

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2011

The Special Town Meeting of October 24, 2011 was held at the High School Auditorium. Moderator Kevin Clancy called the meeting to order at 7:31 with a quorum of 106, and growing.

The moderator read the warrant and went over the preliminary rules for Town Meeting and then read the following motion as required by the Town By-Laws.

PRIOR TO ARTICLE 1

MOTION: Moved that the following non-resident Town officials, consultants to committees and petitioners be allowed to speak during the course of this Special Town Meeting:

Ann McCobb	Health Director/Agent
Leslie McDonnell	Library Director
Mary Bousquet	Treasurer/Collector
David Nalchajian	Town Accountant
Kathryn Peirce	Principal Assessor
Peter Tartakoff	Building Inspector
Brad Jackson	Superintendent of Schools
Sara Ahern	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Tom Smith	Highway Superintendent
Karen Sherman	Town Planner
James Lynch	Superintendent, Keefe Technical School
John Moore	Police Chief
Brenda Farrell	Housing Authority Director
Cheryl Rudolph	Animal Control Officer
Ronald Sharpin	Water Superintendent
Charles Corman	Technology Director
Charles Katuska	Conservation Agent

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Our Town By-Laws require that the Town Meeting vote to allow non-residents and non-voters to address the Town Meeting.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Prior to the start of Town Business, Selectman Kevin Conley made some announcements: The Board of Health is having a Walk-In Flu Clinic on Saturday November 15, 2011 from 9AM to 2PM at the Placentino Elementary School; The Winter Parking Ban will

take effect from November 1, 2011 until March 31, 2012; Curbside leaf pick-up will be the week of Nov. 28, 2011 and Marshall St. Recycling Center is open every Saturday from 8AM to 3PM.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for unpaid bills from prior years; or take any action relative thereto. (**Board of Selectmen**)

MOTION: Moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,776.60 for invoices from fiscal year 2011.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: J. Michael Norton, 95 Marshall St., asked the Finance Committee for an explanation of the expenses. Mr. Marsden gave the specific breakdown of the bills to be paid.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 1 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of supplementing various accounts of the Town's fiscal year 2012 annual budget, previously voted by the Town under Articles 15 of the Warrant for the 2011 Annual Town Meeting; or take any action relative thereto. (**Board of Selectmen**)

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to make the following changes in the 2012 Omnibus Budget:

1. raise and appropriate \$8,500 to Reserve for Transfers Account 57810;
2. raise and appropriate \$666 to Park Commission Account 51000;
3. raise and appropriate \$10,566 to Debt Service Account 57600;
4. reduce Water Department Account 57000 by \$5,270;
5. raise and appropriate \$21,991 to Public Buildings Account 52000; and
6. reduce Employee Benefits Account 51750 by \$32,901.
7. raise and appropriate \$5614 to Town Clerk Account 51000.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Ken Szajda, chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke in depth about the upcoming articles.

Bill Dowd, 95 Shaw Farm Rd., commended the Finance Committee on their hard work. Mr. Dowd then spoke about transparency, Mr. Szajda responded to his questions.

Town Clerk, Elizabeth Greendale, explained that she needed a 1 yr. part time employee because of the 4 elections in 2012.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 2 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of reducing the amount of money to be raised through property taxes for fiscal year 2012; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

MOTION: Moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,084,078 from Free Cash for the purpose of resolving any deficits and reducing the amount of money to be raised through property taxes for fiscal year 2012.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Liz Theiler, 17 Norland St., commented on the behavior of Elected Officials, Mr. Szajda responded.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 3 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

MOTION: Moved that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,111,687.40 to the stabilization Fund.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 4 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Capital Expenditure Fund; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

MOTION: Moved that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 5.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to hold a public auction for the purpose of disposing of surplus departmental equipment; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

MOTION: Moved that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to dispose of the following surplus property: 1983 Aerial Ladder Truck; a photocopier and computer printers.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Gregg Lewis, 64 Cold Spring Rd., Thanked the Town for the Fire Department's new Ladder Truck.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 6 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of capital expenditures, including replacement and new vehicles and equipment, for the Highway, Police, School, Park, Technology, Town Hall, Council on Aging and Fire departments, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade or sell used equipment toward part of the purchase price; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Selectmen)**

MOTION: Moved that the Town appropriate \$90,000 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for three Police Department vehicles; appropriate \$130,000 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for a snowblower and plow for the Highway Department; appropriate \$3,500 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for repairs to the Public Library roof; appropriate \$126,500 from the Capital Expenditure Fund for School Department equipment; and authorize a trade-in of two Ford Crown Victorias and one Ford Expedition..

