

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2019

The meeting convened at 7:02pm 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

This meeting began the discussion on budget formulation for FY2020. Mr. Szajda said that the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen would meet Thursday, March 28 to review the draft warrant.

Utah Nickel, 129 Locust St., invited the Committee to a panel discussion in Sherborn on the position of Sustainability Coordinator. There is a petition on the warrant for consideration of this position for Holliston. Mr. Szajda reminded Mr. Nickel that the Finance Committee relies on data for its consideration of the position.

As general discussion on the budget spreadsheet, Mr. Szajda discussed revenue modeling, which updates had been made, and that all requests had been included. The Solid Waste budget request was updated in the spreadsheet in the amount of \$1,287,851 to reflect the expected cost of the new contract.

The Committee began a consideration of staffing requests across town departments, listing requests for new positions and increases from the Veterans Affairs Office, the Board of Health, Police, Youth & Family Services, the Library, a Facilities Coordinator for the DPW, and the Treasurer and Accountants offices. The discussion included the need for sufficient justification, adequate data and community comparisons for the Committee's consideration of staffing changes. Also, discussed was the impact of new positions on retirement commitments. Specific changes discussed required further clarification with regards to the Veterans District budget. The Finance Committee recommended that the town's representative should vote no at the next meeting of the Veterans district Board on May 6, since the committee felt there was insufficient justification for the additional staffing.

Mr. Sparrell made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town purchase the new trash containers through Capital. Ms. Nersessian seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Szajda noted topics of new growth amount, the reduction in benefits budget and possible increase in State aid as considerations in discussion as liaisons with School Department.

Mr. Szajda expressed support by the Committee for the Council on Aging request for \$5,000 for senior transportation service.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve the change form for a step increase for Secretary Nancy Farrell to \$17.90/ hourly. Ms. Zeamer seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Sparrell, and passed by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

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