

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, February 22, 2023 Senior Center

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, Chris Lucchesi, Don Graves, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Donna Wallace, Marilyn Foley

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, Tim Sherblom, Police Chief, Lt. Chris Noyes, Sgt. Gregg Sculthorpe, Jocelyn LaPlante, Director of Communications, Selectman Tom Curran, Bob Beck

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

Chief Sherblom told the Committee that Holden received its accreditation from the MA Police Accreditation Commission and is one of 5 in the central MA with that distinction. He also mentioned that Holden is one of the 100^h safest places to live in the country. Tim reviewed the narrative from the budget book and highlighted some items from the budget and answered questions from the Committee.

There are problems of getting cruisers delivered, but 2 vehicles approved last year should be in service soon, and they have commitments from the vendor to supply this year's vehicles, once they are approved. They are facing staffing issues, as is happening with Police departments across the country. They had 2 officers retire this year, but they have hired replacements, who will start this summer by entering the police academy. The new officers should be on the street by the end of the year. There are no known retirements in the next year.

Dave made a motion to approve the Police Department budget, 2nd by Jane. A motion by Al 2nd by Marilyn to table the vote to a future meeting was voted in favor 5-4 (opposed Dave, Chris, Don, Jane). While there were no voiced objections to items in the Police Budget, the budget will be taken up during our deliberations after all the budget hearings, when we have a clearer view of the challenges facing us in this budget cycle. This is one of the 3 major budgets before the FinCom, and it should be looked at in context of all the other demands on the budget.

Tim also reviewed the Animal Control, Dispatch and Public Safety Building Budgets and answered questions. The Committee thanked Tim for the very informative narrative presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Marilyn Foley, Clerk