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Jack Blaise, 25 Mitchell Rd., talked about spending and lack of transparency. He made a motion to Indefinitely Postpone Article 7.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Mark Schultz, 21 Wedgewood Dr., explained our Capital Needs Plan, and the importance of following the plan to rotate the inventory of Police Cars, so they don't all need to be replaced at once. Jay Leary, 146 Karen Cir., explained his "point of order" being that Town Meeting should stay on topic of the articles on the floor. Jan

McDevitt, 7 Beaver Brook Dr., asked the School Committee what their money was for. Brad Jackson, Superintendent of Schools, stated the \$60,000 was to replace the wheelchair bus and \$66,500 was to replace computers. John Varrell, 928 Washington St., made a motion to amend the article, removing the school's Capital request line item. Motion was seconded, Edward Dooley, 645 Highland St., spoke in favor of the school's computers. Mr. Varrell expressed his concern that recently the handicap bus was not in service and his children were sent home in a taxi cab. If we had a contract with a bus company, it would be their responsibility to provide another bus, therefore having the same driver, not a stranger from a taxi company. Carl Damigella, 448 Underwood St., said that the Senior Center has two busses that could be used by the school if necessary.

VOTE: to amend article 7 did not pass

VOTE: to indefinitely postpone article 7, did not pass

VOTE: Passed by 2/3 hand count vote to Accept Article 7 as stated in the motion.
The vote was: Yes- 114, No- 8

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the fiscal year 2012 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year; or take any action relative thereto. (**Community Preservation Committee**)

MOTION: Move to allocate \$389,000 from estimated FY2012 Community Preservation Act surcharge receipts in the following four reserves in the amounts specified.

Community Housing Reserve	\$38,900
Open Space Reserve	\$38,900
Historic Resources Reserve	\$39,900
Community Preservation Fund Budget Reserve	<u>\$272,300</u>
Total	\$389,000

Move to reserve \$102,570 under the Community Preservation Act from state matching funds distributed on October 15, 2011 in the following four reserves in the amounts specified.

Community Housing Reserve	\$10,257
Open Space Reserve	\$10,257
Historic Resources Reserve	\$10,257
Community Preservation Fund Budget Reserve	<u>\$71,799</u>
Total	\$102,570

Move to appropriate \$70,000 for fiscal 2012 from the Community Housing Reserve and \$30,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Budget Reserve for the Holliston Housing Trust to rehabilitate condominium unit #3 at 44 Burnap Road in Holliston for sale as an affordable unit, subject to approval of Article 16 of the October 24, 2011 Town Meeting

Move to appropriate \$22,000 for fiscal 2012 from the Community Housing Reserve for the Holliston Housing Development Corporation to determine the feasibility of building affordable housing at property located at 52 Jasper Hill Road.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Sam Tyler, 353 Chamberlain St., explained the four parts of this article. John Cronin, 40 Holly Ln., asked for an update on the 10% goal of affordable housing and Cutler Heights. Mr. Tyler responded that the 30 units at Cutler Heights are fully occupied and the town is at 3% for affordable housing.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 8 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of contracted tree removal services; or take any action relative thereto. (**Tree Warden**)

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$12,500 for contracted tree removal services.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 9 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of completing the construction of Well #7 by installing pumping facilities including variable frequency drives, electrical controls, well house and pipeline to the Dopping Brook water treatment facility including any necessary modifications to accommodate the connection; or to take any other action relative thereto. (**Board of Water Commissioners**)

MOTION:

I. That the Town appropriate \$700,000 from Water Surplus and appropriate the \$40,048.43 for the purpose of completing the construction of Well #7 by installing

pumping facilities including variable frequency drives, electrical controls, well house and pipeline to the Dopping Brook water treatment facility, including the payment of costs of any necessary modifications to accommodate the connection, all on property owned by the Town or leased by the Town for period of not less than twenty (20) years, said \$40,048.43 to come from the following available funds:

1. \$32,669.71 appropriation under Article 37 of the Warrant for the May 2007 Annual Town Meeting;
2. \$1,722.03 appropriation under Article 39 of the Warrant for the May 2007 Annual Town Meeting;
3. \$736.69 appropriation under Article 25 of the Warrant for the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting;
4. \$4,920.00 appropriation under Article 11 of the Warrant for the October 2009 Special Town Meeting; and

II. . that the Town vote to appropriate \$261,833.25 for the purpose of completing the construction of Well #7 by installing pumping facilities including variable frequency drives, electrical controls, well house and pipeline on property not owned by the Town and not leased by the Town for a period of twenty (20) years, said appropriation to come from the following available funds:

1. \$45,814.10 from appropriation under Article 25 of the Warrant for the May 1998 Annual Town Meeting;
2. \$1,579.31 from appropriation under Article 22 of the Warrant for the May 1999 Annual Town Meeting;
3. \$11,510.10 from appropriation under Article 11 of the Warrant for the October 1999 Special Town Meeting;
4. \$102,505.24 appropriation under Article 31 of the Warrant for the May 2001 Annual Town Meeting;
5. \$14,534.09 appropriation under Article 29 of the Warrant for the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting;
6. \$62,440.01 appropriation under Article 29 of the Warrant for the May 2006 Annual Town Meeting;
7. \$6,928.48 appropriation under Article 34 of the Warrant for the May 2007 Annual Town Meeting;

8. \$16,521.92 appropriation under Article 18 of the Warrant for the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting; and

