

HOLLISTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 11th, 2014

The Committee convened in Room 105 at the Town Hall at 6:35 pm. Present from the Committee were Chairman Ken Szajda, Vice-Chair Michelle Zeamer, Daniel Alfred, Beth Liberty and William Dowd. Charles Kaslow and Brendan Shea were absent.

1. Administrative
None

2. Budget Reviews

- a. Keefe Tech – Jon Evans (Superintendent) and Kristeen Leveillee (Director of Finance & Business Operations) presented Keefe's FY15 budget and Holliston's apportioned funding requirement. Keefe's underlying budget was up 1.59% from FY14, however, due to an increase in enrollment of Holliston students and a reduction in state funding, Holliston's proportional funding is up 20.72% (\$127,906) to \$745,302. Additionally, the Keefe Tech school building roof is in need of replacement. Holliston will fund its portion of the replacement over four years with FY15's requirement being \$17,513. This brings Keefe's total budget request for FY15 to \$762,815.
- b. Conservation Commission - Holliston's conservation agent, Charles Katuska, presented the ConCom's. The ConCom, while presenting a guideline budget, also presented a requested budget which included a ~2.9% increase. The drivers of this greater than guideline request was for additional clerical hours as well as a 3% pay increase for the Conservation agent. A discussion ensued during which it was suggested that the ConCom look to fund a portion of its budget (including any above guideline requests) from its revolving fund as long as it believes that doing so is sustainable over the long-term. The Conservation agent accepted this request and said that he would get back to the Committee at a later date about the outcome of these discussions.
- c. Council on Aging – Lina Arena-DeRosa presented the COA's budget to the Fincom. The Senior Center has faced a few budgetary obstacles this year including paying for cleanup from damage due to the leaking roof, additional MySeniorCenter software expenses, and a funding gap in the MWRTA reimbursements. Additionally, the COA is an additional part time employee to help with the Center's expanded hours and other programming needs. The COA noted that it has been requesting this additional assistance for a few years now.
- d. Fire, Ambulance, Emergency Management - Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management in Holliston, presented his requested budgets for the Fire Department, Ambulance and Emergency Management departments. Both the Fire and EM department budgets met the guideline while the Ambulance budget was above guideline due to higher than anticipated benefit costs (for which the Ambulance fund is charged unlike most other town departments due to its self-funding mechanisms) as well as higher requested compensation adjustments. The FinCom took the requests under advisement but looked to the Board of Selectmen with the compensation

requests as that is in their ultimate purview. Regarding the EM budget, the Chief mentioned a \$50,000 - \$75,000 reimbursement of storm expenses from the Federal government for prior storms that will go initially into the response and recovery revolving account but that he would be willing to use some of to help cover the snow and ice budget deficit that we are anticipating for the current snow and ice season.

Amongst many other questions, the committee discussed getting the full benefit and OPEB numbers included in the Ambulance budget in order to more clearly know the cost of running the ambulances which will be used when setting rates.

3. General Discussion
None

Daniel Alfred made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Zeamer seconded. All in favor; none opposed; zero abstentions. Meeting ended at 8:46 p.m

Respectfully submitted by Dan Alfred.

Approved: __June 17, 2014_____