

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, November 4, 2021, Senior Center

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

Member Absent: Joe Dolak

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, Anthony Renzoni, Selectman

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

Peter updated the Committee on different grants the Town has received. A grant from the Commonwealth of Mass. to update Adams Road, a grant from Mass Works for ECC clean up and funds available from the Federal Government ARPA. Totals are about \$5, 800,00.00 with no specific time limit on spending.

Peter plans to do a study on the Department Head's salary scale, to ensure that they are fairly compensated and we are not at risk of losing staff over obsolete pay levels. He is seeing difficulty with staffing in several departments, as there is much competition with other towns and employers.

Peter discussed the F/Y 2023 WRSD Budget. He has talked with District Town Administrators and Selectmen. They would like to have a uniform approach to present to the WRSD concerning the F/Y 2023 budget. They have proposed a ceiling of 2 and 1/2 percent increase in the budget and to communicate this to the Superintendent in an effort to help him. The Holden Selectmen have voted to send a letter concerning the Budget to the WRSD and hope to have the support of the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed the letter from the Selectmen. A motion by Dave 2nd by Jane to support the 2 ½ % as described in the letter was voted 4-4. The motion failed. After further discussion on the language of the letter a motion by Dave 2nd by Jane to authorize Paul to sign the letter if he is satisfied with the language was voted in favor 5-3 (opposed Al, Chris, Stephanie).

A motion by Jane 2nd by Chris to approve the minutes of May 17, 2021 was voted unanimously (abstained (Al)).

A motion by Jane 2nd by Al to approve the minutes of September 22, 2021 was voted unanimously (abstained Chris, Marilyn).

Peter may need to use a Reserve Fund transfer to demolish a house and barn at ECC as they are dangerous to the public. The situation is still developing. He will let us know if such a transfer is needed this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk