

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

August 23, 2010
7:30 P.M.

Town Hall
Selectmen's Meeting Room

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

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT:

11-09	GENERAL WARRANT	\$200,693.64
	VOIDS	\$ (450.00)
	MEDICARE (001)	\$ 818.20
	COMMUNITY PRESERVATION (265)	\$ 30.59
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSIT (801)	\$ 2,480.00
	PAYROLL	\$ 99,535.33
	TOTAL WARRANT	\$303,107.76

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID
\$ 28,628.91

TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST
\$ 18,486.25

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. McColl said that Mr. Porter was out sick. He also said that school will be starting next week.

Comments from the audience.

Liz Theiler, 17 Norland Street, thanked the Board for allowing her to express her concerns. She said that in 2004, the Selectmen signed a letter to the Holliston Housing Authority abandoning the road to the Mt. Hollis water tank. She asked if the Selectmen knew that the Water Department needed access to the tank? She said that the tank requires maintenance. She said that this was a paved road and it is referred to in documents. She said that since the Selectmen gave the property to the Housing Authority that they at Town expense should provide alternate access to the water tank. Ms. Theiler said at that time the 2004 letter was signed, one Selectman had an easement agreement with Sprint for the alternate access to the water tank. She asked if the other two Selectmen or the Town Administrator knew about this easement agreement. She said that it appears all the Selectmen and the Town Administrator knew that he owned property at this area when they agreed to abandon the water tower driveway. She said now that she understands a former Selectmen and his family are in

discussion with the Town for monthly payments for the cell towers on the Mt. Hollis water tank. She said that Town officials did not want the cell tower revenue to go to the Water Department but it was ok to go to a former Selectmen or his family.

She said that there are two issues:

1. Will the Town pay for the access road to Mt. Hollis water tank? Why should the Water Department pay for something the Selectmen gave away? She said that it appears that the Water Department is treated as a department not belonging to the Town.
2. Ms. Theiler is asking the Selectmen to represent the tax payers of Holliston and carefully review including Town Counsel expenses and discussions with the former Selectman and his family. Are the monthly payments to a resident in the best interest of the Town? How can they be justified?

Ms. Theiler asked about eminent domain.

Ms. Theiler handed a copy of her statement to the Board.

Jack Blais, 25 Mitchell Road, asked about the financial cost of the dog situation and the financial cost of the Mt. Hollis water tank.

Mr. McColl said that when you start something you never know the final answer.

Mr. Blais asked if the cost was \$10,000, \$25,000, or a million dollars?

Mr. McColl said not a half a million dollars. Mr. Blais asked what the tax payers will be looking at for a price. Mr. McColl said less then \$50,000 on both. He said that it could be significantly less.

FIRE CHIEF

Chief Michael Cassidy said that Captain Murphy, on Friday June 18, 2010, there was a structure fire on Westfield Drive. He said that Captain Murphy was instrumental in the discovery and alerting the rest of the Fire Department. Chief Cassidy presented Captain Murphy a Certificate of Commendation and a Citation Bar.

Ray and Teresa Costello were present to thank Captain Murphy for his quick action on saving their home. Mr. Costello also thanked all the Fire Department members that helped with putting out the fire and saving their home.

NORFOLK STREET RESIDENT REQUEST

Mr. McColl said that on Norfolk Street, across from the new gas station, the residents want to put up large boulders to keep cars off their property. Mr. Smith said that if they choose to do that, the boulders would have be six feet off the road. That way, if there were an accident, the Town would not be liable. Mr. Smith said that he saw pictures of what they want to do, and the six feet from the road is behind the boulders, so they would have to be moved.

Acting Chief Edison said that the resident does not want cars on his property. He said that most towns are doing away with boulders on town property. He said that he would be happy to work with the resident for another plan.

Mr. Smith said that if the resident has a plot plan, they can get the measurements from it. Mr. McColl told the resident that he might want to review this again with the Highway Department and the Police.

