

Holland Finance Board
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521
Holland Town Hall – Community Room
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

Meeting Attendance –

Members in person: Andrew Harhay, Ernie Fancy, John W Scott and Karen Peret.
Guests in person: Stacy Stout, Town Administrator

Open Meeting –

The Chair called to order at 6:31 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes –

The draft minutes for April 28, 2022 had been previously distributed for review. Ernie made the motion to approve, and John seconded. All approved.

2. Review Warrant Articles and vote on whether or not to recommend for ATM.

Prior to review of the warrant articles, the Chair asked Stacey to update us on the Governor’s new Open Meeting Law provision. Stacy indicated that the allowance for remote board member participation was extended until July 15th.

The Board reviewed the warrant articles which have a financial component only. The results were as follows:

Article #3: Fix the salary and expense spreadsheet. Ernie motioned to approve, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #5: Establish FY2023 spending limits for revolving Funds. Karen motioned to approve, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #6: Pay prior fiscal year invoices. Karen moved to approve pending removal of the word “borrow”, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #7: Cover Snow & Ice Expenses account deficit. Karen motioned to approve, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #8: Cover Snow & Ice Wages account deficit. Karen motioned to approve, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #9: Transfer \$44,000 from FY22 Sichel Land Loan Principal to FY23 Sichel Land Loan Principal. Karen motioned to approve, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #10: Transfer the balances between the FY22 accounts as described. Karen motioned to approve, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #11: \$4,000 for technical upgrades for Library equipment. Karen moved to approve pending removal of the word “borrow”, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #12: \$5,000 to add a Security System and upgrade the fire system for the Community Center. Karen moved to approve pending removal of the word “borrow”, seconded by John. All in favor. Stacy will insert the final amount in the actual warrant.

Article #14: \$2,500 for materials needed for proper storage of records requiring permanent retention. Karen moved to approve pending removal of the word “borrow”, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #15: \$75,000 for bituminous concrete pavement on Old County Road. Karen moved to approve pending removal of the word “borrow”, seconded by John. All in favor.

Article #16: \$75,000 for All-Wheel Skid Steer. Ernie moved to not endorse funding for Article #16, seconded by Karen. All in favor of not endorsing the expenditure.

Article #17: \$782,000 for the Attack Pumper fire truck. Andy remarked that the wording of the article did not include the concept of using \$150,000 in free cash for the truck to save on fees for a loan over \$500,000. Stacy will work on improving the language for the article.

Article #20: Bylaw amendment to replace bylaw requirement that Finance Board members be registered voters of Holland with the requirement that members must own a residence in Holland. John moved to approve and Karen seconded. Final vote tally was three in favor and one against.

Article #30: Transfer dollars from the Dam Repair Maintenance account to the Dam Repair Stabilization account. Andy moved to not endorse the article, with Ernie seconding. All in favor of not endorsing the article, as it was originally put in just as a place holder.

Article #31: Transfer dollars from the Cyclic Stabilization account to the Board of Health Expenses account for stump grinding. Karen moved to not endorse the article, with John seconding. All voted to not endorse, as the money will come from the BOH revolving fund.

Article #32: Transfer dollars to the Cyclic Stabilization account. Karen moved to approve with John seconding. All in favor.

Article #33: Transfer dollars to the Roadway Stabilization account. Karen moved to approve with John seconding. All in favor.

Article #34: Transfer dollars to the Capital Stabilization account. Karen moved to not endorse the article, with John seconding. All in favor of not endorsing, as no funds were provided from free cash.

Article #35: Transfer dollars to the Tree Warden account. Karen moved to approve with John seconding. All in favor.

Article #36: Transfer dollars to the Highway Road Improvement account. Karen moved to not endorse, with John seconding. All in favor of not endorsing the article, as no funds were provided from free cash; funding was in the operating budget.

3. Review of FY23 draft Operating budget.

An issue was raised at the Finance Board Public Hearing on May 2nd with the proposed combination of the Lake Patrol wages and Road Patrol wages into one line. Andy had a chance to discuss the issue with the Police Chief, who said to leave the two lines separate at this time. Karen moved to return to the prior format and John seconded. Three members voted to endorse and one to not endorse.

Andy discussed the issue of the Library budget uncertainty in regard to meeting the MARS requirements. Stacy and Karen will speak to the involved parties to try to reach consensus.

4. Develop content of ATM presentation.

Ernie presented the PowerPoint he had developed for the Annual Town Meeting. There was discussion of feedback from previous ATM's and the need to keep the slide presentation relatively short. Ernie will make revisions and utilize slides from the Finance Board Hearing from May 2.

5. Comments on Select Board activities.

See Select Board Minutes of May 3, 2022.

6. Roundtable comments.

No further comments were made.

7. Next Meeting -

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 6:30 pm

Adjournment –

Karen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Andy seconded; approval was unanimous. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peret