

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, March 31, 2021  
Remote via Zoom

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, Joe Dolak, John Lambert, Chris Lucchesi, Don Graves, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Marilynn Foley  
Also Present: Peter Lukes Town Manager, Stephanie King Asst. Town Manager, Geri Herlihy Selectman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

The Committee thanked the administration for the updated Resource Profile. Chris discovered a discrepancy in the WRSD transportation and voluntary contribution. Peter will check with the Town Accountant and get back to the committee. The Selectmen are planning a meeting on April 2nd, 2021 to discuss the need to place a proposition 2&1/2 override on the annual town meeting warrant due to the impact of the WRSD assessment on the town.

The excise tax the town will receive is an estimate. After reviewing the original estimate Peter decided it could be increased by \$175,000.00, back to the prior year budget level.

The Peter is in talks with the DEP for funds to secure ECC for safety and prevent further vandalism of that site.

There is no change in the health insurance. The overall rate change is key, but the budget also changes depending on employee choices of insurance.

Library window replacement will be deferred another year to allow a more detail project plan to be developed. There was no information on the Senior Center AC repairs.

The Committee discussed hiring a full time Health Agent and leaving the Regional Board of Health. The town has not been satisfied with the services provided by the region and the cost to renew the contract will be significantly more expensive. The town is legally obligated to provide health services to the town. The cost of Holden having its own agent would be equal to the cost of renewing the regional contract. The town had increasing nursing costs this year because of the COVID 19 pandemic. The town is planning to join with Leicester to apply for a 3-year grant to cover the extra nursing costs.

The Committee discussed the purchase of a vehicle for the Building Inspector. A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don to remove the vehicle from the Inspection Revolving Fund was defeated 6-3 Adams nay, Challenger aye, Foley nay, Dolak nay, Graves aye, Lambert nay, Lucchesi nay, Titcomb nay, White aye. A motion by Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane to remove line 5711 from the budget (\$5400.00 mileage reimbursement) was voted unanimously Adams aye, Challenger Aye, Dolak aye, Foley aye, Graves aye, Lambert aye, Lucchesi aye, Titcomb aye, White aye.

The Committee had discussed the allocation of duties/time the DPW staff spends between DPW and W/S. The DPW Director informed the Committee the percent of time staff members of each department spend between DPW and W/S so that proper accounting would be done in the DPW and W/S budgets. Paul will talk to the BOS W/S commissioners. It was suggested that a change could be phased in over 2 years. A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don to recommend to the BOS address this issue in the F/Y22 budget

was voted unanimously Adams aye, Challenger aye, Dolak aye, Foley aye, Graves aye, Lambert aye, Lucchesi aye, Titcomb aye, White aye. The BOS is also discussing a sewer rate increase for this year.

Peter had circulated a policy outlining what are capital assets (cost and useful life). The Committee discussed looking at the Capital Fund and the possibility of moving some of those items into the operating expense side in the budget. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk