

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON**  
**SELECT BOARD**

February 12, 2024  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

**Present:** John Cronin, Chair; Tina Hein, Vice Chair; Ben Sparrell, Clerk;

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator.

At 7:10pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL OFFER FOR TOWN PURCHASE OF 799 WASHINGTON STREET:**

J. Cronin made a motion to proceed with negotiations to allow the Town of Holliston to purchase the property located 799 Washington Street. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

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B. Sparrell stated that although he found the idea interesting he is not comfortable with the Town being the “actor” here. He does not find the timing to be advantageous.

T. Hein stated that the Economic Development Coordinator pointed out in previous discussions that the property would be an ideal location to create a local business incubator, a way to develop a stronger Downtown business community. T. Hein sees this as a “capstone project” for Downtown as it would also fulfill part of the Economic Plan. T. Hein supports the purchase of the property.

J. Cronin stated that the property owners’ broker brought the possibility of the sale to the Town, with a cost of up to \$700,000 several months ago. The Select Board engaged the Economic Development Committee in two meetings, after which it was open to Public Comment. The subject was met with enthusiastic interest. A meeting was then held with the Finance Committee. J. Cronin noted that there are still various ongoing projects in Town which have yet to be completed, the replacement of the Woodland Street Bridge, High School Renovation/New Building, DPW Facility, and infrastructure improvements (water, pipes and sidewalks). All of these projects may take 3-5 years to complete. J. Cronin continued to state that this is “the right project at the wrong time”.

J. Cronin then called for a vote; B. Sparrell, No; T. Hein, Yes; J. Cronin, No.

**WARRANTS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,090,795.60. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

T. Ahern stated that Trash and Recycling will be delayed one day next week (February 19-23) due to the holiday. The Trash and Recycling will also be delayed one day starting tomorrow (February 13) due to the impending storm.

B. Sparrell will be holding a meeting on Wednesday February 14, 2024 along with the Facilities

Manager J. Keast to discuss the SOI for the High School with the Seniors in Town.

T. Hein stated that the schools will be closed tomorrow, February 13, 2024 due to the storm.

J. Cronin attended the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Souper Bowl held at St. Marys' sponsored by the Holliston Food Pantry. He thanked all who participated in making it a wonderful event.

J. Cronin noted that the Select Board will hold an all-day FY25 Budget Meeting on Saturday February 17, 2024. The Select Board will not meet on Monday February 19, 2024.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

T. Ahern stated that the two EV Stations have been installed at 9 Green Street, as well as the Veterans Parking space. The final plantings will be done in the Spring. Signage regarding the specifics pertaining to the EV policy will be installed and also be posted on the Towns website. The schedule for the FY25 budget presentations, agendas and updates will be posted online. T. Ahern will present the proposed FY25 balanced budget by March 4, 2024.

The ARPA Group met last week and discussed the remaining balances. T. Ahern noted that the Town is currently working with the DEP regarding the proposed Downtown Sewer Project.

T. Hein asked if any new requests for use of ARPA funding (remaining balances) will be made. T. Ahern stated that previous requests may be reintroduced.

T. Ahern stated that the Opioid Stabilization Fund will be discussed as part of the FY25 Budget Meeting on February 17, 2024.

The Economic Development Committee will be asked to join in on discussion regarding the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in the near future.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2023 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve Rushford & Sons One-Day Beer and Wine License for a PTO fundraiser to be held in the Upper Town Hall on March 20, 2024 from 4:30pm to 9:00pm.

T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to waive the fee for the Rushford & Sons One-Day Beer and Wine License for the PTO fundraiser in Upper Town Hall on March 20, 2024. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday May 27, 2024 starting at 11:00am with a proposed route as follows: Woodland Street to Church Street to Central Street to Front Street, stopping at the Afghan Monument, then onto Exchange Street, to Railroad Street, to Central Street and ending on Washington Street, with Police Detail. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the Turkey Trot sponsored by the Holliston Youth Lacrosse Association on Thursday November 28, 2024. From 7:30am to 9:30am. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the following appointments to the VFW Memorial Day Committee; Ronald Turcotte, Stanley Feinberg, Charles Jacobs and Eusebio Gonzalez for a term

to expire June 2024. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

B. Sparrell presented the Warrant for the Presidential Primaries to be signed. No vote needed.

T. Hein asked if any of the Select Board members will be asked to speak at the Memorial Day Parade, she will not be available on May 27, 2024.

At 7:25pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_03-25-24



