

# Holland Finance Board

27 Sturbridge Road Holland, MA 01521

Holland Town Hall Community Room

## Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 29, 2020

Virtual and Physical Joint Meeting with the Select Board for a Portion of the Meeting

- **Open Meeting** – The Chairs opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.
  - Board of Selectmen (BOS) members present remotely: Bettina Schmidt, Larry Mandell and Clelland Johnson; TA Janine Drake also present remotely.
  - Finance Board members present at Town Hall: Stacy Stout, Andy Harhay, Ernie Fancy and Sharon Ashleigh.
  - Finance Board member present remotely: Kelli Robbins - Associate Member (served as a non-voting participant at this meeting).
  - Finance Board member absent: Joe Yiznitsky.
  - Guests: TA Janine Drake was present remotely and Highway Surveyor Brian Johnson attended physically at Town Hall.
- **BOS-specific agenda items: *Details are in the BOS minutes for the meeting.***
  - Approval of BOS minutes for 10/20/20 meeting.
  - Outreach Coordinator Search Committee Members.
  - Cable Commissioner's permission to borrow cable equipment for a play at Tantasqua.
  - Building Commissioner's New Employee Report Signature.
- **Warrant Article Review/Discussion pursued jointly:**
  - Articles 1 [\$8,800 to cover Green Community State Grant deficit]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting.
  - Article 2 [\$292.98 to cover MEMA Cert Grant deficit]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting.
  - Article 3 [Transfer the \$50,000 balance from the Deputy Collector Reimbursement account to the Fire Department expense account for the purchase of turn-out gear]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting.
  - Article 4 [\$4,240 to pay for testing of Procellacor, as a potentially more effective milfoil treatment agent]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting.
  - Article 5 [Sichol property purchase loan]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting; the Treasurer did revise the amount needed by the end of FY20 to \$44,000.
  - Articles 6 [\$1,171.12 to cover an old invoice from Mirabito Energy Products to Highway]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting.
  - Article 7 [\$45,000 from Capital Purchases Stabilization for purchase of a Police Cruiser]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting.

- Article 8 [Amending provision relative to 'SIGNS']: Endorsed by the BOS at a previous meeting; the Finance Board did not choose to vote on the article, since it was non-financial in nature.
- Article 9 [Sum of money to H/W Road Improvement account]: Each board had previously voted not to endorse providing funds to the Highway Road Improvement account, as the nature of the project to be pursued and the amount needed had not been provided in the article. At the 10/29/20 meeting, the Highway Surveyor indicated that \$80,000 is being requested for the '*Old County Intersection*' road project. Each board amended their previous votes and, based on motion by BOS, unanimously endorsed the article in a roll call vote.
- Article 10 [Sum of money for tree removal]: Concept was endorsed by each board at a previous meeting; motion by BOS to fund \$10,000 for the Tree Warden's *Tree Removal* budget line, with each board unanimously approving, by roll call vote.
- Article 11 [Purchase firefighter turn-out gear]: Endorsed by each board at a previous meeting. The amount required to purchase new turn-out gear for each of the 22 firefighters will be \$50,600; the primary funding source will be the \$50,000 being transferred from the Deputy Collector Reimbursement account via Article 3.
- Article 12 [\$75,000 to purchase an All Wheel Skid Steer for Highway]: Article had not been endorsed by either board, as voted at a previous meeting.
- Article 13 [\$2,300 for purchase of a new desk for the Town Clerk's office]: Article had not been endorsed by either board, as voted at a previous meeting.
- Articles 14 through 23 [Zoning-related articles submitted by the Planning Board]: Each was endorsed by the BOS at a previous meeting; the Finance Board did not choose to vote on these articles, as they were non-financial in nature.
- Article 24 [Hire a salaried, part-time Conservation Agent]: Each board had previously voted not to endorse creation of a new Town position of 'Conservation Agent'. If the support can be justified, it was generally felt the services be contracted, as needed.
- Article 25 [Provide a \$500/person stipend for Lake Oversight Committee members]: The stipend had not been endorsed by either board, as voted at a previous meeting. Selectman Mandell indicated that a policy needs to be developed to address the stipend issue relative to all of the Town committees whose members currently are volunteers not receiving a stipend.
- **Adjournment:** At 7:05 pm, the BOS closed their meeting; the Finance Board remained in session and continued with remainder of their agenda items.
- **Finance Board-specific agenda items:**
  - Approval of Finance Board of minutes for 10/7/20, 10/19/20 and 10/21/20:
    - ✓ 10/7/20 minutes were not available.
    - ✓ 10/19/20 minutes - motion to approve by Ernie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy, unanimously approved by roll call vote.
    - ✓ 10/21/20 minutes - motion to approve by Sharon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ernie, unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- Special Town Meeting discussion: The BOS has set a ten (10) resident quorum for this STM. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/17/20 at 6:00 pm at Tantasqua Regional High School; purpose is to present the twenty-five (25) warrant articles for discussion and vote. Stacy's review has indicated that a Finance Board public hearing is not required for a STM. A hearing is required only for an ATM. The Treasurer confirmed to Stacy that a public hearing was not required for a STM.
  - Roundtable: Stacy suggested that the Finance Board meet on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 6 pm to discuss any last-minute issues. The Town accountant will be invited to attend the meeting to answer any questions. It was agreed that it was appropriate to schedule the meeting and that all present could attend. There was no additional member input for the Roundtable.
  - Action items: Schedule the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and invite Laurie Bartkus to attend.
- Adjournment: Sharon made the motion to adjourn, Andy 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved by roll call vote; meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Andy Harhay, Acting Secretary