

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
D.P.W. STUDY COMMITTEE**

June 17, 2010
6:40 P.M.

Town Hall
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Present: Charlie Roberts, Dennis Ferreira, Carl Damigella, Mary Greendale, Tom Chipman and Kevin Conley. William McColl as the Liaison. Tom Dumas was absent.

Mr. Roberts said that they are expecting Paul Le Beau and a representative from the Finance Committee.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minutes of April 29th 2010 - postponed

Mr. Roberts said that any departments that are involved with the possible merge are informed.

Mr. Roberts said that with the merge to form a D.P.W. it will make the Town more efficient.

Mr. Roberts said that he has spoken with the web - master for a home page for the Committee. That way people can see what has been done. Ms. Greendale asked Mr. Roberts if they have talked to the departments and staff about this. Mr. Ferreira said that Mr. Sharpin and Mr. Valovcin knew what was going on. Mr. Ferreira said that they brought the Water Department into a meeting. Ms. Greendale said that the information did not get down to the staff level. Ms. Greendale said that the Park Department and the Water Department staff did not get any information about this. Mr. Ferreira said that when they were going to Town Meeting in May, Town Counsel had problems with the language. Mr. Damigella said that even if there were able to go to Town Meeting, they did not have all the answers. Mr. Damigella said that when Town Counsel looked at the language, they did not like the way the committees and boards were going to be disbanded. Mr. Damigella said that they have to look at the structure of the D.P.W. Who is going to oversee the department? Mr. Damigella said that in the Town of Medway, they have a Director and he is overseen by the Town Administrator and the Selectmen. He said that Medway did not disband any committees or boards. Ms. Greendale said that Mr. Le Beau can't be the final overseer, it would have to be the Selectmen. If you change the Town Administrator's job description, it would have to go through legislation. Mr. Roberts said that he would like to have D.P.W. Commissioners and have them elected. Mr. Conley did not agree. Mr. Roberts wants to eliminate the Water Commissioners and the Board of Selectmen as overseers. Mr. Damigella said that if this goes to Town Meeting in October and is passed, there needs to be a slow transition until the next election.

Mr. Roberts passed out a list with bullet points.

There was a brief discussion about what departments were going to fall under the D.P.W.

Mr. Damigella said that after school starts, they need to have a public meeting for input from the residents. Mr. Conley said that he thinks the head of the D.P.W. should report to the Town Administrator then to the Selectmen. He said that we do not need layers of bosses. He would be micro managed. Mr. Damigella asked Mr. Le Beau if in his job description, could he be the overseer of the D.P.W. Director? Mr. Le Beau said that legislation would have to be amended. Ms. Greendale asked if he would be the final stop or would there be a Board to answer to? Mr. Conley said that it would be up to the Study Committee. Mr. Damigella said that if there is a crisis, the Director should be able to handle it, not the Town Administrator.

Mr. Le Beau said that the Town Administrator's Office already deals with Recycling and Solid Waste, not the Board of Health. He did say that there may be a trade-off as well. Mr. McColl said that it would be better to have an employee in charge, not an elected official. Mr. Ferreira said that he is an elected official and there is a disconnect from the day-to-day activities. He goes to meetings every other week. Mr. Roberts said that you do need a contact person. Ms. Greendale said that this position should be an employee not an elected official. Mr. Damigella said the Selectmen should be the Board of Directors for the D.P.W. Supervisor.

Mr. Conley said that you need someone at the top looking for inefficiencies. Liz Theiler, Norland Street, asked if the Water Department was able to use the Highway Departments loader? Mr. Ferreira said that Mr. Sharpin and Mr. Valocin do not make the effort. Ms. Greendale said that they are Water Department employees, not Highway Employees. Mr. Ferreira said that Mr. Smith, from the Highway Department, is not cooperating. Then who do they go to? Ms. Greendale said then you go to the Selectmen. Mr. Damigella said that they have purchased items with Water and Highway funds, with the hopes of sharing the items. Mr. Ferreira said that when the Highway Department goes for a grant to up-grade a road and drainage, they should include the up-grade of the water main as well. Ms. Greendale said that a grant writer. They would know how to go for funding for roads and water mains. But the proposal would have to include both Departments. Mr. Ferreira said that the Highway Department is working on the culvert on Gorwin Drive, are there any water related issues? Mr. Damigella said a pipe is going to be changed and Mr. Valocin has spoken with Mr. Smith about it. Mr. Damigella said that Mr. Smith and Mr. Valocin have good communication. Mr. Ferreira said that he did not know that. He was never told that at a meeting. Ms. Zicko said that she did not see any personnel savings with the merge. Mr. McColl said is it important to look at locations where the D.P.W. could be. Mr. Roberts said to go back to the departments and get the feed-back from the employees and at the next meeting it can be discussed. Mr. Roberts said the next meeting will be July 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's meeting room.

AT 8:45 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DAMIGELLA. SIX IN FAVOR. MR. DUMAS WAS ABSENT.

Donna A. Muzzy

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