

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 22, 2010
7:30 P.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall

Present: Carl Damigella, Vice Chairman; William McColl, Clerk; Paul D. Le Beau, Town Administrator and Andrea Minihan, Administrative Assistant. Andrew M. Porter, Chairman was absent.

MR. MCCOLL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANTS:

10-34 GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 78,810.07
VOIDS:	\$ (238.00)
WIRES/MANUAL: MEDICARE PART B	\$ 818.20
TOWN PAYROLL	\$ 88,390.40
TOTAL WARRANT	\$162,780.67

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID

\$ 29,734.38

TREASURE'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST

\$ 18,965.75

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. McColl congratulated HCAT TV 8 on their 25 years of service to the town.

He also said that the Holliston Educational Foundation is having a fundraiser, a trivia contest on March 3, 2010, at the high school.

Mr. Damigella said that the PTSA Auction is on-line. He also wished Mr. Porter a speedy recovery.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Jack Blais, 25 Mitchell Road said that he had something to say, Mr. Damigella told Mr. Blais that Public Comment is only for informational and the Board does not have to comment on anything that is said. Mr. Blais said that he has a new idea and concept for the Board to think about. He said that with the Police Chief retiring at the end of April, let's not spend money in replacing the Chief. He suggested that we take four similar towns and the Fire and Police dispatch could merge together. He said that as an idea, have an independent company come in for two years and oversee the four towns and pay the consultant. He would have his own car and insurance and pension. He said that with this new concept, the fee would be covered by the four towns. He said that the Lieutenant in each town would run the day-to-day operations, and the consultant would work in each towns one day a week and on the fifth day he would go where he was needed most. Mr. Blais said that the police do give mutual aid to other town and they do

the same for us. He also said that we should have one officer for the four towns who go to court and each town could be saving. He said that if the Board were thinking of hiring a Public Safety Administrator for the Fire Department and the Police Department, he said that Menden and Hopedale have recently done this, you need a police background to be a Public Safety Administrator. He said that the Fire Chief could not oversee the Police Department, because he does not have a Police background. Mr. Blais said that he has had conversation with Milford Police, Chief Tom O'Loughlin, who would be interested in running the Holliston Police Department for \$50,000.00. Mr. Blais said that shared services is the way to go. Mr. Blais said that Chief O'Loughlin is an attorney and had lived in town. Mr. Blais said that if you are not interested in Chief O'Loughlin, put out a proposal and see what happens. Mr. Blais would like to see Holliston be pro-active and be the leader of the future. Mr. Damigella said that he did not know where Mr. Blais got the information about merging the police and fire dispatch, but there is a facility at the new police station to take care of that if it should happen. Mr. Damigella said that they have not discussed that yet, it may be an issue when it comes time for contract discussion. Mr. Damigella said that Holliston shares their Conservation Agent with Medway, the Animal Control Officer with Ashland and the Sealer of Weights and Measures with Ashland and Framingham. Mr. McColl said that the Board of Health will be next. Mr. Damigella said that they will look within the consolidation of departments before we go to the outside. Mr. Damigella said that no decision will be made today. Mr. Blais asked how long it would be before he received a response. Mr. McColl said that this is public comment and they will take it under advisement, and to remember that they do not have to respond. Jay Leary, Finance Committee, asked Mr. Blais to come to the Finance Committee to discuss this. Mr. Leary said that the next meeting would be on February 23, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Mr. Leary said that one day a week is not enough for someone to run the police department.

HOLLISTON CABLE ACCESS TELEVISION

Jenny McGee, Dennis Bergeron and Barry Simms were present. Ms. McGee is the Chairperson of HCAT TV and Mr. Bergeron is the Program Manager. Ms. McGee presented a fruit basket to the Selectmen. Ms. McGee said that HCAT TV has just celebrated 25 years. Ms. McGee said that they are going to have a year long celebration. They are looking for new volunteers. Ms. McGee thanked all of the volunteers for all their years of service.

Mr. McColl read a proclamation to HCAT TV.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR, DEBT AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BUDGETS

Mary Bousquet, Treasurer was present. Ms. Bousquet said that in order to make the -2% budget, all employees will receive their 3% salary raise, but she also will have to reduce the Assistant Treasurer position from 28 hours to 20 hours per week. This will give the staff back their longevity. She said that she has given up her stipend. The communication line was reduced by \$13.00, Professional Services has been reduced to \$16,000.00. She said that they would be going out to bid for the mailing of real estate tax bills. They are looking to reduce the printing of it. She said that she has also cut the

office supplies to \$3,679.00. The postage remains the same; they are reimbursed by each department for postage. She said that the difference between the -2% and the -3% is that the Assistant Treasurer's hours would be reduced to 18 hours per week. She said that if that is the route that they take it will be extremely difficult. Ms. Bousquet said that the Assistant Treasurer is responsible for all the employee benefits. Mr. McColl asked if they could get more work done if the office was closed one afternoon a week. She said that if they could shut off the telephone. She said that they are out straight because of the 5,700 real estate bills and the 13,000 excise tax bills all at the same time. She said that if all if the building was closed it would help. Mr. Damigella asked if is possible to have some in-house sharing with the Assessors Office for personnel. She said that it is possible some things are similar, they both post abatements and they answer the same type of questions. She said that the Accountant is looking for extra help and does have a few hours to spare, and the Assistant Treasurer is willing. She said that they just started talking about this. She said that the Employee Benefits Budget, Workers Comp and disability insurance are tied to salaries so she has set it at 3% increase. She said that Health Insurance will have an 8% increase, but the rate is not set in stone. The new rate will be coming out on Tuesday, February 23rd. She said that Medicare and Medicare B have a 3% increase. She said that the Debt Budget principal long term debt is \$3,566,504.00 and the long term interest is \$2,145,313.00 and the general interest has increased to \$2,500.00 because of a large number of abatement applications that the Assessors have received and sometimes they have to pay out interest on it.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLE FUELS BUDGET

