

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 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; Fernanda Santos, HR and Licensing Manager; IT Director Eron Dilo; and two residents.

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

The chair recognized Mr. Salomão who read a statement about spending and taxation in the Town of Hudson.

Executive Assistant Tom Gregory made general comments about the budget. He said this year's spending plan was his attempt to fund services adequately following budget cuts in FY 2021 and a "lean" budget in FY 2022. He said overall state aid for FY 2023 was increasing less than \$100,000. He said the proposed budget of roughly \$90 million includes several new positions, including a Deputy Fire Prevention Chief, a Police Lieutenant, a Parks laborer, and a part-time clerk. He said federal ARPA funds would allow the town to pay for a bridge replacement, wastewater treatment plant improvements, a new fire pumper, and HVAC upgrades. Throughout the budget, Mr. Gregory said the Committee would note that the cost of natural gas had gone up – by 40%. However, the Town locked in that same price for three years.

Mr. Beaudette asked whether the format of next year's budget book could be changed to include the amount budgeted v. actual spending for two fiscal years. Committee members supported this idea.

Ms. Fay indicated she would see if it was possible to make those changes using the existing financial software.

**Review of the Budget**

The Committee then began reviewing department budgets and voting on them immediately after discussion.

**Select Board**

7:53 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Jagling and second by Ms. Congdon, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$13,750.

**Executive Assistant**

7:55 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Calandra, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$344,497.

**Legal Services**

8:04 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Forti, the Committee voted 7-0 to recommend \$250,000. Mr. Salomão was not present for this vote.

**Town Buildings**

8:16 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Calandra, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$301,854.

**Personnel Expense**

8:20 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Calandra and seconded by Mr. Sharek, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$13,960.

**Debt Service**

8:36 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Sharek and seconded by Ms. Congdon, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$7,595,329.

**Retirement/Pensions**

8:45 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Sharek, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$6,794,331.

**Group Health Insurance**

Mr. Gregory told the Committee that he will be exploring ways to reduce the cost of health insurance for the Town of Hudson and its employees. He said the current plan provided employees with good insurance coverage but the plan was very expensive and made it difficult to recruit and retain employees. He indicated that the change would take time to implement, would require approval from the Town's collective bargaining units, but could save the Town and its employees substantial amounts of money.

9:03 p.m.

On a motion made by Ms. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Sharek, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$6,292,000.

**General Insurance**

9:10 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Calandra and seconded by Ms. Jagling, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$462,463.

**Finance Department/Info Tech**

9:24 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Sharek and seconded by Ms. Congdon, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend \$998,019. It was noted that this figure was \$17,000 higher than the amount recommended by the Select Board. It reflects increased software license fees.

**Minutes**

9:26 p.m.

Ms. Congdon asked when Finance Committee Minutes would be posted on the town website. The chair indicated that sending in the Minutes was something on his list of things to do.

**Adjournment**

9:27 p.m.

Ms. Congdon made a motion to adjourn and her motion was duly seconded. The Committee voted 8-0 to adjourn.

*Minutes prepared by Steven C. Sharek*