

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 16, 2013
7:30 P.M.

Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
Town Hall

Present: Jay Marsden, Chairman; Jay Leary, Vice Chairman; Kevin Conley, Clerk and Paul D. Le Beau, Town Administrator. Andrea Minihan, Administrative Assistant was absent.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT:

13-30	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 283,543.66
	MEALS TAX (220)	\$ 55.51
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 975.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 212.22
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,021.08
	GENERAL PAYROLL WARRANT	\$1,026,583.31
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,027,604.39
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,312,390.78

ACCOUNTANT’S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID

\$ 171,445.92

TREASURER’S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST

\$ 134,240.34

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There were no comments from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience.

OLDEST VETERAN DISCUSSION – MR. BRADFORD AND MR. CARBINO

Mr. Marsden said that the Veterans’ would like to honor the oldest Veteran in Town. Steve Bradford said that Jim Carbino is the Senior Vice Commander of Legion Post and both were present to talk about this honor. Mr. Bradford said that they would like to recognize the oldest Veteran in Town on an on-going basis. Mr. Carbino said that they could do something like the Boston Post Cane that goes to the oldest citizen in Town. Mr. Carbino said that they would like to put the display in Town Hall. When this is done they would like the Selectmen to give a citation to the oldest veteran. Mr. Carbino said that they would get the information from John Givner the Veterans’ Agent. Mr. Carbino said that he will get the information from the Town Census. Mr. Carbino said that our oldest veteran is 99 years old. Mr. Carbino said that they are looking for a fitting display along with a plaque.

Mr. Marsden said that it would be no problem at all. He said that it is a great idea and a great suggestion. Mr. Carbino said that they are hoping to get a firearm or a sword as the

display piece. He said that if someone has one and would like to donate, it there name would go in the plaque. Mr. Bradford said that he would like to move forward as soon as possible. Mr. Conley asked if there was going to be a ceremony, the Selectmen would attend. Mr. Carbino said that they have not gotten that far yet. Mr. Carbino said that they would have a ceremony to put the name on the plaque. He said that they may have to go the Veterans' home to present the citation, because they may not be able to get out of the house.

BUDGET REVIEWS - AUXILIARY POLICE

Sergeant Craig Denman was present. Sergeant Denman passed out a copy of the Auxiliary Police budget. Sergeant Denman said that last fiscal year, the Auxiliary Police donated 2,270 hours. He said that resulted to a savings of \$97,974. if these hours were paid with as an over-time shift. Sergeant Denman said that the Lion's Club, Newcomers Club and Celebrate Holliston have been very generous with grants and donations. Sergeant Denman said that the Auxiliary Police cover parades, road races, traffic details, the carnival, Celebrate Holliston and many other events.

Mr. Marsden said that the Auxiliary Police are firearms trained and certified in CPR and EMT. Sergeant Denman said that the 1 ½% increase was added to the Professional Development training line item. He said that would be most beneficial. He said that his budget is very simple, only three line items. He said that they have professional development, vehicle repairs and supplies. Sergeant Denman said that it will about \$200 more in the professional development line item and it will go towards training.

Mr. Leary asked if the Auxiliary Police have a wish list and if so what is on it. Sergeant Denman said field training and portable radios. He said that they up-dated the radio band so as a result some of the older radios do not come in. He said that they could use four new radios. Sergeant Denman said that each new radio could cost about \$1,500.

Mr. Conley said that the Auxiliary Police are so outstanding that you can't tell them apart from full time Officers. Mr. Conley said that they are a wonderful asset to the Town and Community.

BUDGET REVIEW – VETERANS BENEFITS

John Givner, Veterans' Agent, was present. Mr. Le Beau said in 2011 the former Veterans' Agent that was working part-time retired after more than 30 years of service. He also served part time in the Town of Hopkinton and Medway. Mr. Le Beau said that during that 30 years that the Veterans' Agent served, the State Laws were changed so that communities with a population in excess of ten thousand people are required to either hirer a full-time Veterans' Services Director or to be a member of a Veterans' Services District. Mr. Le Beau said that in 2011, we joined Ashland, Hopkinton and Medway and proposed to the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, a new District called the MetroWest Veterans Service District. Mr. Le Beau said that we received permission and approval to form the District, and as part of that approval we were able to get a reduced staffing level from their model. He said that based on the population of the four towns, their model suggests that we should have three full-time people, but the State agreed to allow us to go forward with a full-time Director and part-time support staff

