

TOWN OF HOLLISTON STIPEND COMMITTEE

04/06/21

Call to Order: Stipend Committee meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Joan Shaughnessy. Virtual via Zoom.

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

Also Present: Town IT department

Approval of Minutes:

Chair performed roll call. All accepted minutes from 2/8/21.

Discussion of Findings reported to Select Board and Finance Committee:

Joan told the committee of new information gotten from the meeting with the Finance Committee. The course that is required to be certified on the Board of Assessors can be done on-line. Apparently this was true even before the pandemic. It is a 10 hour course and individuals have 2 years to complete it.

Erica said she was on record with the Fin Com that the required training was the reason to offer a stipend to the Board of Assessors.

Shelley asked if the Board of Assessors confirmed this fact. They did so at the Fin Com meeting.

The committee discussed the effect of taking away a stipend from a sitting board. Dan was concerned that we have qualified members on the Board of Assessors. Joan brought up the fact that the Chief Assessor would be retiring next year and it would be very important to keep the Board of Assessors intact. The discussion centered upon whether we should grandfather the current board stipend or phase the stipend out as their term expires.

Discussion of revised recommendation:

A fair and equitable solution was agreed upon. Our recommendation would be that anyone currently on the Board of Assessors or Select Board would continue to get their stipend. Anyone running this spring would also be able to expect a stipend since they submitted their paperwork when a stipend was being given. But when their term ends, that stipend could be removed if the Town wished to do so.

Next Steps:

Joan will write an addendum to our report for presentation to the Select Board and the Fin Com. Our committee will meet again via Zoom on Monday April 12th at 6:45 to approve the addendum prior to Select Board presentation.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Adjournment:

Shelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm. Daniel Whynot seconded the motion.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shelley Bochner.