D.P.W. ORGANIZATIONAL STUDY COMMITTEE

Charlie Roberts, 65 Arch Street and Chairperson of the D.P.W. Study Committee, was present. He said that in reference to the July 29, 2010, letter that went out to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, he was looking for feedback in regards to the Highway Department side, because the Selectmen oversee the Highway Department. Mr. McColl said that the Board has been supportive of the concept of forming a D.P.W. He said that they can work closer together.

Mr. McColl read a note from the Chairman, Mr. Porter, that said, that it might be good to have people dedicated just to a D.P.W. committee. He said that this might be an appointed committee.

Mr. McColl said that he believes that there could be a benefit to this, but it is not going to save so much money that we would be able to fund other opportunities. He said that it would make it more efficient and do more with the money that we have for the Highway Department and the Water Department. He said that it will not fix all of our problems but it has the potential to help. Mr. McColl said that he supports this plan.

Mr. Marsden said he agrees. He said that it would be more efficient. Communication would be better and they would also get to share equipment. Mr. Marsden said that he would have liked to see numbers to back this up so that they can see that this would be revenue neutral and it is not going to cost us anything. He said that he thinks everyone is in agreement that it will not save us a ton of money but he would like to see some of the figures just to make sure.

Mr. Roberts said that they will be meeting tonight to discuss what was brought up at this meeting. He said that their regular meeting is on August 26, 2010, with the Parks Department. They have already met with the Water Department. He also said that they will be looking for comments from residents. He said that when they get comments back from everyone then they will come back to the Selectmen. Mr. McColl asked if the "letter" was available to anyone. Mr. Roberts said that they have not finalized it yet, but it will be. Mr. McColl said that the "letter" could be put on the agenda.

Mr. Marsden said that a time-line would be helpful.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Tom Smith, Highway Superintendent, was present. Mr. Smith said that Brook Street has a binder and is all set for a top coat. Then he said that they will be doing Jeffrey Avenue with a binder. He said that High Street is complete. He also said that the east part of Washington Street by the Sherborn town line has been paved. He said that the next thing for Washington Street is to stripe it. He said that with the funds that are available, he would like to work on South Street. He said that it would be a big project.

Mr. McColl said that there are speeding issues on South Street. Acting Chief Edison said that the road is a safe road now because of the condition of it. He said that they are always on patrol on South Street. Mr. Smith said that he is under the gun to get their streets prepped. His paving crew comes from Stoneham and if they finish a street and there is not another one to do for a few days, they will leave and may not come back. He would like to see them come and do all the work and finish up before fall. Mr. Smith said that he has a few sidewalks that he would like to get to, but he thinks it will not happen until the spring. They are Church Street, Elm Street and Grove Street. He would like to get them re-done by June 2011. Mr. Smith said that they could be re-paving some of the secondary streets in the next fiscal year.

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. McColl said that Celebrate Holliston is looking for approval to put up lawn signs. **MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM CELEBRATE HOLLISTON FOR LAWN SIGNS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.**

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE A COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE FOR CELEBRATE HOLLISTON FOR SEPTEMBER 25, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

Mr. McColl said that the Historical Society is looking for approval to put up lawn signs. **MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO PUT UP LAWN SIGNS FOR THE HARVEST FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.**

Mr. McColl said that that the Senior Center is looking for approval to put up lawn signs. **MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE SENIOR CENTER SENIOR TO PUT UP LAWN SIGNS FOR THE FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.**

PARADE PERMIT – BLOCK PARTY

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE A PARADE PERMIT FOR THE MUDVILLE NEIGHBORS ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2010, AT 75 EXCHANGE STREET FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE BUT NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR JUNE 14, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE BUT NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR JULY 26, 2010, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

**POLICE CHIEF VACANCY
POST-PONED UNTIL AUGUST 30, 2010.**

AT 8:10 P.M., MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCOLL. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. PORTER WAS ABSENT.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____

