

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

November 9, 2020

Town Hall

6:30P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: T. Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Kriss Westland, Community Farm Advisory Chair, John Drohan, Holliston Community Action Fund.

At 6:30pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy stated that there are currently 29 active cases, bringing the total number of cases to 164. The active cases are spread out over 2 dozen addresses in Town. Due to a new metrics rating system Holliston is now Yellow, and not Red. However the Chief stressed that this is not a reason for residents to relax, due to the fact that Holliston's daily active case count is the highest its been since tracking began. The Chief also reminded the public that the new State guidelines went into effect on Friday November 6, 2020. He pointed out that free testing is available in nearby Towns. The locations can be found on the "Stop the Spread" website. The Chief thanked all those involved in the in-person voting at the High School for all their efforts to ensure its success and safety.

The Chief will continue the discussion at next weeks meeting around reducing the quorum of Special Town Meeting on December 5, 2020.

The Board asked the Chief to continue to keep the residents informed and keep the message of safety at the forefront in such a way as to not overly saturate the public.

Again the Board thanked Chief Cassidy for all his efforts.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

The Chief presented the Board with a request from the Board of Health for additional clerical hours to be split between 2 staff members between now and December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$2,800. This is due to the added demands on the Health Department related to the pandemic.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve 112 additional clerical hours to be split between 2 staff members between now and December 31, 2020, \$2,800 to be funded by the CARES Act due to additional demands as a result of the pandemic. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

A gentleman whom is employed at 44 Boynton asked the Board if they had any comments on the latest announcement regarding a possible vaccine. T. Hein commented that there has not been a vaccine which has been approved currently. J. Cronin stated that when there is the Town will look to the Department of Public Health for guidance.

COMMUNITY FARM UPDATE:

Kriss Westland and Becky Prefontaine presented several slides along with an update of the Farm. Due to the pandemic they have not been able to successfully fund raise as much as originally hoped. This past growing season much of the crop from the Victory Garden was donated to the Pantry Shelf. The Property consists of 2 lots that make up 30 acres. The Community Farm Advisory Committee is looking to make various improvements and additions to the property in 2 phases. In Phase 1 structural changes and repairs to the farmhouse, expand the kitchen, update and add a bathroom. Update the electrical. Look at restoration of the Trail and a water well. In Phase 2 look into the addition of solar panels, a picnic pavilion, turn the existing chicken coup into a farm stand. The ultimate goal is to be able to open the farm up to community events as well as Park & Recreation workshops and "Farm to Table" dinners. The Committee will look into various funding options and also a more specific timeline and return to the Board in the future.

WARRANT:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,771,395.50. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell expressed his appreciation to the Town Clerk , her staff and all the volunteers who worked on the election. He also stated that the recycling center now has several clothing and shoe receptacles.

T. Hein also expressed her appreciation for the Town Clerks Office and their efforts over these past several months.

J. Cronin reported that 86% of registered voters in Holliston voted this year. In honor of Veterans Day this Wednesday the VFW, American Legion and the Lions Club will be delivering meals donated by TJ's and TC Scoops to Holliston Vets. J. Cronin stated that members of the School Department and Committee along with T. Ahern and Chief Cassidy met last Thursday November 5, 2020 to discuss what CARES Act funding requests/needs should be addressed through the remaining calendar year.

SMALL BUSINESS UPDATE:

John Drohan and John Paltrineri both joined the meeting to remind residents to patronize local businesses. They are both members of Holliston Together, which was conceived after the start

of the pandemic in an effort to help local businesses during this unprecedented time. J. Paltrineri asked that people take extra caution when using the crosswalks and for drivers to please be aware of the speed of their vehicles when driving downtown. J. Cronin stated that traffic is and will continue to be an issue that the Board is aware of and looking to remedy where possible. J. Drohan inquired if there might be a link off the Town website that could provide information for local businesses. J. Cronin suggested looking to the Economic Committee for assistance with that.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Trash pickup will be delayed a day starting on Wednesday November 11, 2020.

A letter was issued to the Planning Board to assure that traffic issues are still being addressed around the 555 Hopping Brook Project.

At next weeks meeting the Select Board will discuss the notion of reducing the quorum at Special Town Meeting scheduled for December 5, 2020.

T. Ahern has been in contact with Beth Greenblatt regarding the solar project on Marshall Street and will look to schedule a public hearing in December 2020.

The DPW tree work is still ongoing. Eversource has notified the Town that they will also be removing additional trees.

Maintenance work on the windows at Town Hall has begun, this is in an effort to improve ventilation within offices and is being funded by the CARES Act.

The culvert on route 16 near the Sherborn line is in need of repair. It is expected to begin by the end of this week. Drivers should expect detours.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT DISCUSSION:

T. Ahern presented the most recent draft for the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Articles 19 & 20 will be removed and incorporated into Article 1. Article 16, Road Acceptances (and takings), will be worded as written in July 2020. The CPC recently voted on article 6 and that is all set. The Schools will be looking to add 2 items to the Capital Budget, Article 5.

After discussion around Articles 1-4 the Board will look to vote on the updated draft at next weeks meeting.

HUMANITARIAN AWARDS UPDATE:

J. Cronin explained that last year the Select Board started a tradition in which each member nominates a person for a Humanitarian Award. These individuals demonstrate caring, consideration and compassion for others in the community.

B. Sparrell nominates Keely Krantz, the President of the Board for the Holliston Pantry Shelf. He stated that "she is the glue that has held the Pantry Shelf together during this pandemic".

T. Hein nominates John Drohan, HCAT Board Member and Holliston Community Action Fund Member. She stated that "Johns love for Holliston has had a major impact on the community".

J. Cronin nominates Debbie Dupuis, Senior Center Van Driver. He reached out to Linda Marshall and Bob Malone at the Senior Center knowing that during this time seniors have been especially isolated. Both immediately said that Debbie goes above and beyond. She asked "what can I do to help the seniors".

Next Monday November 16, 2020 there will be an award ceremony to honor each of them.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Arthur Fenno as an on-call firefighter to the Holliston Fire Department. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2020 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a donation of \$100 from Michael and Donna Berry in the memory of Jeri Chartrand to the Senior Center. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

At 8:37 B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret M. Driscoll

Approved_____