

Town of Holliston  
Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2021

The meeting was held remotely under the guidelines that were issued because of the emergency caused by 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 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Chairperson Ken Szajda, Vice Chair Daniel Alfred, Vincent Murphy, Michelle Zeamer, Mark Whittaker and James Robinson. Iris Sobchak was not in attendance.

Dr. Szajda stated that they should have all received the email with all the outstanding meeting minutes. He said he would like them to review all and make changes then return back to Ms. Rodrigues to get updated so that they could get voted on.

Mr. Ahern gave updates re: DLS report will be reviewed at next Monday's Select Board meeting. Will be put on line so they can go through that on 11/15/21.

The Board of Assessors has multiple meetings scheduled right now and if they are not able to do that date the last date would work would be 11/29/21. So one of those two dates will be the FY22 tax rate hearing.

The two Stantech reports, both were sort of in draft format when presented. The sidewalk one, when that was presented to the Select Board the asked for an Appendix that would be to use that methodology and then give us what you would recommend. Then the Town will take from that and potentially disagree with that but that is what we would like so they are prepared to get that back to us. The Water Report essentially was in draft but they had done that priority list which is the project that we put on the Fall Town Meeting. So they just need to finalize the report as a final deliverable to the Town under their contract.

Mr. Alfred brought up discussion on the Financial Policy and about deleting some lines from it which brought about a lengthy discussion. Discussion was about the amount of funds to be put into OPEB and how much would come from Free Cash. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Alfred made motion to approve the revised financial policies statement as presented in the 10/28/21 email which the following amendment or strike out on Page 6, we remove after the words Section X the words "the intention of the Town should the OPEB actuarial study call for reduction in the ADC would be to keep the \$1.5M per year funding schedule in place and redirect funding capacity to the new Pension Stabilization Fund. The Town will also consider available free cash for such use as appropriate." The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeamer and Voted 6-0 to approve the policy.

Mr. Ahern had a lengthy discussion of the budget parameters to be used for FY23 planning and also talked about Excise Tax for FY21. Mr. Alfred asked if we had not gotten paid the \$150K for solar this year and Mr. Ahern said no we had not.

Ms. Zeamer asked where we stood on the street lights and Mr. Ahern went on to give a detailed update on where that whole thing stood at the current time. Ms. Zeamer also mentioned a letter to the Editor which Scott Moles, BOH, co-wrote.

Mr. Szajda discussed the upcoming meeting schedule and said that he and Mr. Ahern were working on it.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Whittaker. Voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.