

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, February 28, 2024, Senior Center
Library, Fire Department, Public Safety Building, EMS, Community Risk Reduction and
Historical Commission Budgets

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Chris Lucchesi, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Donna Wallace, Sarah Concannon, Marilyn Foley

Member Absent: Dave White

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, Susan Scott, Library Director, Russ Hall, Fire Chief, Sean Smith, Deputy Chief, Christopher Monteverde, Community Risk Reduction Administrator, Tim Sherblom, Police Chief, Selectmen: Anthony Renzoni, Gerri Herlihy and Tom Curran, Library Trustees: Richard Maurer, Alan Degutis, Russ Dye and Ken Mills

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

Susan presented the Library Budget and answered questions from the Committee. There are only slight changes in this budget. Library use has increased over last year. This capital project for the library is the restoration of the historic windows. which will be a \$750,000.00 2 year project. The Friends of the Library are hoping to raise \$100,000.00 towards the restoration, relaying on donations and a Gala planned for April, which will include a silent auction. The Library is also applying for grants for the project and the town will fund the remaining \$500,000.00 out of stabilization in this year's budget.

Russ presented the Fire Department Budgets and answered questions from the Committee. As with the Police Department, staffing continues to be a challenge, both finding candidates and retaining them. Mutual aid calls for EMS from the City of Worcester have decreased, but overall calls for service are still increasing. Community Risk Reduction is a new department, a consolidation of Emergency Management and Preparedness, Public Health and Public Education. Holden is a member of the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, which has been a good deal for the Town, as they provide services that we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. There is a slight increase in the Public Safety Building Budget for utilities and maintenance.

A motion by Donna 2nd by Jane to approve the minutes of February 14, 2024 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Donna 2nd by Jane to approve the minutes of February 21, 2024 was voted unanimously (abstained Stephanie).

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk