

Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 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: Karen Peret, Andy Harhay, Cari K. Robertson, Paul Tortolani

Members virtually in attendance: None

Guests in attendance: Stacy Stout Town Administrator (TA); Sharon Ashleigh (Treasurer); Ernest Fancy Select Board (SB)

Guests virtually in attendance: None

Meeting called to order by Chair at: 6:00 p.m.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Budget Follow-Up Meetings:

All departments that have not turned in their budget requests form for FY25 may be level funded. Any department that would like to discuss their approved funding in more depths are asked to contact the FB to attend a regular scheduled meeting .

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes for January 10, 2024

Motioned minutes approved by: A. Harhay 2nd by: P. Tortolani All voted in favor

Minutes for January 24, 2024

Motioned minutes approved by: A. Harhay 2nd by: P. Tortolani All voted in favor

3. Finance Board Meeting Decorum:

Read by Chair

4. Update on Compensation Study Progress:

Town Administrator updated that she has made contact with the Collins Center and is in process of coordinating a meeting with several members of the organization, and will bring more information at a future meeting. She also made us aware that the town is now eligible to apply for the Community Compact Grant to help offset the cost of the study. She will be pursuing the grant however, does not anticipate the grant to be completed for FY25. In the interim she encourages the FB to review the compensation study of area surrounding towns to gather comparable information similar to what the Collins Center would compile for the Town of Holland. Once data and criteria information are gathered the board can review and decide how to move forward with the Collins Study.

5. **Review of FY2025 Budget Requests:**

Chair has created this year's budget #'s from the information received by the various departments whom have also submitted detailed explanation the reasons for their requests. She will email that information to all the FB members.

6. **Open Meeting Law Complaint:**

The Assessor's office has filed a complaint with the Attorney General against the Finance Board. Item was tabled until the next FB meeting where Chair will disclose the specifics of the complaint.

7. **Select Board Priorities for FY2025 Budget Requests:**

Select Board Member E. Fancy informed that the SB has approved the preliminary budget for FY25 and submitted to the FB. The SB is recommending a 3% increase for the school committee to help fund the special education department.

8. **Select Board Comments:**

The SB is in the process of gathering information for our IT department and will possibly be interviewing new vendors.

9. **Next Meeting:**

March 13, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned by Chair at: 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Anger
All Boards Clerk
Town of Holland
413-245-7108