

Town of Hudson Finance Committee
Town Hall
78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2020

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom, <https://bdev.zoom.us>. The meeting was publicly posted. It was held in conformance with the Governor's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, suspending provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, which require meetings to be held in a public location.

Members present: Rob Clark, chair; Guy Beaudette; Sam Calandra; Andy Horvitz; Andy Massa; Shawn Sadowski; Claudinor Salomão; and Steven C. Sharek, vice-chair.

Also present: Tom Moses, Executive Assistant; Tricia Fay, Finance Director; Kristina Johnson, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development; Shekhar and Arti Mehta, owners of 68 Tower Street; Lisa Kilpatrick, realtor, Keller Williams; and Jon Louis, Hudson resident.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Moses explained the reasons why he requested the meeting: to see if the Finance Committee would endorse passing over more than one dozen Articles at the upcoming Town Meeting and to see if the Finance Committee would endorse a 2% reduction in the town's overall budget. He explained that he had prepared the revised budget, it contained cuts to most budget lines, but it would avoid any employee layoffs or furloughs. He said the Board of Selectmen had earlier voted to endorse the revised budget. He briefly discussed 14 articles on the Town Meeting Warrant. He said action on them could be postponed until the November Town Meeting.

The Committee then turned its attention to Article 39 regarding 68 Tower Street. Kristina Johnson, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development, said the Planning Board had voted 3-1 to endorse the Article.

7:22 p.m.

Article 39 – Petitioned Article: Amend Zoning Map; Adaptive Re-Use Overlay District – 68 Tower Street

Mr. Sharek made a motion to endorse the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. By a roll call vote, the Committee voted four in favor (Mr. Clark, Mr. Horvitz, Mr. Massa, and Mr. Sharek) and three in opposition (Mr. Calandra, Mr. Sadowski, and Mr. Salomão). One member abstained (Mr. Beaudette).

7:23 p.m.

Budget Discussion

Following the vote on Article 39, the Committee returned to a discussion of the budget. Mr. Massa stated that the Town gets approximately \$10 million from the state and its revenues are down around 30%. He said this revised budget only cuts about \$1.5 million. Mr. Moses explained how he had settled upon recommending a 2% cut at this time but indicated it was still unclear how much the state would reduce Local Aid. He said the state might not have a completed FY 21 budget until July or possibly August. He said there was legislation pending in Congress that could assist the state financially. Mr. Moses said if a larger budget cut is needed, the town could cut more at the November Town Meeting.

He said a 5% cut would cause “lots of layoffs” and likely would hurt the Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Public Works. Mr. Calandra indicated he was concerned about how the School Department would absorb a budget cut of roughly \$1 million. Mr. Sharek said some towns and school districts are cutting their budgets with meat cleavers but Mr. Moses and the Town of Hudson were taking a cautious, more reasonable approach.

8:27 p.m.

Article 4 – Revised Budget (All Departments)

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to endorse a revised town budget totaling \$80,282,516. (This revised budget includes cuts amounting to approximately 2% of the previously endorsed budget). Seconded by Mr. Salamão. By a roll call vote, the Committee voted 8-0 in favor.

8:29 p.m.

Postponing Town Meeting Action on Multiple Articles

Mr. Clark made a motion to “pass over” (postpone) Town Meeting action on Articles 3, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 26, 30, 32, 36, and 37 until November’s Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. By a roll call vote, the Committee voted 8-0 in favor.

8:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2020

Mr. Massa made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 21, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. By a roll call vote, the Finance Committee voted 7-0 to approve. There was one abstention (Mr. Salamão).

8:34 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Salamão. By a roll call vote, the Finance Committee voted 8-0 to adjourn.