

Holland Finance Board

27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521

Holland Town Hall – Community Room

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

Meeting Attendance –

In person: Members – Andy Harhay, Chair. Ernie Fancy and John Scott.

In Person: Guests – Selectman Clelland Johnson

Town Administrator Stacy Stout. attended virtually

Open Meeting – Called to order at 6:45 pm by the Chair.

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to accept the 11/3/21 minutes was made by John W Scott, seconded by Ernie Fancy and unanimously approved. There was a brief discussion concerning the clarity of the Tax Collector's and Accountant's presentation of figures regarding Free Cash; the request for follow up was noted in the 11/2/21 minutes.

2. Distribution of FY23 Budget Request Information

Andy states the FY 23 Budget Request form will be distributed by him on 12/15/21 and expected back by 1/18/22. All entities have been scheduled for their meetings with us, except for Veteran's Service. Changes are anticipated.

3. Review of Budget Spreadsheet to Date

Ernie showed a spreadsheet he created of the breakdown of monies spent in FY 21 and FY 22 allocations. Andy had subsequently added a few missing amounts. How Stabilization funds and Free Cash are allocated and used need to be made clear in the spreadsheet. Ernie will correct the various discrepancies noted. Clelland Johnson summarized the discussion by saying, for clarity's sake, perhaps a sub-accounting system needs to be created for tracking the Stabilization fund and Free Cash. This should be done by the accountant. Andy will discuss it with her.

4. Search for New Members

We are looking for two new members and an alternate for our Board. Andy has arranged for information to be placed on the Town website. People present have been reaching out to prospective members, but so far, without success. Two seasonal residents and Holland property owners, but not voters in Holland have expressed interest. Town Bylaws require that members be, "legal voters in the Town," and perhaps it is also in State regulations. Stacy said that perhaps Mass General Laws could be consulted. Clelland suggested that Andy contact the Massachusetts Association of Town Finance Committees to see if there is a statewide basis for appointed members that must be Town voters.

5. Meeting with Select Board on 12/7/21 – Topics

Meetings with the Select Board are believed to be fruitful for resolving potential budget issues, and for long term planning. However, it was decided the meeting proposed for 12/7/21 is premature at this time. Andy asked about the status of grants being pursued and Stacy said the Environmental Hazard Mitigation grant was approved.

6. Comments on Select Board Activities

The potential for pursuing a Compensation Survey related to Town employees was discussed. It was agreed knowing particulars about how other comparable towns compensate their employees compared to Holland is very important. However, making these comparisons is very difficult. Although there is a lot of data, much is not normalized. The task would be difficult, but would be very useful.

7. Round Table Comments.

Progress has been limited regarding codifying and updating our Bylaws. In response to a question as to whether the Planning Board has achieved the required quorum, Clelland indicated that we do currently have the necessary membership.

8. Next Meeting.

12/15/21

9. Adjournment. Ernie Fancy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Scott and unanimously approved. The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

John W Scott