

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

March 18, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Area 019
Town Hall

Present: Charlie Roberts, Chairman; Kevin Conley, Vice Chairman; Tomas Dumas and Carl Damigella. Dennis Ferrera was absent.

The D.P.W. Study Committee met with the following, Butch Vito, Norfolk D.P.W. Director, Thomas Smith, Holliston Highway Superintendent, James Crews, Jr. Finance Committee, Jay Leary, Finance Committee, Jared Adams, Water Commissioner and Jack Blais.

Mr. Vito, D.P.W. Director of Norfolk, gave a brief overview on how Norfolk made the transition.

Mr. Roberts would like the Board to get all their questions together so they can have a good presentation at Town Meeting. Mr. Damigella said that Mr. Vito will give him a copy of his ORG Chart and Mr. Damigella can compare it to what Holliston wants to do. Mr. Damigella asked Mr. Conley to get a copy of the ORG Chart from Medway. Mr. Roberts said that he would get a copy of Wayland. Mr. Conley said that he would like to see a cost benefit chart as well. Mr. Roberts said that it would be a tough sell at Town Meeting if they do not have all the facts in place. Mr. Conley said that he would get a copy of the Medway Town Meeting Article. He would be happy to start writing up the new article. Mr. Damigella said that would be a good start. Mr. Conley said that if this passes at Town Meeting, it would go into effect after 24 hours. Both Departments would run as they have been until a Director is hired, or in interim Director.

Mr. Damigella said that the Water Department spoke in open session about things that should have been discussed in executive session. Mr. Damigella said that the Water Department has an employee, (Chief Operator) and his salary is \$61,800. They are trying to terminate him. Mr. Damigella said that if this happens, part of that cash could go to an interim Director salary. Mr. Damigella said that the salary of the Director would be a 50/50 split between the Water and Highway Departments. Mr. Conley said that the new DPW Superintendent job should be funded by at least 70% of cuts from the Water Department. Mr. Damigella has a copy of the breakdown for Norfolk. Mr. Roberts said that Norfolk is bigger than Holliston. Mr. Conley said that Medway has a bigger water Department infrastructure than Holliston and they have less employees than we do. Mr. Conley said that Holliston Water is automated and Medway is not and they have more work to do. Mr. Damigella said that the salary for the D.P.W. Director in Norfolk is \$85,000.00.

Mr. Damigella said that \$63,750.00 was from the Highway side and \$21,250.00 was from the Water Department. Mr. Damigella said Holliston has a Principal Clerk, Recording Secretary and an Office Manager. Mr. Vito in Norfolk has only one clerical staff. Mr. Conley said that the Water Department is top heavy. Mr. Conley said that most of the savings would come from the Water Department. Mr. Damigella said that he hopes that

the Water Superintendent would take advantage of retirement. Mr. Roberts said that we need to follow another town's structure. He said that this is an investment in the Town and we are trying to have savings. Mr. Conley said that we should go to a (D.P.S.) for Department Public Services. He said that it would have broader coverage. He said that it would give the chance to change things 5 to 10 years from now. Mr. Damigella asked what Boards would be under this umbrella. Mr. Conley said that the Water Commissioners should still be part so that they can set rates. He also said that the Park Commissioners would remain for the recreation part of the department. Mr. Damigella asked if a representative from Wayland would come and speak. Mr. Damigella would like to see the two Departments merge. Mr. Conley said that town water is brown, he will not drink it. Mr. Damigella said that Holliston can't account for 20% of their water. He said just for the month of February, it was 5 million gallons of water. He said that it averages 160 thousand gallons a day, 7 thousand gallons per hour. Mr. Roberts said that that is a continuous loss every month. Mr. Dumas asked how long, have we been losing water. Mr. Damigella said for some time. He said that the new automatic meters were to bring this under control. He said that they were going to save time and money for the office staff. It was going to account for all the water. Mr. Roberts said that the next meeting would be on April 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DAMIGELLA. THREE IN FAVOR. MR. DUMAS ABSTAINED. MR. FERRERA WAS ABSENT.

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

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____