

Holland Finance Board

27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521

Holland Town Hall – Community Room

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

Meeting Attendance –

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

In Person: Guests – Selectman Clelland Johnson, TA Stacy Stout, Lori Joubert and Karen Peret.

Open Meeting – Called to order at 6:35 pm by the Chair.

1. Introduction of Potential New Members –

Lori Joubert and Karen Peret have previously expressed an interest in being considered for appointment to the Board. They attended to meet the FinBd members, our liaison from the Select Board and the TA.

2. Approval of 12/01/21 Meeting Minutes –

The minutes were previously distributed. Ernie moved to approve the 12/1/21 draft minutes as written, John seconded and all members approved.

3. Follow-up Items from 12/01/21 Meeting –

Andy provided comments on two follow-up items from the last meeting:

- The Town bylaw requiring FinBd members “to be legal voters of the town” became a point of discussion because the first three individuals responding to our need for additional members were seasonal residents. The question was whether the restriction in our bylaw had a basis in Massachusetts General Law (MGL). Andy contacted the Massachusetts Association of Town Finance Committees to see if they could provide insight. The Member Support Director indicated that the restriction is not based on MGL, but a decision made by individual towns.
- Ernie noted a difference between the dollar amounts that the FinBd and the accountant use as the amount ALLOCATED to each line item. While the FinBd amount has been locked to the appropriated dollars approved at ATM, the accountant used the sum of appropriated, transferred and free cash dollars. The accountant’s approach was felt most appropriate, so the FinBd spreadsheet ALLOCATED amounts will be modified to reflect the three funding sources.

4. Distribution of FY23 Budget Request Information –

As approved at a previous meeting, Andy today distributed FY23 Budget Request letter to each Town department/board/committee. Each letter included that group's individual budget spreadsheet, as developed by Ernie. The FinBd expects to have all budget requests to be provided to us by January 18, 2022.

5. Comments on Select Board Activities –

At the last FinBd meeting, Clelland was asked to poll the Select Board as to what they initially felt to be priorities to be considered in development of the FY23 budget. The first-cut priorities were (1) road surface improvement, (2) installation of more stormwater drainage systems, (3) watershed protection and (4) conversion of private roads to town road status.

6. Round Table Comments –

Karen and Lori each provided insights into their work experiences/qualifications and how these would be of value to the Finance Board. Stacy commented on the current search for a grant writer and an intern to support activities aimed at moving the Town forward. Members commented on some of the challenges facing the Select Board and Finance Boards.

7. Questions from Potential New Members –

The questions focused on the availability of training/orientation for new FinBd members to understand the responsibilities of the FinBd and the process used in developing the budget recommendations taken to Town Meeting. Members commented on the various resources available through the *Massachusetts Association of Town Finance Committees* to train/update both new and seasoned members. Relative to their desire to move forward on potential appointment to the Finance Board, Andy will arrange for Lori and Karen to meet with the Town Moderator during the coming week.

8. Next Meeting –

January 19, 2022.

Adjournment –

Ernie Fancy moved to adjourn, seconded by John Scott and unanimously approved. The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Harhay