

Town of Holliston
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 8th, 2020

The meeting was held remotely under the guidelines that were issued because of the emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus. All votes taken during this meeting were done as a roll call vote.

Mr. Szajda called the meeting to order at 7:02PM. In attendance were Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chair Dan Alfred, Vincent Murphy, Sue Nersessian, Michelle Zeamer, and Clerk Mark Whittaker. Tim Maxwell was absent.

Other notable attendees included:

Tina Hein (Select Board), Travis Ahern (Town Administrator), and James Keast (Facilities Manager)

Approval of Minutes:

Vincent Murphy moved to accept minutes as written for the meetings of 8-18-2020, and 8-25-2020. Dan Alfred Seconded. The motion passed with a 5-0-1 vote with Sue Nersessian abstaining.

Updates from the Town Administrator:

Travis Ahern spoke about the 5 year capital plan. He has rolled out an updated capital request form. There was a discussion on the CARES/FEMA work sheet, and how things get classified on the sheet with clarification forthcoming. A discussion was had about the policy related to capital spending. Dan Alfred thanked Travis for attending the meetings.

Liaison Updates:

The School Committee budget subcommittee met with the Fincom liaisons in executive session. School Department reopening plan issues (impact bargaining etc) are not fully settled at this time.

Tina Hein updated the committee on the Select Board meetings, clarifying errors and answering questions. Tina also discussed a possible capital request from the Traffic Safety Advisory committee.

Discussion of Financial Matters related to the current COVID-19 Pandemic:

Chief Cassidy, who typically gives this update, was not available at this time. There was discussion on how cases are counted (especially with respect to Holliston residents who are in college) based on information provided by the Board of Health. Given the absence of the Emergency Management Director only high level discussion of COVID-19 related issues took place.

Discussion of matters concerning the FY21 Budget:

As of this moment, the FY21 Budget is “going according to plan”. Travis Ahern suggested some updates were needed; these will be discussed at a future meeting. The Police Department building needed a repair to the garage. There was discussion around insurance coverage for the repair since the insurance claim had been rejected. Consequently the cost would come out of the Police budget, which would deplete nearly all of their FY21 maintenance money.

Prep for the special town meeting scheduled for 10-26-2020:

Travis spoke about the draft warrant he is working on and when it might be released. Ken Szajda asked for a draft as soon as possible. The timing associated with the special town meeting was also discussed, especially given that the meeting is planned for late October, after the start of the school year, when it may be difficult to find suitable indoor space to hold a safe Town Meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Alfred, seconded by Vincent Murphy. The motion to adjourn was passed 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.