10,000 for a Library planning consultant, \$92,122 for Blair Square renovations, \$85,000 for a

Sustainability Coordinator, \$75,000 for department head salary adjustment and \$85,000 for a Facilities Coordinator.

The Committee, considering the recommendation of indefinite postponement, noted that the proposed position for a Sustainability Coordinator had not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Also, that the Committee did not have enough information about the nature and cost of the position. Mr. Sparrell expressed concern that the postponement would stop the position from moving forward.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend indefinite postponement of Article 35 for funding of a position of Sustainability Coordinator. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6-0.

The Committee discussed whether the request for \$92,643 under Article 27 for renovations at Blair Square should be a capital request, whether appropriating funds would negatively impact grant consideration, and whether there is any question that the existing condition is a liability.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend indefinite postponement of Article 27, to raise and appropriate \$92,643 for renovations to Blair Square. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to recommend the appropriation of \$1,000 for the Rail Trail Committee for maintenance equipment needs. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion and it was passed by a vote of 6-0.

In discussing Article 24, the Library requested \$10,000 for a consultant to prepare a report on Holliston's future library needs in order to qualify for development grants. The Committee asked for more information.

Regarding the request for \$85,000 salary for a Facilities Coordinator, the Committee discussed potential cost savings and importance of it being integrated into every department.

Police Chief Matt Stone came in to respond to the Committee's request for a cost breakdown per officer for the department's request for two additional officer positions: net about \$57,000 per officer. Topics discussed included: the 18-month lead time to replace retiring officers; the increased volume and complexity of calls; and the impact of additional staff on overtime costs.

The discussion regarding the requested Administrative Assistant position for Veterans Affairs included the breakdown in the process of approval and the need for more information. This specifically referred to the request on March 26 that the town's representative vote no on the position at the Veterans' district meeting that was indicated to be on May 6. At this Finance Committee meeting, it was revealed that the vote had already taken place in February and that the information requested by the

committee had not been provided and that the town's representative had voted in the affirmative.

The Committee planned upcoming meetings and discussions to finalize the report and recommendations for Town Meeting.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Sparrell seconded it and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.