



Town of Holland, MA – Finance Board

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2018

Call To Order

The Chairman, Joe Yiznitsky, called to order a meeting of the Holland Finance Board at 6:55 P.M. on November 28, 2018 at the Holland Town Hall.

Roll Call

Finance Board members present were: Joe Yiznitsky, Clelland Johnson and Mike Brady. Not present were Stacy Stout and John Ebersold. Also present at the meeting was Ernie Fancy as the representative of the Select Board.

Approval of Minutes

Motion 0111282018 to approve the minutes of 11/7/18 meeting by Joe Yiznitsky. So voted, approved unanimously. The approved minutes will be sent to the All Boards clerk for posting.

Agenda Items

Discuss Emergency Manager Position:

Massachusetts state law requires that every town in the state must establish a local organization to perform civil defense functions. It is thought that the Director of this Emergency Management Department could be employed on a 'stipend' basis rather than as a fulltime employee. Other towns are utilizing this approach. This will be a EY20 budget issue.

Discuss Proposed Tree Removal:

There are a substantial number of dead and dying trees due largely to gypsy moth damage that are considered to cause potentially hazardous situations in the town. Brian Johnson, the town Tree Warden, has written a letter to the Select Board about this issue and discussed the issue with the Finance Board. National Grid is responsible for removing the trees that are within ten feet of their power lines. Their main concern are the trees along North Wales Road, Brimfield Road and Mashapaug Road as these are the roads that carry the main power lines for the town. They have already started the work on North Wales Road. There are approximately 300 additional trees that are on town property and are the responsibility of the town to remove them to avoid liability issues if damage results from falling limbs or trees. The cost to remove the trees is substantial—about \$1,000 to \$1,500 per tree, plus the cost of required police details. Brian will send a letter to the Select Board requesting that bids be requested to perform the tree removal work. He will probably request a transfer from the Finance Board to cover the expenses associated with securing the bids.

Budget Spreadsheet Preparation:

The Chairman will update the spreadsheet to accommodate the FY20 figures and will then forward the spreadsheet to Clelland Johnson who will maintain it through the budget process.

Budget Letter to Committees:

The Chairman will forward the letter that was used for FY19 to Mike Brady, who will edit the letter for the FY20 budget process. We will request that the boards, departments, etc., return the letter and their requested budgets by 2/1/19. We will indicate in the letter that we will request a meeting with the department if the Finance Board has questions about the requested budget and encourage the department to schedule a meeting with the Finance Board if they have any questions or issues.

Representative for Schools:

The letter from Deb Boyd about the FY20 Schools budget process was distributed. Clelland Johnson volunteered to be the Finance Board representative at the meetings.

Review Meeting Schedule and Dates:

There was no update to the FY20 budget schedule.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5.

Adjournment

Motion 0211282018 by Joe Yiznitsky to adjourn the meeting. So voted, approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Mike Brady