

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 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:* Atty. 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; Tricia Fay, Finance Director; Police Chief Rick DiPersio; Fire Chief Bryan Johannes; Eric Ryder, DPW Director; Steve Santos, Director of Recreation; Eron Dilo, IT Director; Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development; Kristina Johnson, Assistant Community Development Director; Justin Provencher, Municipal Light Board; Lisa Kilpatrick, realtor; Joe Peznola, Hancock Associates; and Shekhar and Arti Mehta, owners of 68 Tower Street.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Committee met with Justin Provencher of Hudson Light and Power to discuss the Department's budget and Warrant Article #33 regarding the annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). At the request of a Finance Committee member, Mr. Moses said he would review the \$225,000 PILOT to determine whether it was still a fair number. Discussion ended at 7:20 p.m.

The Committee next met with Steve Santos, Director of Recreation, regarding the Recreation Department budget and capital requests. In response to questions, Mr. Santos indicated he was developing ideas to keep young people active (but still safely distanced) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion ended at 8:16 p.m.

The Committee met with Shekhar and Arti Mehta, owners of 68 Tower Street, regarding Article 39 on the upcoming Town Meeting Warrant. The Mehtas explained that the Article would allow them to create approximately 11 apartments on the second floor of their building. Discussion ended at 8:38 p.m.

The Committee met with Eric Ryder of the DPW to discuss his capital requests, Article 11 pertaining to a nearly \$15 million sewer treatment plant upgrade, and Article 31 regarding repair and replacement of the Forestvale Cemetery Wall. Discussion ended at 8:51 p.m.

The Committee discussed capital requests with Police Chief Rick DiPersio and Fire Chief Bryan Johannes. Chief Johannes said they had just discovered that afternoon that the radio system upgrade would cost approximately \$106,000 more than initially requested and budgeted. Mr. Moses said he would seek the additional funds from another source. Discussion ended at 9:08 p.m.

Mr. Hunter and Ms. Johnson showed a PowerPoint and answered multiple questions about Article 36, an amendment and recodification of the town's by-laws. Committee members suggested that Mr.

Hunter and Ms. Johnson attempt to educate the public before Town Meeting to avoid lengthy debate and confusion.

The Committee talked with IT Director Eron Dilo regarding his capital requests and encouraged him to seek better prices for computer screens. Discussion ended at 10:14 p.m.

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

10:15 p.m. Budget Line #1967 – Municipal Light Board. Mr. Horvitz made a motion to approve the budget in the amount of \$3,900. Motion seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 6-1, with Mr. Massa opposed.

10:17 p.m. Budget Line #6300 – Recreation Department. Mr. Horvitz made a motion to approve the budget in the amount of \$419,236. Motion seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

10:18 p.m. Adjournment. There being no further business, Mr. Sadowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting and continue work on the Town Meeting Warrant the following night. Seconded by Mr. Calandra. Vote in favor 7-0.

*Minutes prepared by Steven C. Sharek*