

Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Finance Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Community Room 1st Floor & Virtual
27 Sturbridge Rd.
Holland, MA 01521

Board Members in attendance: Karen Peret, Cari K. Robertson, P. Tortolani

Members virtually in attendance: Andy Harhay

Members Absent: None

Guests in attendance: Stacy Stout Town Administrator (TA); Ernest Fancy Select Board (SB); Brenda Palmer (HCC Director)

Guests virtually in attendance (not required to list)

Meeting called to order by Chair at: 6:00 p.m.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 3/13/2027

Motion Minutes approved by: P. Tortolani

2nd by: A. Harhay

Roll Call Vote: All Voted in favor

2. Finance Board Meeting Decorum: Revised decorum was read

3. Community Center Report:

HCC Director Brenda Palmer, updated the FB with detailed information of all the roles she plays as the director of the HCC and how the community and its residents is being served in the Town of Holland. She has done intensive research in comparing other community centers in surrounding towns and the programs being offered for those communities as well as how the directors are being compensated. From her findings she is requesting an increase in her salary for FY25 to be more comparable with other towns; she is also requesting for the COA budget for FY25 to be decreased as other funds are available to the center through different grants. In order to receive a van donation, she requested that the van remain a line item in the FY25 HCC budget to cover the cost of expenses and staff wages for the senior transportation program.

4. Highway, Cemetery, Tree Warden Reports:

The Highway department has rescheduled to submit their report details for a later date.

The Cemetery Committee has requested level funding for FY25

The Tree Warden has requested level funding for FY25

The Planning Board has requested level funding for FY25

5. Update on Compensation Study Progress:

There is not an update at this time as data is currently being gathered ; there is no concrete report as of yet.

6. Open Meeting Law Complaint:

FB Chair, Chair of Assessor & Principal Assessor met and agreed on having the FB meeting minutes for 10/19/23 & 11/29/23 to be amended and reposted with the proper revisions.

Motion to amend meeting minutes for 10/19/2023 by removing roundtable comment “Concern of home properties not being assessed properly and the loss of revenue for the town was briefly discussed” **made by:** A. Harhay

2nd by: P. Tortolani

Roll Call vote: All voted in favor

Motion to amend meeting minutes for 11/29/2023 by removing roundtable comment “Chair brought up the concern mentioned by FB member in regards to properties not being assessed in an appropriate timely manner” **made by:** A. Harhay

2nd by: P. Tortolani

Roll Call Vote: All vote in favor

FB Chair is requesting that all members review the webinar trainings listed below:

<https://www.mma.org/mma-webinar-covers-public-records-and-open-meeting-laws>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/open-meeting-law-trainings>

7. Select Board Comments:

E. Fancy (SB) stated that the By-Law Committee have recommend three articles to be placed on the warrants. Discussions with the Planning Board regarding Cannabis and special conservancy areas.

S. Stout (TA) stated the board voted to request Earmarked Funds for a public safety vehicle to be used in public safety arenas. The Capital Planning Committee held their first meeting for which Andy Harhay will notify FB Chair when Capital Planning is to be added as a topic to meeting agenda for updates

ARPA funds have been reviewed and reconciled. Accountant has made recommendations that all funds be allocated and spent by end of December 2024.

8. Next Meeting: April 10, 2024

Assessor, Accountant Laurie Bartkus & Fire Chief will be presenting their FY25 Budget requests

Motion to adjourn made by: P. Tortolani

2nd by: C. Robertson

Roll Call Vote: All voted in favor

Meeting adjourned by chair @ 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Anger

All Boards Clerk

