

Holland Finance Board
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland, MA 01521
Holland Town Hall – Community Room
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Virtual and Physical Meeting of the Board and Guests

Joint Meeting of the Finance Board, Board of Assessors and Select Board

Meeting Attendance -

Members in person: Ernie Fancy - Vice-Chair, Karen Peret, and John W Scott.

Members attending remotely: Andy Harhay

Guests in person: Clelland Johnson - Selectman, James Whalen, Selectman. JoAnne Higgins - Principal Assessor, Cynthia Poirier – Board of Assessors (BOA) Chair, Diane Rhodes Gregoire – BOA member, Karie Morehouse, BOA member.

Attending remotely: Stacy Stout, Town Administrator.

Open Meeting – Called to order at 6:00 pm by the acting chairs of the three boards.

The meeting was requested by the Assessors to review the status of the search to fill the Principal Assessor position upon JoAnne's retirement at the end of the month. Cynthia Poirier provided the details.

- Holland BOA members will maintain a functioning Assessors office upon JoAnne's retirement through the remainder of FY22.
- There have been no responses to advertisements for a qualified individual to fill the position of Principal Assessor. Cynthia indicated that the pool of potential candidates is sparse and that a qualified individual would be expecting a salary of > \$60K.
- Cynthia indicated that the new approach being used by a number of towns in their search is to develop/train an individual with a suitable background to be able to assume the assessor position after gaining experience in Holland under the direction of an MMA-certified assessor. The new individual would fill the position of *Technical Assistant* and report to a *Director of Assessment*; Cynthia suggested that she could fill the Director position. The BOA proposed a maximum total budget of \$52K for the two positions, broken down to ~ \$41K for the Technical Assistant and ~ \$11K for the Director. The current 'Assessors Clerk' wages should be left in place to allow JoAnne to assist in the turnover.
- FinBd and Select Board members asked a number of questions to ensure that they correctly understood the suggested new approach for filling the role of the Holland Assessor.
- The BOA Chair indicated that a contractor needs to be hired to capture open permits typically performed in the Spring. This will require additional funding.
- Cynthia plans to submit an ATM article to update the Senior Exemption program and to make sure that residents are aware of the potential financial benefit.

Next Meeting -
March 30, 2022, 6:30 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,
John W. Scott