

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON STIPEND COMMITTEE**

**02/03/21**

**Call to Order:** Stipend Committee meeting called to order at 7:17 PM by Chair Joan Shaughnessy.

**Present:** Shelley Bochner, Tom Dumas, Erica Plunkett, Joan Shaughnessy, Daniel Whynot,

**Also Present:** Justin Keast (Town IT department)

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair performed roll call. All accepted minutes from 12/14/20

### **Review of Survey Results:**

Joan Shaughnessy showed us a draft report on the results from the surveys that were sent out. We all agreed that when completed, this report can be sent to the Select Board electronically.

Only 7 towns responded to our survey which is not a representative sample. Joan stated that the data is anecdotal, but added that there is one argument that can be made for the stipend being given to the Board of Assessors. Since they are the only board that must complete a one-week course at UMass Amherst, living away from their family and job for a week, a stipend of \$2500 can be justified as follows. The inflation-adjusted median family income in Holliston for December 2020 is \$131,363. That figure, expressed as a weekly sum, is \$2,526.

### **Review of draft Stipend Committee Report:**

Shelley said that the data cannot drive the decision that Holliston must make, it is a personal decision. Daniel said he would not take away stipends that are currently in the budget. Tom Dumas said that everyone puts in volunteer time but that the stipend for the Board of Assessors is a good thing.

### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **Discussion of Next Steps:**

Joan will update the draft report. The committee approved the substance of the report allowing for some minor word changes that Joan will make in the next 24 hours.

We will meet with the Select Board on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to discuss the report. Joan will post a Stipend Committee meeting for 6:30pm on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> just in case we have comments on the completed report. If no comments, she will cancel that meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

Justin Keast says that we can use the same link for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dan moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. Tom seconded the motion.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shelley Bochner.