Thomas Smith, Highway Superintendent, was present. He said that in going with the guidelines and a -3% and a -2% cut he reduced the labor line and reduced some of the vehicle maintenance. If they go with the -2% he will reduce the labor line by \$26,987.00 and the vehicle maintenance line by \$693.00. He said that this is 2% cut with a 3% raise. If it should go to a -3% cut and a 3% raise the labor lines will stay the same as the 2% cut but the vehicle maintenance line would be cut \$11,820.00. Mr. Smith said that they would have to layoff someone. Mr. McColl asked about the layoff. Mr. Smith said it would be a laborer/equipment operator. Mr. Smith said that they can hire the contractors to come in and plow if needed. He said that he does have the line for summer help. Mr. Damigella said that this may be on hold. One of the employees of the Highway Department has applied for the open position on the Water Department. Mr. Damigella said that if this were to happen, then there would not be any unemployment to pay. Mr. Smith said that if there were to be a layoff, projects will take a little longer to finish. Mr. McColl said that the Highway Department has cut capital for three (3) years in a row. Mr. Smith said that they have replaced a lot of vehicles, so maintenance should not be an issue. He said that they do not have the major breakdowns that they had at one time. Mr. Damigella said that some of the equipment would be hard to replace because they are high priced items, like the sweeper or the loader. Mr. Smith said that the sweeper would be the next to be replaced. Mr. Leary, Finance Committee, asked if it were to be cheaper to have a company come in and do the sweeping for the town. Mr. Smith said that he has looked into it and he has run some numbers but the problem is that you have to pay for

the disposal of the collections. Mr. Leary asked about sharing a sweeper with another town. Mr. Smith said that every town would want the sweeper at the same time. Mr. Leary asked if the town purchased a sweeper, would we have the opportunity to sweep other towns. Mr. Smith said that it was a possibility. Mr. Damigella said that it would have to be a smaller town than Holliston, because of the miles. He said that the sweeping starts in the early spring and continues into the summer. He said that if they were to share it with another town they could use it in the summer, but it not a good idea to use it in the summer because the engine runs very hot. Mr. Smith said that the sweeping items are not bad to get rid of. It is the basin cleanings need to be hauled out.

Mr. Smith said that the Motor Vehicle Fuels have been cut by 3%. Mr. Damigella asked about the price of fuel. Mr. Smith said that the price is holding and it is not too bad. Mr. Damigella asked about the fuels used during a snow storm. Do they come out of the snow and ice budget? Mr. Smith said that he would have to look it up, he was not sure. Mr. Le Beau said that the fuels are not divided.

FIRE, AMBULANCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUDGETS

Chief Michael Cassidy was present. Chief Cassidy said that he would not be taking the 3% increase in his salary. He would see that the dispatchers and fire fighters receive their 3% raise. Mr. Damigella said that the fire fighters do receive a stipend. They basically work for nothing if they are on the town medical plans. Chief Cassidy said that if there is an emergency, everyone shows up. He said that he has a waiting list. Chief Cassidy said that the Ambulance did receive revenue, and they were able to put it away. Chief Cassidy said that just a few months ago, they increased the fees for the ambulance. He said that they had not had an increase in four years. Chief Cassidy presented a fact sheet with the response time. He said that they meet or exceeded the national average. He said that personnel were on site within six minutes. Chief Cassidy said that he was able to meet the budget for Emergency Management by reducing the purchased services line. He said that he has been active in changing the Community Notification System. He said that when it was purchased it was top of the line. He said that there have been advancements in technology. He said that there is a new system that would let the residents be responsible for the input of their own information.

HOUSING COMMITTEE – POSTPONED

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. Damigella said that they have a parade permit request for Children's Hospital.
MR. MCCOLL MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT (5 K ROAD RACE) FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ON SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DAMIGELLA. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MCCOLL MOVED TO APPROVE THE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PARADE PERMIT FOR MAY 2, 2010, STARTING AT 1:00 P.M.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DAMIGELLA. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES

MR. MCCOLL MOVED TO APPROVE ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES FOR THE FAIRVIEW AT PINECREST FOR FEBRUARY 27TH AND 28TH AND MARCH 4TH AND 5TH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DAMIGELLA. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

HOUSING TRUST APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Le Beau said according to state law this Board, is limited to two year terms. He said that they can't be appointed for more than two years at a time. He said that usually it is three years for a term. He said he had staggered the terms so that they conform to the terms of office for those members representing other boards and committees. The Board indicated its concurrence with the terms of office.

AT 8:40 P.M. MR. MCCOLL MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DAMIGELLA. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____