



Town of Holland, MA – Finance Board

Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2014

Call To Order

The Chairman called to order a meeting of the Holland Finance Board at 7:30 PM on December 17, 2014 at the Holland Town Hall.

Roll Call

Finance Board members present: Andrew Harhay, Ernest Fancy, John Phelps, John Ebersold and Mike Brady. Also present was Select Board Chairperson Lynn Arnold.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were not available.

Open Issues

FY16 Budget Development Schedule:

The Chairman distributed a revised schedule for meeting with selected departments and a Budget Development Schedule for the overall process leading to the Annual Town Meeting on May 26, 2015.

In order to provide voters with a complete warrant two weeks prior to the ATM, Select Board Chairperson Arnold suggested that warrant articles not be accepted after May 1, 2015, so that the articles going to the ATM can be announced at the May 5, 2015 BOS meeting.

Because of the number of department budget requests to be reviewed, the Finance Board may have to schedule more than one meeting per week during January and February.

Town Calendar Concept:

Based on a discussion at the last meeting, Chairman Harhay provided a draft of a fiscal year calendar based on the MA DOR calendar shown in each monthly edition of it's 'City and Town' publication; a draft version that incorporated some dates of importance in Holland had been initiated in the past, but fell victim to other priorities. Members were asked to review the calendar to see if it's worth additional effort.

New Business

Review of Board of Health Budget Request for FY16:

The Chairman had been informed prior to the meeting that Board of Health member Ken Ference would not be able to attend the meeting due to an unforeseen conflict. The Board of Health did provide, though, their FY16 budget request and supporting information. The meeting will be re-scheduled.

Revolving Accounts:

Mass. General Law requires that Boards with revolving accounts report income (fees, fines, etc.) to and payments from those accounts for each fiscal year and for the following six months ending on December 31. In January the BOS will notify the affected boards that they will have to start including this information in the Annual Town report.

Grant Accounts and Revolving Funds:

The Town's Accountant provided the FY14 accounting for the Grant Accounts and Revolving Funds. More analysis of these accounts will be required.

Stabilization Fund:

There was discussion concerning the best way to assure that additions to the Town's Stabilization Fund are included in each year's budget. The Chairman will locate and distribute the financial policy drafts that he developed a few years ago. These financial strategy documents were based on goals/policies obtained from other towns and MMA.

The goals/policies need to be reviewed by the current membership and a decision made on whether to discuss them at a Town Meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Mike Brady, Secretary