

Town of Holliston
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 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.

Dr. Szajda called the Finance Committee to order at 7:02 pm. In attendance were Ken Szajda, Michelle Zeamer, Ben Sparrell, Daniel Alfred, Sue Nersessian, Tim Maxwell and Vincent Murphy.

Mr. Murphy had sent the minutes for 3/31 and 4/28 meetings to all members for review. Mr. Sparrell wanted to change Paragraph 3 on 3/31 by striking out “dollar amount in 3rd line and should be a higher amount”. Motion to approve 3/31/20 minutes by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Sparrell. Vote passed 7-0 approved minutes.

Minutes of 4/28/20, no questions were raised on those minutes. Motion to approved minutes by Mr. Alfred and seconded by Mr. Sparrell. Vote passed 7-0 approved minutes.

Discussion about Mr. Keast and line item transfer re: the dude contract indemnification of 3rd party provided doing the inspections, got into contract. More detail on scope of what they will be covering. He was able to flip around payment schedule as requested. Will be approved by 6/15 to get into FY20 budget.

School Committee - Superintendent, Business Manager and Sub-committee persons to speak. Ms. Hanstad last several weeks been working with liaisons of Finance Committee and also with Ms. Hein of Select Board to finalize where stand for this year. Looking for about 10K for the nursing area at the schools. Second request is for technology and looking for \$72,450 for Chrome Books for grades K-1. The total ask for what has an 11 week lead time is \$343,109. For grades 6 and 9 laptops. All is Covid related. Entertain a formal motion we recommend that Select Board include \$343,109 for equipment for the schools in the request on Friday. Motion moved by Mr. Alfred and seconded by Ms. Nersessian. Vote 7-0 to approve the request.

Looking for \$175K from CARES act reimbursement of Covid related expenses. Per Chief Cassidy’s discussion for PPE expenses. Conversation by Chief Cassidy relative to new filters and masks and air handlers at the schools. Discussion with the Chief about the upcoming July Town meeting and where it would be held and if it could be held. Dr. Szajda stated there is a need to have a Town Meeting and stated that other towns have had or are having them. These are opportunities to find out how to have a meeting and he is having a discussion with Ms. Greendale, Town Clerk as she has all her clerks who she would speak with about having a meeting.

Select Board approved last night the 1/12 budget that Ms. Emerick had sent out to them. Finance Committee to look at it now. Mr. Sparrell noted that in Zoning the amount of \$855.83 was not 1/12 actually 7.5% and would need to raise to \$950.58. Mr. Alfred – all extraordinary July costs are to be paid and not included in this 1/12 budget. Ms. Emerick increased Highway, Board of Health (Scott expenses coming) and any who needed extra they gave them extra in their budgets. Sue at Keefe Tech was divided by 4 why paid quarterly not monthly. First payment out in July. Mr. Moles, brought him up to 40 hours too. Mr. Murphy asked why is unemployment twice as much as what 1/12 would be. Ms. Emerick based on \$100K what Mary anticipated for 2021 budget. No unemployment bills have been received since pandemic started. She wanted more money just in case. Select Board is 41 higher than the 1/12th to cover couple week's salary for new person. Elections and registrations based on 2021 budget. Would like to lower it down, if not spent it gets net off at what they approve at Town Meeting. Tim at July Town Meeting will be voting FY21 all-inclusive budget. What is approved by Town Meeting is the budget and these expenses above will be taken from that amount allocated not in addition to what is appropriated.

Federal government locked in political stalemate and don't think they will be a substantial part of covering shortfall of about 6 million. We do not anticipate any further assistance from the Federal government at this time.

Mr. Alfred made a motion to approve this press release for release and Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion. Vote passed 7-0. HR will post it hopefully and Chief Cassidy could post it to Facebook.

Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting were discussed. Dr. Szajda asked if Select Board read all articles and finalized the Warrant. Jeff gave them changes but Select Board has not approved them. Mr. Alfred discussed Articles 4 & 5 RE: Town Clerk's salary adjustment to be voted on. Should be kept separate because combining will lead to more debate and talk. Should be kept separate articles so they can take 2 separate votes on them.

Discussion followed relative to the sustainability coordinator and climate change and its importance. Dr. Szajda was only concerned that it was presented to Town as a self-funding position. This discussion was how it would all be applied on the electric bills and who would be paying this charge. Discussion followed about how this was all going to be funded and if the expense was going to now be passed onto the residents.

Paragraph on agenda for last Thursday Select Board meeting, Open Meeting Law violation by Finance Committee on May 5th. Select Board added agenda item that they violated the Open Meeting law. However, there was no violation and there was never a determination of one. Mr.

Sparrell was on call and brought on agenda was not reasonable cause to file violation of OML. This whole issue came up was because of a line item transfer that was on the agenda. Talking about transfer they were told to expect. Sue expressed concern with language that was used in Agenda Re: the OML violation. The issue with the agenda was not about removing the item but about rephrasing the way the item was written.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Alfred and seconded by Mr. Sparrell. Voted passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.