

Town of Holliston Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

The meeting convened at 7:01pm 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

Meeting was in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the upcoming warrant.

From the Assessors, Peter Barbieri presented regarding Article 13 (exemptions for property taxes), there were questions about the cost and the maximum impact to taxpayers. The projected cost was \$40K. The Finance Committee requested more information about the language and the cost of this article.

The Trails Committee made a request for the boards to discuss Article 28. Mr. Szajda asked what was the purpose of the money? The committee indicated it was safety, maintenance, and improvements for the Rail Trail. The Finance Committee asked why this was a separate article and not part of the budget process. It should be moving to the Parks Department in the next budget cycle.

For Article 24 (money to assess the library), the Finance Committee requested the Library Trustees come to a meeting and answer questions about the article.

For Article 27, (improvements to the rail trail in Blair Square) the town would need to come up with \$92,121.98. The town was submitting a grant proposal to pay for the article. If the grant was not approved, the town would need to pay for improvements. It was felt by the committee that the CPC was the appropriate funding source. There was discussion about reimbursement to the town should the town appropriate the money and the grant is subsequently approved.

The Finance Committee requested that the by-law changes to be explained at town meeting with a presentation, rather than left ~~as-is~~ in the warrant.

The Finance Committee felt the Sustainability Coordinator position may be premature for the town at this time.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Nersessian seconding. The motion was approved 6-0 and the committee adjourned at 8:05pm.