Town of Hudson Finance Committee

Town Hall

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2020

The meeting was held in the second floor auditorium at Town Hall.

*Members present*: Atty. Rob Clark, chair; Guy Beaudette; Sam Calandra; Andy Massa, Shawn Sadowski; Steven C. Sharek, vice-chair.

*Also present*: Tom Moses, Executive Assistant; Tricia Fay, Finance Director; Police Chief Rick DiPersio; Cory Bishop, Secretary, Police Department; Lori Morton, Payroll Clerk, Police Department; Town Clerk Joan Wordell; Kelli Calo, Director of Community and Public Health.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Changing Meeting Format. The Finance Committee first discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect future Finance Committee meetings. Mr. Massa said holding in-person meetings posed “undue risk.” Members discussed an offer from Finance Committee member Andy Horvitz (who was not present) to host a meeting via Zoom, a meeting app with video and screen sharing for up to 100 people. This would allow for remote participation by Finance Committee members and the public.

7:12 p.m. Mr. Sadowski made a motion to attempt to hold the next Finance Committee meeting electronically, to allow for remote participation. Seconded by Mr. Sharek. Vote in favor 6-0.

Budget Reviews. Committee members then reviewed budget and capital requests with the heads of individual town departments and with the Executive Assistant. They met with Town Clerk Joan Wordell; Police Chief Rick DiPersio; and Kelli Calo, Director of Community and Public Health. Ms. Calo said it has been “non-stop” in her department because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Funding for Disasters. Committee member Sam Calandra asked Executive Assistant Tom Moses whether the town should have a “Disaster Preparedness Reserve Fund” to pay for public emergencies such as COVID-19 or an even more serious catastrophe. Mr. Moses said the town does have $100,000 set aside for emergencies in a Reserve Account and that he would endeavor to increase that amount in future town budgets. The Reserve Account is controlled by the Finance Committee. Committee members suggested the Reserve Fund should be at least $250,000, perhaps as much as $1 million.

Discussion ended at 8:36 p.m.

Following the discussion, the committee voted on the individual budget lines, as follows:

8:37 p.m. Budget Line #1610 – Town Clerk. Mr. Sadowski made a motion to approve the budget in the amount of $183,581. Motion seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 5-0-1, with Mr. Beaudette abstaining.

8:38 p.m. Budget Line #1231 – Election Town Meeting. Mr. Sadowski made a motion to approve the budget in the amount of $50,184. Motion seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 6-0.

8:38 p.m. Budget Line #2100 – Police Department. Mr. Sadowski made a motion to approve the budget request in the amount of $3,849,309. Motion seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 6-0.

8:39 p.m. Budget Line #5100 – Health Service. Mr. Sadowski made a motion to approve the budget request in the amount of $203,381. Motion seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 6-0.

9:05 p.m. Minutes. Mr. Calandra made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 4, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 6-0.

9:05 p.m. Minutes. Mr. Calandra made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 6-0.

Committee members then briefly discussed when and how to review Articles that have been submitted to Town Meeting. Atty. Clark indicated that he wanted to proceed with the review of Town Meeting Articles at the meeting on March 18, 2020.

8:46 p.m. Adjournment. There being no further business, Mr. Sadowski made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 6-0.

*Minutes prepared by Steven C. Sharek*