

**Holland Finance Board**  
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521  
Holland Town Hall – Community Room  
**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, April 6, 2022**  
Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

**Meeting Attendance –**

Members in person: Andrew Harhay, Chair, Ernie Fancy, Karen Peret, and John W Scott.  
Members attending remotely: None  
Member Absent: Lori Joulbert  
Guests in person: Clelland Johnson - Selectman, Stacy Stout, Town Administrator and Allan Percy, interested resident.

**Open Meeting –**

The Chair called to order at 6:30 pm.

**1. Approval of Minutes –**

The draft minutes for March 16, 2022 and March 22, 2022 had been previously distributed for review. Karen made the motion to approve both drafts and Ernie seconded; approval was unanimous.

**2. Board of Assessors Request for a transfer from the Reserve Fund –**

Given the retirement of the Principal Assessor, the Board has requested a transfer of \$4,500 to inspect, measure and list open building permits to capture new growth and determine assessment figures. John made a motion to approve the transfer, Ernie seconded; approval was unanimous.

**3. Review of operating budget and funding of warrant articles –**

The Assessors budget line will be changed to have all wages go to a line to be named ‘Assessors Office Staff Wages’, with the distribution of those wages to be managed by the Board of Assessors. Stacy will check with legal as to any possible conflict of interest issues with an elected assessor also serving as a compensated employee of that Board.

The expenses line in the Highway and Fire Department budget used different projection of inflationary impacts in FY23. It was thought appropriate to hold these lines at an increase of 15% over the allotted in FY22.

It was noted that the \$13,000 requested for a Planner Consultant in FY23 might not be needed, as the \$12,500 article for a consultant approved at the FY22 ATM remains available for use by the Planning Board in FY23.

The Finance board and Select Board had agreed with the Police Chief's request to combine the wages for road patrol and lake patrol into a single line to provide him flexibility in use of officers if weather conditions on a scheduled lake patrol day preclude need for officers to be on the lake. It was felt appropriate to advise the HRA president and LOC chair of the modification, so that it is not a surprise at ATM. Andy will relay this information to the HRA president and Clelland to the LOC chair.

There was discussion on whether and free cash might be made available to reduce the loan for the new fire truck to less than \$500K, reducing the loan's principle by \$282K and avoiding the required expenses for Bond Counsel/Financial Advisor. It was agreed that the Finance Board would determine if \$150K in free cash could be directed to the effort and the Select Board determine if \$150K in ARPA funds could also be dedicated to the fire truck purchase.

#### **4. Review of MGL Chapter 71, Section 34 –**

There was a question raised at an earlier as to whether the Town is mandated to approve a local school budget submitted by the local school committee. MGL indicates that a town's legislative body, which for Holland is ATM, can establish the total appropriation for their public school, while the school committee maintains full authority to determine how funds are expended within the total budget.

#### **5. Discuss the content of the Finance Board's upcoming Public Hearing on May 2, 2022 –**

The Chair had distributed some of the PowerPoint slides and comments developed for the FY22 Budget Public Hearing. He asked that the members come to the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with suggestions for a presentation. In some past years the hearing simply used our spreadsheet to show the numbers, while in other years a few PowerPoint slides were used to highlight key items for residents to note

#### **6. Comments on Select Board activities –**

Stacy will schedule a joint meeting – Select Board and Finance Board - for review of the warrant articles to be presented at ATM.

#### **7. Roundtable comments –**

John thought that the new way the projector was set up this meeting made for the display of the spreadsheet sections to be larger, making the budget lines much easier to follow.

Ernie felt that the format of an accounting report recently prepared for the Finance Board needs to be modified, as it is very cumbersome for use by Board members. Ernie also thought that close attention should be paid to the expenditures for police detail work. Officers should be paid after the company contracting for the detail pays its bill, so that the Town does not wind up with a deficit that reduces free cash.

Karen asked Ernie's email about the accounting report format and Vadar access was going to be discussed at the next meeting. Andy said that he would put those topics on the agenda.

**8. Next Meeting -**

April 13, 2022, 6:30 pm

**Adjournment –**

Ernie made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Karen seconded; approval was unanimous. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Harhay