

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 2022

The meeting was held on the third floor of Town Hall. It had been publicly posted.

Members present: Guy Beaudette; Sam Calandra; Rob Clark, chair; Judy Congdon; Steve Forti; Jillian Jagling; Claudinor Salomão; and Steven C. Sharek, vice-chair.

Also present: Thomas Gregory, Executive Assistant; Patricia Fay, Finance Director/Town Accountant; Kristina Johnson, Director of Planning and Community Development; IT Director Eron Dilo; and two residents.

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

Review of the Budget

The Committee then continued to review proposed department budgets.

Community Development

Ms. Johnson reviewed her department budget and the range of work done by her three-person staff. She also briefed the Committee on commercial developments that were either planned or being proposed in the Town of Hudson. Among other things, these included several potential housing developments and a warehouse facility.

7:40 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Sharek and second by Mr. Forti, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$283,785 for the department.

Community Development – Capital Project

Ms. Johnson said her department was also seeking \$50,000 to do a comprehensive update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Hudson. She said this was needed every seven years. She indicated she did not want a plan that was “a shelf sitter,” but one that could be used and implemented. The discussion ended at 7:52 p.m.

Historical District Commission

7:53 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Forti, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$784 for the commission.

IT Department – Capital Projects

Mr. Dilo extensively reviewed why he was seeking a total of \$223,434 in capital funding. The first request for \$173,295 would pay for switching equipment to provide redundancy to minimize down time for critical network services, such as phone and computer service to Police, Fire, and other Town departments. The second request for \$50,139 would pay for a data backup system for every department in the entire Town of Hudson. It would allow for data replication on the “cloud” in the event of a disaster.

IT Department – ARPA Funding

Mr. Dilo said he was seeking federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to create an online system to enable Hudson citizens to apply and pay for licenses, permits, and other town services online. Mr. Gregory expressed his support for the “e-permitting” system that was being proposed. He said: “This will be transformational.” He said the Select Board is scheduled to discuss ARPA funding on March 28. Ms. Fay said residents can already pay for some services online. This includes water, sewer, and real estate taxes. Discussion on this topic ended at 8:30 p.m.

Capital Plan

Mr. Gregory highlighted some of the major parts of his Capital Plan. He also described the process he used for ranking the projects. The Capital Plan includes about 20 items or purchases totaling approximately \$4.6 million. They will be funded in one of three ways: by Free Cash, borrowing, or use of ARPA money. Two School Department projects will be funded through ARPA. Two of the DPW projects, including one to remove piles of contaminated street sweepings from the DPW yard, are mandated by the state. Removal of the street sweepings will be done over four years and will cost \$100,000 per year. The Capital Plan also provides \$450,000 to replace self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. Mr. Gregory noted that only four capital projects requested by town departments are not being recommended for funding this year.

Adjournment

8:48 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Sharek and seconded by Mr. Beaudette, the Committee voted 8-0 to adjourn.

Minutes prepared by Steven C. Sharek