

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON STIPEND COMMITTEE**

**11/5/2020**

7:00PM – Remote Participation Only

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Joan Shaughnessy.

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

**Absent:** Tom Dumas

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair performed roll call. All accepted minutes from 10/15/20

### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **Discussion of research findings on peer group:**

Committee members shared their spreadsheet findings on Zoom. Only a few towns had money in the budget for a stipend. But the committee questioned whether any stipend dollars were hidden in a salary line item.

Daniel Whynot presented data on Rehoboth, Sharon and Wrentham.

Erica Plunkett presented data on Hopkinton, Kingston, Mashpee, Medfield and Medway.

Shelley Bochner presented data on Ashland, Easton and Foxborough.

Joan Shaughnessy presented data on Norfolk, North Reading and Northborough.

### **Discussion of study inclusion:**

Hopkinton and Medfield were not on the original list of comparable towns but were included in the discussion as the committee felt that they were relevant.

### **Discussion of historical study:**

Paul LeBeau, former Town Administrator, sent an email regarding the history of stipends, which was shared with the committee. The Select Board has been receiving a stipend for at least 40 years and probably much longer. This stipend has decreased over the years. The Assessors stipend was set at \$2,500 by a vote of town meeting. It appears that their stipend was increased from \$500 each to \$2,500 each in the 1988-1989 timeframe. The rationale appeared to be that they were a “working board” that did a lot of time consuming property inspections during the day.

### **Discussion of next steps:**

Daniel Whynot will compile data from each committee member. Joan Shaughnessy will create a narrative of the research findings.

Joan Shaughnessy will send email to the Board of Assessors with the following questions:

- 1) What is their role?
- 2) What is their scope?
- 3) Are there subcommittees?
- 4) Are their expenses incurred personally?
- 5) How do the roles of the board intersect with the role of the department?

Joan Shaughnessy will send email to Select Board with fewer questions as their role is more transparent.

- 1) What expenses are incurred personally.

Responses are requested by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Committee members should take a look at their town's Board of Assessors to see if there are Licensed Appraisers/Assessors on the board.

**Meeting Schedule:**

Joan Shaughnessy proposed a remote meeting for 7:00PM on Thursday December 3rd, which was agreed to.

**Adjournment:**

Shelley Bochner made a motion to adjourn. Second by Daniel Whynot. Roll call vote 4-0 at 8:03.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shelley Bochner.