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Ken Szajda, 676 Fiske St., explained that all these older unexpended appropriations needed to be cleared. Carl Damigella, 448 Underwood St., asked why we need a new Well. Dennis Ferrera, 734 Adams St., answered that Well #4 is currently down with high levels of Magnesium and Iron, and that Well #2 is being upgraded. Well #7 will provide 180,000 gallons per day.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 10 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of conducting a pilot pipe condition assessment survey of asbestos cement water pipes; or take any action relative thereto. **(Board of Water Commissioners)**

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to appropriate \$25,000 from Water Surplus for the purpose of conducting a pilot pipe condition assessment survey of asbestos cement water pipes.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Dennis Ferrera, 734 Adams St., explained that we have an aging infrastructure that is acting as a “soaker hose” and leaking water. This assessment will bring a more scientific approach to determining where these leaks are.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 11 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of conducting an independent compensation, benefits and human resources study to cover all town employees; or take any action relative thereto. **(Finance Committee)**

MOTION: Moved that this article be indefinitely postponed.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 12.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of maintenance and improvements to the Pinecrest golf course; or take any action relative thereto. (**Golf Course Advisory Committee**)

MOTION: Moved that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 13.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of section 20 of Chapter 32B of the General Laws of the Commonwealth to provide for a separate Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund and a funding schedule for the fund; or take any action relative thereto. (**Board of Selectmen**)

MOTION: Moved that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to Indefinitely Postpone Article 14.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation to the General Fund; or take any action relative thereto. (**Town Accountant**)

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$17,850 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 15 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a certain parcel of property, acquired by the Town through tax title foreclosure, to the Housing Trust, said property being shown as lot 8B of block 2 on Assessors' Map 8 and located at 44 Burnap Road, Unit 3; or take any action relative thereto. (**Board of Selectmen**)

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of that property shown as Lot 8B of Block 2 on Assessors' Map 8, from the Board of Selectmen to the Holliston Housing Trust.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 16 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to transfer a certain parcel of property, acquired by the Town through tax title foreclosure, to the Conservation Commission, said property being shown as lot 98B of block 5 on Assessors' Map 9 and located off of Shaw Farm Road; or take any action relative thereto. (**Board of Selectmen**)

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of that property shown as Lot 98B of Block 5 on Assessors' Map 9, from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Jan McDevitt, 7 Beaver Brook Rd., asked if this land could be used for low income housing. Ann Marie Pilch, 107 Juniper Rd., stated that when this neighborhood was developed, this parcel did not perk and could not be built on, and the neighbors currently use it for recreation. Barbara Gardner, 114 Jennings Rd., made a motion to indefinitely postpone Article 17, until the Housing Committees can investigate whether it can be built on.

MOTION: Moved that this Article be indefinitely postponed

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Geoffrey Zeamer, 583 Winter St., stated that this is in fact wetlands.

VOTE: Motion to indefinitely postpone Article 17 was defeated.

VOTE: Passed by a 2/3 vote to accept Article 17 as stated in the motion.
The vote was Yes-96, No-7

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way Springdale Circle (Sta. 0+00 to end), as shown on the plan entitled "Acceptance Plan of Springdale Circle, Deer Creek, Holliston, MA (Middlesex County)" dated August 23, 2011 (revised through September 6, 2011), prepared by Beals and Thomas, Inc., such way having been

laid out as a Town way by the Board of Selectmen; or take any action relative thereto. **(Planning Board)**

MOTION: Moved that the Town will vote to accept as a public way Springdale Circle (Sta. 0+00 to end), as shown on the plan entitled “Acceptance Plan of Springdale Circle, Deer Creek, Holliston, MA (Middlesex County)” dated August 23, 2011 (revised through September 6, 2011), prepared by Beals and Thomas, Inc.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Jack Donovan, 679 Central St., stated that this was inspected by the Highway Dept. and approved by the Planning Board.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 18 as stated in the motion.

ARTICLE 19. To see of the Town will vote to accept as a public way Indian Ridge South (Sta. 0+00 to end), as shown on the plan entitled “Acceptance Plan of Indian Ridge Road South, Clearview Estates II, Holliston, MA (Middlesex County)” dated September 30, 2011, prepared by GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc., including easements shown on said plan, such way having been laid out as a Town way by the Board of Selectmen; or take any action relative thereto. **(Planning Board)**

MOTION: Moved that the Town vote to accept as a public way Indian Ridge South (Sta. 0+00 to end), as shown on the plan entitled “Acceptance Plan of Indian Ridge Road South, Clearview Estates II, Holliston, MA (Middlesex County)” dated September 30, 2011, prepared by GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc., including easements shown on said plan.

SECONDED

DISCUSSION: Jack Donovan, 679 Central St., stated that this was inspected by the Highway Dept. and approved by the Planning Board.

VOTE: Passed by unanimous voice vote to accept Article 19 as stated in the motion.

Jared Adams made the motion to dissolve the warrant, it was seconded and the meeting was closed at 10:15 pm.

A true record, ATTEST

Elizabeth T. Greendale, Town Clerk