

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 24, 2020

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom, <https://bdev.zoom.us/j/247317042>. 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 required meetings to be held in a public location.

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

Also present: Tom Moses, Executive Assistant; and Tricia Fay, Finance Director.

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

7:03 p.m.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Minutes of March 17, 2020. Mr. Horvitz made a motion to approve the Minutes, with one spelling error noted by Mr. Clark to be corrected. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

Minutes of March 18, 2020. Mr. Massa made a motion to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

The Committee reviewed and voted on Articles for the Town Meeting currently scheduled for May 4, 2020.

7:08 p.m.

ARTICLE 1 – FY2019/FY2020 Funding Police Union Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Horvitz made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Massa. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:09 p.m.

ARTICLE 2 – FY 2020 Lake Boon Weed Treatment/Control

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:11 p.m.

ARTICLE 3 – FY 2020 – Fund Sick and Vacation Buy-Back

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:12 p.m.

ARTICLE 4 – FY2021 Budget

There was no discussion of this Article since the Finance Committee had previously voted separately on virtually all budget lines, except those pertaining to the Hudson School Department.

7:13 p.m.

ARTICLE 5 – Capital Plan

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:14 p.m.

ARTICLE 6 – Increase Water Department Staffing

Mr. Horvitz made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote in favor 6-1, with Mr. Massa opposed.

7:15 p.m.

ARTICLE 7 – Water Meter Replacement

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:17 p.m.

ARTICLE 8 – Water Main Extension

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:18 p.m.

ARTICLE 9 – Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:19 p.m.

ARTICLE 10 – Re-Appropriation of Excess Bond Proceeds – Manning Street Sewer

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:20 p.m.

ARTICLE 11 – Waste Water Treatment Phase II

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:21 p.m.

ARTICLE 12 – Public Safety Radio System

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:24 p.m.

ARTICLE 13 – High School Repair Stucco & Coping Stones

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 5-1-1, with Mr. Massa opposed and Mr. Calandra abstaining.

7:26 p.m.

ARTICLE 14 – High School Roof Repairs

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote in favor 6-0-1, with Mr. Calandra abstaining.

7:27 p.m.

ARTICLE 15 – Vehicle Replacement – Heavy Equipment

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:28 p.m.

ARTICLE 16 – Vehicle Replacement – Light Equipment

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sharek. Vote in favor 6-1, with Mr. Sadowski opposed.

7:29 p.m.

ARTICLE 17 – PEG Access and Cable Related Budget

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:30 p.m.

ARTICLE 18 – Fund Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Massa. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:31 p.m.

ARTICLE 19 – Fund Workers’ Compensation Insurance Trust Fund

Mr. Horvitz made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:32 p.m.

ARTICLE 20 – Fund Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:32 p.m.

ARTICLE 21 – Fund General Stabilization Fund

Mr. Clark made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:33 p.m.

ARTICLE 22 – Transfers to DPW Capital Stabilization Fund

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:34 p.m.

ARTICLE 23 – Reserve Fund

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:35 p.m.

ARTICLE 24 – Community Preservation Reservation of Funds

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:38 p.m.

ARTICLE 25 – Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:39 p.m.

ARTICLE 26 – Community Preservation Transfer to Affordable Housing

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:41 p.m.

ARTICLE 27 – Joint Dispatch Offset Receipts

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:43 p.m.

ARTICLE 28 – Amend Departmental Revolving Fund By-Law

Mr. Sharek made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:46 p.m.

ARTICLE 29 – Departmental Revolving Funds Annual Spending Limits

Mr. Sharek made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:47 p.m.

ARTICLE 30 – Appropriation from Receipts Reserved – Washington Street Debt

Mr. Horvitz made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:48 p.m.

ARTICLE 31 – Appropriation from Receipts Reserved – Sale of Cemetery Lots

Mr. Sharek made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:49 p.m.

ARTICLE 32 – Appropriation from Receipts Reserved – Transportation Network

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sharek. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:50 p.m.

ARTICLE 33 – Light and Power Surplus Account

Mr. Horvitz made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 6-1, with Mr. Massa opposed.

7:50 p.m.

ARTICLE 34 – Annual Town Reports

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:51 p.m.

ARTICLE 35 – Borrowing in Anticipation of Revenue

Mr. Sharek made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:52 p.m.

ARTICLE 36 – Zoning By-Law: Amend and Recodify

Mr. Sharek made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:53 p.m.

ARTICLE 37 – Amend General By-Laws Article XII, Section 4

Mr. Sadowski made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:54 p.m.

ARTICLE 38 – Petitioned Article: Addictions Referral Center

Mr. Calandra made a motion to recommend the Article. Seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote in favor 4-3, with Mr. Beaudette, Mr. Massa, and Mr. Sadowski opposed. (It was later noted that a split vote such as this one would result in “No Recommendation” from the Finance Committee.)

8:03 p.m.

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

Mr. Sharek made a motion to postpone a vote on this Article until after the Planning Board acts. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

8:04 p.m.

ARTICLE 40 – Petitioned Article: Water Quality Monitoring for Assabet River

Mr. Horvitz made a motion to postpone a vote on this Article until after the Finance Committee gets clarification on it from the petitioner. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 6-1, with Mr. Beaudette opposed.

8:05 p.m.

School Department. Mr. Clark stated that the Hudson School Department is scheduled to present its budget to the Board of Selectmen on April 6, 2020. He said he would schedule a meeting with the School Department after that. In answer to a question, he indicated that the Finance Committee could discuss Article 39 and Article 40 at the same meeting.

Timing of Town Meeting. Mr. Moses said the Town may need to reschedule Town Meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic. If the Town goes into the new fiscal year without a budget approved by Town Meeting, he said the state would likely allow it to operate, month to month, on a budget that is one-twelfth the size of the FY 2020 budget.

8:18 p.m.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Mr. Beaudette made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

Minutes prepared by Steven C. Sharek