

Holland Finance Board

27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521

Holland Town Hall – Community Room

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 19, 2022

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, Lori Joubert

Town Administrator Stacy Stout. attended virtually

Open Meeting – Called to order at 6:30 pm by the Chair.

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion to accept the 12/15/21 minutes was made by John Scott, seconded by Ernie Fancy and unanimously approved.

2. Linda Blodgett, Treasurer, presented the FY23 Budget requests for the Treasurer's Office, Employee Benefits and Capital Planning.

Treasurer's Office

FY2022 allocation: \$138,043.73

FY2023 requested: \$76,784.00

Decrease of \$60,739.00 or 44.4%.

The decrease is primarily due to a 50% cut in Tax Title Expense and no funds being requested for the Tax Title Recap line.

Employee Benefits

FY2022 allocation: \$848,614.00

FY2023 requested: \$899,476.00

Increase of \$50,862.00 or 6.0%.

The overall increase is primarily due to a 14% jump in Hampden Contributory Retirement.

Capital Planning

FY2022 allocation: \$112,100.00

FY2023 requested: \$29,000.00

Decrease of \$83,100 or 74.1%

The decrease is primarily due to pay-offs of the Sichel Land Loan and Dredging Study principals.

Relative to purchase of the Sichel property, the Treasurer cautioned that, if the Town did not close on the property and receive the grant, \$155,200 would be owed in FY23 on the principle of the existing loan. The status will be known prior to the May 2022 ATM.

3. Principal Assessor JoAnne Higgins and Assessors Board Chair Cynthia Poirier presented the FY23 Budget request.

FY2022 allocation: \$77,121.00.

FY2023 requested: \$103,796.00

Increase of \$26,675.00 or 34.6%

The key reason for the increase is a proposed salary needed in a very competitive market to hire a qualified Principal Assessor upon Mrs. Higgins retirement in March 2022. **CONGRATULATIONS JOANNE!**

A discussion followed about attracting and holding very qualified people as Holland employees. There is a need to ensure parity for both the Town's wage and salaried employees that staff the various Town positions.

4. Highway Department Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund.

A motion to authorize the \$24,367.60 request was made by Andy Harhay, seconded by John Scott, and passed unanimously. The funds were to pay for extensive rebuilding of an engine on the 2015 International, due to loss of coolant while operating. The transfer was the largest withdrawal from the Reserve Fund in memory.

5. Report on the Holland Elementary School Budget meeting of 1/13/22, presented by Ernie Fancy.

FY2022 allocation: \$2,848,787.

FY2023 requested: \$2,967,114.

Increase of \$118,327 or 4.15%

Deb Boyd chaired the meeting. The Elementary School Principal was out sick. The budget incorporates a new teaching position.

8. Next Meeting.

1/26/22

9. Adjournment. Ernie Fancy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Scott. The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John W Scott