

Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 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: Andy Harhay, Cari K Robertson, Paul Tortolani; Karen Peret

Members virtually in attendance: None

Members absent: None

Guests in attendance: Ernie Fancy BOS, Brenda Anger ABC; Priscilla Clowes Principal Assessor; Cynthia Poirier Board of Assessor Chair; James Gagne Fire Chief

Guests virtually in attendance: (not required to list) Stacy Stout Town Administrator

Meeting called to order by Chair at: 6:01p.m.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
Amended Minutes for 10/19/2023
Motion minutes approved by: P. Tortolani 2nd by: A. Harhay All voted in favor

Amended Minutes for 11/29/2023
Motion minutes approved by: A. Harhay 2nd by: P. Tortolani All voted in favor

Minutes for 03/27/2024
Motion minutes approved by: P. Tortolani 2nd by: A. Harhay All voted in favor
2. Finance Board Meeting Decorum: Was not read
3. Town Accountant Report: (L. Bartkus) will schedule for another date.
4. Fire Department Report: (J. Gagne) presented the details of the Fire Dept.'s request for FY25 budget which includes a 3% COLA increase for all positions and an increase to minimum wage for all firefighters. Department expenses were increased to cover the cost for the now required OSHA physical screening for all fire fighters.
5. Board of Assessor's Report: Cynthia Poirier Board of Assessors Chair, and Priscilla Clowes Principal Assessor, presented the FY25 Budget for the Assessor's department which include expense increase for various certifications, new vendor fees, 5y DOR re-evaluation and a 3% COLA increase. Priscilla indicated that, after finding a software error, the New Growth figure used in calculating the Levy Limit could be increased from \$50K to \$56K.

6. Selection of dates for joint meeting with Select Board & Public Hearing:
The joint Select Board & Finance Board meeting to be scheduled for 05/07/2024 @ 5:30 p.m. to review the financial warrant recommendations.

The Public Hearing to be scheduled for 05/15/2024 @ 7 p.m.

7. Update of Compensation Study Progress:
Data is being collected by C. Robertson and a report is anticipated to be ready for presentation on the 04/24/24 meeting.
8. Review of Draft Budget:
Both FB Chair K. Peret and FB member A. Harhay presented the FY25 budget draft and discussed the funds being requested by the various departments. They made their suggestions and recommendations on how the budget requests could possibly be funded. A request to change the name of Element Code By-Laws to General Code was made by (SB) E. Fancy.
9. Select Board Comments:
E. Fancy informed that the SB approved opening nominations for elected positions at the Town Caucus on Tuesday, April 24 @ 7p.m. He also informed the FB that the SB will be meeting with the Treasurer to sign a BAN loan.
10. Upcoming Meeting Topics:
Cost of Living Increase for FY25 at various percentage levels.

11. Next Meeting April 17, 2024

Motion to adjourn meeting made by: P. Tortolani 2nd by: A. Harhay All voted in favor

Meeting adjourned by Chair @ 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Anger

All Boards Clerk

Town of Holland

413-245-7108