and a part-time Agent. Mr. Le Beau said that after the first year in 2012 we went back to the State and gave them the report on all the activity in the District and they extended the approval of this District through September of 2014. Mr. Le Beau said that the District has been successful because of Mr. Givner. The District budget is currently \$85,000 and that was assessed back to the four communities based on the population of each community. Mr. Le Beau said that Holliston is about 23% of the District based on the population figures from the 2010 Federal Census. Mr. Le Beau said that the District had a meeting this morning and they said that going forward they did not anticipate that there would be any change in the District budget, if anything it may go down slightly. Mr. Le Beau said that the second piece of the Veterans' budget for Holliston is the benefits that are paid to veterans' who live in Holliston. Each community will fund and pay for the benefits that are provided to the veterans' in their respective communities. Mr. Le Beau said historically that expense for Holliston has been very modest; for the last 12 years it has averaged \$2,650 per year. He did say that in Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012 the expense is running a little over \$5,500 for each of those years. He said that is twice the average. Mr. Le Beau said that they have been budgeting \$15,000 for that expense. He said that it is safe to bring that budget account down to \$10,000 and leave it there for a while and see how things go. Mr. Le Beau said that one of the goals of the district through Mr. Givner's work and that of Mr. Weglage who is the Veterans' Agent is to reach out to the veterans' communities to let them know the programs that are available to offer assistance in accessing programs. He said that if there is a veteran in need they will know exactly who to go to. Mr. Le Beau said that benefits for a veterans' services are difficult to predict; one case could be very expensive and another could be modest. Mr. Le Beau said that we have to meet that expense. We are reimbursed by the State for 50% of the benefits cost and that comes back to the Town through the cherry sheet and it is two years in arrears but it does eventually make its way back. Mr. Le Beau said that the budget will have a decrease both because we do not anticipate an increase in the District expense and by reducing the benefit expense by \$5,000. Mr. Le Beau said that this is well below the guideline. Mr. Le Beau said that we are fortunate to have the services of the people who are working in the District and the model that is being created is a good one. Mr. Le Beau said that he has had feedback and many veterans' did not know about the services that are offered. Mr. Le Beau said that outreach of the Veterans' Director has been very positive. Mr. Givner said that there was a gentleman who was always walking around Town and someone found out that he was a veteran and was entitled to many benefits. Mr. Givner said that he looks to see if the veteran is entitled to a pension or compensation. Mr. Marsden said that it goes a long way in the quality of life. Mr. Le Beau said that at the November 1, 2012, Town Meeting the Town approved a \$10,000 budget for a Veterans' work-off program. He said that they could work up to \$1,000 in exchange for a reduction in property tax. Mr. Le Beau said that it is specifically for Veterans'. Mr. Leary said that it sounds like a lot of Veterans' do not know that they have access to some of these benefits. Mr. Leary asked how to get the Veterans' to know what they are entitled to. Mr. Givner said that he has been trying to get the word out there. Mr. Givner said that Holliston has 701 veterans. Mr. Leary said that we should send out a letter to everyone to tell them that they may be entitled to benefits.

Mr. Le Beau said that Mr. Givner and Mr. Weglage have visited Town Halls and they have been to Selectmen's Meetings and they have been to the Senior Center. Mr. Le Beau said that they have even done a cable television show.

TRAILS COMMITTEE – LAND DONATION

Donald Brown and Robert Weidknecht from the Trail Committee were present.

Mr. Marsden said that 2.6 acres of land was donated to the Town and this property will connect South Street to the Milford Town line. Mr. Marsden said that this land will meet the Trail at the Milford line.

Leah Robbins, was present and representing Representative Carolyn Dykema and Senator Karen Spilka. Ms. Robbins had a Proclamation from the Massachusetts Legislature with congratulations for the Upper Rail Trail connection to Milford.

SOLID WASTE BUDGET

Mr. Le Beau said that there is an increase of \$3,500 from this year to next year, pending the results of a bidding process for collection and transportation from curbside refuse.

Mr. Le Beau said that the current contract was done by bid five years ago. Mr. Le Beau said that State procurement Laws state that we do not have to go through Procurement process for these kinds of services but our thought is that after five years it may be a good time to test the market place. Mr. Le Beau said that they have put together the bid documents to have bid results around the first of March. He said that the disposal of the trash is a separate agreement with Wheelabrator Millbury and it is a 20 year agreement that we entered into in 2008. Mr. Le Beau said that we have collected approximately 4100 tons of trash each year. Mr. Le Beau said that the trash is burned and it powers a turbine to provide energy to a neighboring community. Mr. Le Beau said that we have done a great job recycling at about 48%. He said that it costs approximately \$100 less to recycle than processing a ton of trash. Mr. Le Beau said that in the budget there is the tipping fee, cost of pickup of curbside trash and recycling, household hazardous waste day, recycling bins and a leaf collection in the spring and the fall.

Mr. Le Beau said that Marshall Street also offers brush disposal, CRTs, cardboard, fluorescent tubes and metals all for drop off on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Le Beau said that an option to lower the budget is to collect recycling every week but go to every other week for trash pickup. Mr. Le Beau said that there has been revenue from recycling in the amount of \$40,000 per year.

STREET LIGHTING BUDGET

Mr. Le Beau said that the budget will stay the same for this year as it was for last year.

Mr. Le Beau said this budget pays for 920 street lights and the expense of traffic lights, crossing lights, flashing yellow lights and school zone lights.

BOARD BUSINESS – MINUTES

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2005. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2006. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2008. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2008. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2009. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2009. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2011. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

EVENT PERMIT – HOLLISTON 5K ROAD RACE TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR A ROAD RACE ON MAY 26, 2013, TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

SECOND BANNER LOCATION REQUESTS – HBA & COA

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND LOCATION FOR THE BANNER AT THE REQUEST OF THE HBA THE WEEK OF APRIL 20, 2013 FOR THE SPRING STROLL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND LOCATION FOR THE BANNER FOR THE COA FALL FAIR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

UPPER TOWN HALL FEE REQUEST – HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEE OF \$100.00 FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRAIN SHOW ON FEBRUARY 15TH, 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH IN THE UPPER TOWN HALL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPOINTMENTS – TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE AND CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPOINT KRISTINE WESTLAND TO THE TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT WALTER MCGRATH TO THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

AT 8:36 P.M. MR. LEARY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION. MR. MARSDEN SAID THAT A PUBLIC DISCUSSION MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON THE TOWNS LEGAL POSITION. THE BOARD WILL RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION ONLY TO SIGN PAPERWORK ALREADY APPROVED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

	A YE	N AY
Mr. Marsden	X	
Mr. Leary	X	
Mr. Conley	X	

AT 9:00 P.M., THE BOARD EMERGED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MOVED TO ADJOURN.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____

