

Town of Holliston
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 2021

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.

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

Other notable attendees included Town Administrator Travis Ahern, Vice Chair Tina Hein of the Holliston Select Board, and Chief Cassidy.

Town administrator updates:

Travis Ahern gave updates on several items. Notable updates included:

1. An updated CARES act spending sheet was sent out to the committee.
2. The remaining balance of the CARES act funding is over \$200,000.
3. A couple of updated budgets from the Select Board were sent out to the committee.
4. Summit Pointe drive was discussed at the Select Board meeting on the 12th of April and was continued to the following week.

Liaison Updates:

The School Committee Budget Subcommittee did not meet with the finance committee liaisons as the subcommittee has been tied up with ongoing negotiations with the HFT. There are no plans to meet again with the School Committee Budget Subcommittee until after the next scheduled mediation session on Wednesday, April 28th.

Budget Prep and Warrant Prep for May Town Meeting:

Early budget voting was planned for this meeting, however due to Sue Nersessian being absent these votes were deferred until the next meeting.

A quorum of the finance committee stated they could make an additional meeting on Thursday the 22nd of April.

Travis presented 8 articles for consideration that will be on the town meeting warrant. These 8 articles included

1. Article 23, which is the establishment of a pension liability stabilization fund.
2. Article 24, which is the establishment of a revolving fund for recycling.
3. Article 25, which is the establishment of a revolving fund for the purpose of supporting EV charging stations in town

4. Article 30, which is to authorize payment to the First Congregational Church for an easement for using the land in front of the church as part of the town hall septic system leaching field.
5. Article 31, which is to authorize payment for Blair Square design engineering.
6. Article 32, which is to authorize the spending to demolish the structure at 9 Green street.
7. Article 33, which is to authorize the payment for a feasibility study for DPW facility/facilities.
8. Article 34, which is to authorize the spending for signs and equipment for safety in and around the school zone on Woodland and Railroad St.

Travis also presented his version of the town budget which had 3 large changes from previous iterations:

1. A decrease of the wastewater budget of \$7000
2. An increase of the liability insurance budget of \$30,493
3. An increase to the DPW highway budget of \$10,000

Travis also presented updates to his draft capital improvement plan.

Dan Alfred reported the updated stipend committee findings.

Covid Financial Report:

Chief Cassidy stated 1 new expense was posted to Munis in the last week totaling approximately \$4,000. Three new requests were approved at the April 12th Select Board meeting. Chief Cassidy also stated that the town has a very good PPE supply, and still has a federal grant for the purchase of additional PPE supplies.

Dan Alfred made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mark Whittaker. The motion passed 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.