

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, March 16, 2022, remote via Zoom
DPW Budget, W/S Budget

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Joe Dolak, Chris Lucchesi, Don Graves, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Marilynn Foley

Member Absent: Dave White

Also Present: Peter Lukes Town Manager, Stephanie King Assistant Town Manager, John Woodsmall DPW Director, Isabelle McCauley W/S Superintendent, Chris Demoranville Town Engineer, Patrick Wood Town Engineer, Selectmen Rick Bates

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

John reviewed the highlights of the DPW Budget: Administration, Engineering, Highway, Mechanics, Buildings and Grounds, DPW Garage and answered questions from the Committee. In December John gathers information from the US Energy Information Agency that tracks gas and diesel price trends for 12 months. He calculates what each department needs and sends the information to the Town Accountant who includes it in each budget. Post Closure Monitoring of the landfill has increased due to increased monitoring of the site. DEP has approved corrective action to prevent leaching into the Quinapoxet River. Protective police details have increased due to a higher contract rate and higher usage due to changing regulations. Vehicle repair in all departments has increased due to the higher cost and unavailability of needed parts. Licenses for commercial drivers has increased because of new federal regulations. The department is looking to purchase a brine maker which would allow the roads to be pretreated up to 2 days before expected bad weather, and make plowing the snow off the road much more effective. The new DPW building has been budgeted for a full year with expected move in this summer. The Adams Road Building will be mothballed with the exception of the fire department sub-station. The Committee thanked John for the detailed explanations in the Budget Book.

John reviewed the highlights of the W/S Enterprise Fund. John explained that one time studies for the storm water permit are now in the annual budget rather than the Capital Budget, at the request of the FinCom. Legal expenses for the litigation with Worcester are down as all the findings by consultants are completed. An expected trial is scheduled for July. John discussed the problem concerning the sewage flow from Rutland through the trunk line from Rutland to Holden and then to Worcester. The W/S Budget presentation will continue on March 23.

A motion by Jane 2nd by Al to approve the minutes of March 9, 2022 was voted unanimously by roll call vote, Challenger aye, Berg aye, Graves aye, Titcomb aye, Adams aye, Foley, aye, Lucchesi aye, Dolak aye.

Members of the WRSDC has contacted the town about a problem with the Dawson School bathrooms. They would like the town to add additional restrooms, but have no supporting documentation, plans or cost estimates. Much more work will need to be done before this is ready for FinCom discussion

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk
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