

Holland Finance Board

27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521
Holland Town Hall – Community Room

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

Meeting Attendance:

In person: Members – Ernie Fancy – Vice Chair, Karen Peret and John W Scott.

In Person: Guest – Selectman Clelland Johnson.

Members attending virtually – Andy Harhay

Open Meeting: Called to order at 6:30 pm by the Vice Chair.

1. Review and discussion of FY23 Proposed Budget and utilization of Free Cash

Ernie stated that the focus tonight would be on the articles currently anticipated to be going to the ATM and funded with free cash. During the course of reviewing the list of articles, Clelland indicated that Highway had pulled its request for a new F350 pickup truck. The truck was to replace a current F350 found to have a rotted frame that cannot be repaired, but there is currently no availability through the State purchasing program. If the purchase is delayed until FY24, there is the potential need to the F350, as well as two SUVs... funding all three would be difficult. Ernie sent an email to Brian Johnson, asking him to consider purchase of a used skid steer or renting one when necessary. Purchase of a new skid is not considered to be a current priority by the FinBd or Select Board. Since major road improvement projects are completed by private construction companies, use of their equipment is included in the overall cost.

2. Review of articles currently being considered for the May ATM

The draft articles **were** reviewed. One of the articles relates to the qualifications to be a considered for appointment to the FinBd. Bylaws currently require that members be legal voters of the Town. Due to the difficulty in attracting qualified Town voters to request appointment, the proposed change would allow seasonal residents owning homes in Holland – but not registered voters voting in Holland - to be considered for appointment by the Moderator.

4. Roundtable

Ernie and John noted that they had planned to attend the Elementary School public hearing, but experienced confusion in finding out the date/time... it was felt that details by were not clearly publicized to residents, although it is a very significant item in the Town budget.

John indicated that he would be resigning from the Finance Board right after the May 19,2022 ATM. He said that it was a valuable learning experience in the workings of the Town and appreciated the member's efforts in supporting him during the year. As a retired teacher, John thinks it best to use his volunteer efforts to somehow provide positive educational experiences on the workings of local governing and hopefully increase the chances of greater citizenship involvement in government down the road. Andy and Ernie said that they very much appreciated John joining the FinBd to achieve the minimum quorum necessary for functioning.

5. Adjournment:

Karen Peret made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Scott; unanimously approved by roll call vote. The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.

6. Next Meeting:

March 22, 2022, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
John W Scott.