

## Town of Holliston Finance Committee

### Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2019

The meeting convened at 7:03pm in Room 105 at Holliston Town Hall. In attendance: Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chairperson Michelle Zeamer, Clerk Ben Sparrell, Tim Maxwell, Sue Nersessian and Vincent Murphy. Absent: Dan Alfred

Police Chief Matt Stone presented the department's budget request for FY2020, which included the addition of two new police officer positions. Chief Stone said that there were anticipated upcoming retirements and there is a long process to replace officers. He also said that the increase in calls dealing with mental health issues requires more officer time. Other items discussed included: the balance with overtime costs and whether there might be a reduction in overtime costs; impact of keeping within guideline, factors other than population used for consideration to add two officers. The Committee requested more information: breakdowns of the budget by no new officers, one new, and two new; and the amount of money used from grants to pay overtime.

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy presented a budget request for the Fire Department that is within the 2.5% increase guideline. Discussion included building maintenance needs and collaborating across Town departments, reduced energy costs through conservation efforts and Green Community initiatives, and the balance between capital and personnel needs. There was a general discussion about the budget guideline.

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy presented a budget request for the Ambulance Service that is within guideline, with basic staffing being most of the operating budget. Chief Cassidy reported that staffing continues to be challenging.

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy presented a budget request within guideline for Emergency Management.

Mr. Szajda said that personnel additions would be discussed at a later date to factor in new hire costs. Ms. Nersessian asked figures on benefit and OPEB costs.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Maxwell and passed by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

###