

Holland Finance Board
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521
Holland Town Hall – Community Room
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 19, 2023
Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

Meeting Attendance –

Members in person: Andrew Harhay, Robbin Lauzon, Cara Bogacz and Paul Tortolani*

Members attending remotely: Karen Peret

Member Absent: None

Guests in person: Clelland Johnson – Select Board; Jennifer Gumlaw-Assistant Town Administrator and Chairperson-Library Board of Trustees, Dawn Kamay-Chairperson, Conservation Commission

* Due to a technical problem, although Paul could hear us at Town Hall, we could not hear him.

Open Meeting –

The Chair called to order at 6:00pm.

1. Approval of 1/12/23 meeting minutes.

Robbin made the motion to approve the minutes and Cara seconded; approval was unanimous.

2. Review of Library Budget request.

Jennifer Gumlaw presented the 2023 budget proposal of \$72,049 for the Town Library, which includes a 3% salary increase for the Director and staff. She reminded the Board that 20% of the budget has to be allocated for circulating material in order to qualify for State aid for libraries. An increase of \$4,441 was requested for the Expense line, due to inflation affected all services and for continuation of the recent practice of having a number of mobile hot spots available to loan to patrons not having internet access at their homes. The overall requested FY24 budget represents a \$5,811 increase over the FY23 budget.

3. Review of Conservation Commission budget request.

Dawn Kamay requested an increase of \$500 in the FY24 Conservation Commission budget's Expenses line; this was the only increase in the budget. The overall budget request is for \$34,000, which is a 1.5% increase.

4. Budget Development Activities.

Andy noted groups that have submitted their budget requests and those we have yet to receive. He made contact with those groups that have not submitted their requests and all are working on them. Next meeting's agenda will include the Board of Health, the Planning Board and the Trails Committee.

5. Finance Board Annual Report for calendar year 2022

Andy is working on the 2022 Annual Report. He hopes to soon have it sent to the Finance Board members for discussion at the next meeting. He is looking for ideas for enhancing content and on what charts should be added to supplement our report.

6. Expenditure Report.

No questions or comments

7. Select Board updates.

Clelland indicated that, at the Select Board's last meeting, the Board voted to spend ~ \$25,000 of ARPA funds to upgrade the kitchen equipment at the Community Center and ~ \$5,000 to upgrade the VPN installation that will connect for town buildings. They also voted to recommend to the Finance Board that Town employees receive an 8% COLA increase in FY24. He noted that the Finance Board will make the final determination and recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting.

8. Roundtable comments.

No comments were made.

9. Next meeting: January 26, 2023

10. Adjournment

Karen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Robbin seconded; approval was unanimous. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Peret