

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, February 16, 2022 remote via Zoom  
F/Y 2023 Budget Message and Resource Profile

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White. Chris Lucchesi, Joe Dolak, Don Graves, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams (6:45), Marilyn Foley

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, Stephanie King, Asst. Town Manager, Lori Rose, Town Accountant, Pam Harding, Town Planner, Susan Scott, Library Director, John Woodsmall, DPW Director, Tim Sherblom, Police Chief, Laurie Gaudette, Town Treasurer, Nicole Hallet, Recreation Director, Jay Brunetta, HCTV Director, Gerri Herlihy, Selectman, Rick Bates, Selectman, Joe Sullivan, Moderator, Richard Maurer, Alan Degudis, Rick Shields, Larry Popple, Barry Tupper, Russ Dye

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Peter reviewed the Budget Message and Resource Profile. Today Peter received some good news from the WRSD Superintendent concerning the district's F/Y 2023 budget. While the WRSD budget is going up substantially, federal, state and other funding sources will be used to cover some of the increase, so Holden's assessment will be lower than expected in the printed Budget Message. The town should be able to fund the WRSD without the predicted 2 and 1/2% override.

COVID 19 is still impacting some departments, home construction and also causing delays in purchasing vehicles. The Town has been aggressively seeking Federal and State grants. The total Municipal Expenditure budget is \$74,816,878.00. The impact of the budget will mean a tax rate increase over last year, with the new rate is predicted to be \$18.23 per thousand. Peter thanked the Department Heads, Staff and the Staff in his office their help.

The televised portion of the Budget Message and Resource Profile meeting concluded at 7:32 P.M.

Joe Sullivan, Moderator stated the Town had faith and confidence in the Finance Committee as they begin their deliberations on the F/Y 2023 Budget.

Jay Brunetta, HCTV Director and Larry Popple, cable committee, discussed the HCTV Budget and answered questions from the Committee. They need to purchase quite a bit of equipment, but were unable to do so last year due to COVID complications, so they are including the purchases again in this year's budget. They will not double spend both year's budgets.

The Town is proposing to continue to fund the Open Space Stabilization Fund.

The Town is proposing to continue to fund the OPEB Trust Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk