

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, June 7, 2023, Senior Center

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

Members Absent: Dave White, Don Graves, Jane Titcomb

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M.

Peter updated the Committee on a number of items: WRSD E&D funds, Dawson library use for classrooms, trees removed by the pool on Salisbury Street, grant money must be used by end of F/Y 23, and the replacement and restoration of the library windows (a fundraiser for nonprofit will be held at the WooSox game on August 30, 2023, Holden Takeover for that night, applying for federal and local grants, a capital campaign gala and auction, hoping to raise \$200,000.00). The town will also be funding the library project.

Peter has asked the Committee to use the Reserve Fund to help cover the deficit in snow removal budget and an unexpected deficit in the school transportation budget of \$12,400.00 for a student who enrolled at an out of district vocational school. The Snow Budget deficit is \$177,135.79 which will partially be covered from the DPW Budget. A motion by Al 2nd by Stephanie to approve using the Reserve Fund of \$150,000.00 to cover the snow removal and school transportation deficits was voted unanimously.

The Committee discussed the new accounting software system, which should produce a more detailed monthly financial report. The town's audit is finished and the auditor is just waiting for the WRSD to complete its audit, so they can complete the report.

The Committee discussed the W/S contribution to the debt of the new DPW facility similar to the HMLD contribution to the town in lieu of taxes. We would like input from the W/S commissioners.

The Committee again discussed the roles of the Committee and the BOS on the budget. We have asked Town Council to draft a letter concerning these roles. Peter will check on the status of that letter.

The Committee would like early conversations on budget increases on rates of HMLD, W/S, trash, and pool passes. There was discussion on the substation at Adams Road. The town is looking at prefab housing for the fire staff stationed there. The town is planning to make upgrades the Town Hall second floor to get better use of it.

A motion by Donna 2nd by Al to approve the minutes of May 15, 2024 was voted unanimously (abstained Stephanie).

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Marilynn Foley, Clerk