

**Holland Finance Board**  
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521  
Holland Town Hall – Community Room  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 13, 2023**  
Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

**Meeting Attendance –**

Members in person: Andrew Harhay, Karen Peret, Cara Bogacz, Paul Tortolani

Members attending remotely: Valerie Lundin, Town Clerk

Guests in person: Stacy Stout-Town Administrator; Sharon Ashleigh - Town Treasurer

**Open Meeting –**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Approval of 3/30/23 meeting minutes.

Several edits were proposed and accepted to the minutes. Karen made the motion to approve the minutes and Cara seconded; voice call vote, approval was unanimous.

2. Continued Budget Development Activities

The Board all worked from the budget with the last column titled “FY 2024 Budget HFC Draft Revised 4/12/23”

The Board agreed to all the amounts for each department and category of expense listed on page one of the document. During the Capital Planning review, the potential for paying down the *Sichol Land Principle* in some amount was proposed *Sichols Land Loan Principle*: \$45,400. Perhaps that line item could be combined with another: *Pay Down Sichol Loan*: \$47,203.

The Conservation Commission *Contractor Professional Services* line item was restored to \$,5000 by Board agreement and the *Highway Wages-Part Time* line item in the Highway Department budget was amended to \$11,250, providing a COLA increase, but not an increase in hours. Review continued through all departmental budgets by line item and the Board determined that this version of the budget contained estimates that were reasonable based in the data we had, pending further discussion on salary decisions and a review of warrant articles.

Stacy verified that all warrant articles suggested by the Finance Board were listed in her spreadsheet. It was decided to remove the following from articles using Free Cash: Pay down of the Sandy Beach loan would have to be in the Operating Budget and the ~ \$50,000 estimate for running a water line from the Community Center to the cemetery was not seen as a priority for the coming fiscal year. The Board was informed that the funds needed to upgrade the underground storage tank will be required in FY23, as the work apparently must be completed by July 3, 2023.

Discussion continued about the process and recommendations for salaries and wages for Town positions. All recognized the difficulty of getting accurate data from somewhat comparative towns related to positions that all have different hours and operational expectations. Without such data, these recommendations may be difficult to explain. Finally, it was acknowledged that since data was not available and would not be before budget deadlines, we had to proceed as best we could. The decision was to maintain the currently recommended amounts for those salaries.

To assist with determining how the Finance Board might propose a comprehensive HR review, Paul will contact the Collins Center and investigate the services it offers for municipalities and report back to the Board.

### 3. Select Board Updates

There was no further information from the Select Board.

### 4. Roundtable Comments

Andy asked that any members wanting to attend the ATFC Spring Conference on April 29, 2023 let him know asap, as they need to be preregistered.

### 5. Next Meeting

April 20, 2023

### 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM was made by Karen, seconded by Cara, and was approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Tortolani