



Town of Holland, MA – Finance Board

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2015

Call To Order

The Chairman called to order a meeting of the Holland Finance Board at 7:33 PM on March 4, 2015 at the Holland Town Hall.

Roll Call

Finance Board members present: Andrew Harhay (Chairman), Ernest Fancy, John Phelps and John Ebersold, who participated by phone due to working in Albany, NY; Select Board member Lynn Arnold (Chairperson), Jessi McCarthy, Lynn Harhay, and Peggy Lowell attended for the Library to present the Library Department budget proposal.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

New Business

Review of Library Budget Request for FY16: The Library Request for FY16 is a 17.1% increase. They are looking to increase the number hours the library is open by 5 hours per week. The MLS membership went up and they are looking into developing an electronic newsletter for the members. The front porch floor of the Library is in need of repair. Andrew Harhay did not participate in the discussion of the Library budget.

Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund:

A request by the Highway department to transfer \$2,571.12 from the Reserve Fund to cover the outstanding balance when an electronic spreader was added to the new dump

truck approved via Article #16 at the May 27, 2014 ATM. The request was unanimously tabled by roll call vote until further information could be obtain

Meeting with Town Accountant:

Finance Board member John Phelps, Town Accountant Tim Harrison, Surveyor Brian Johnson, and highway clerk JoAnn Higgins met on March 2nd to review the Highway concerns that some FY15 payments might not be going to the correct expense accounts. John indicated that everyone concluded that there was close agreement between the Accountant and the Highway account values.

Open Issues:

FY16 Budget: John Phelps prepared a ‘fourth cut’ of the FY16 preliminary budget. It was reviewed with those present, recognizing that a number of key budget figures are not yet available and that potential additions/reductions have not been incorporated.

Revenue:

The Governor’s budget proposal was released this afternoon, 3/4/15; a quick review indicated that overall local aid was increased ~ \$48K and regional school aid increased ~ \$158K.

Action Items Being Carried:

- The Fire Chief will provide the Finance Board with a one page summary of the quote on the new fire truck; the purchase will likely be pursued through a debt exclusion article at the ATM.
- The Police Chief had indicated at an earlier meeting that he would get pricing on the two Taser units he has requested. Depending on these costs, the purchase and the mandatory training can possibly come from the current budget; if the Police doesn’t allow for purchase in FY15, then it will be requested for FY16.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 P.M. on March 18, with the key item being further review of the 2016 budget requests.

Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10: 30 P.M

Minutes submitted by Ernie Fancy, Vice Chairman