

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 13, 2013
7:30 P.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall

Present; Jay Leary, Chairman; Kevin Conley, Vice Chairman; Jay Marsden, Clerk and Paul D. Le Beau, Town Administrator.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

14-21	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 55,175.05
	VOIDS	\$ (600.00)
	DEBT SERVICE TOWN (001)	\$103,762.50
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) HS	\$ 24,177.79
	MANUAL CHECK HABERSKI	\$ 600.00
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSIT (801)	\$ 1,540.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,115.54
	GENERAL PAYROLL WARRANT	\$133,171.82
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$134,287.36
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT 11/12/13	\$318,942.70

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 37,368.92
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TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 25,661.75
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Conley said that on Saturday, November 9th, there was a Veterans' dinner in the Upper Town Hall. Mr. Conley said that it was a great time.

Mr. Le Beau thanked the Highway Department and Ahronian Landscape for the new set of stairs going to the parking lot. He also said that the patio will be done soon.

Mr. Leary said that this weekend and next weekend, at the Recycling Center on Marshall Street, the boy Scouts will be selling popcorn as a fundraiser. Mr. Leary also said that our bond rating improved. He said that we have been actively working on this. Mr. Leary thanked Paul Le Beau, Mary Bousquet and David Nalchajian. They all have done so much work on this. He also said that the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen all helped in the effort.

Mr. Le Beau said that it was a team effort and that Kathy Peirce, Principal Assessor, was very helpful.

Comments from the audience

Carl Damigella, 448 Underwood Street, and the regional manager of the MWRTA, said that this week they changed bus #6. He said that they eliminated the bus going to the Senior Center three times per day. He said that they did not have the ridership. He said that now the route has improved. Mr. Damigella said that he would like to see the Milford Selectmen come and talk to the Holliston Selectmen about ridership to Milford.

Mr. Damigella said that Milford hospital has received a grant to help get the bus route to go to the hospital.

PROMOTION OF POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW WAUGH TO SERGEANT

Mr. Leary said that this is a well deserved promotion.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO PROMOTE MATTHEW WAUGH FROM PATROL OFFICER TO SERGEANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Dyane Fitzgerald, Assistant Town Clerk, swore in Sergeant Waugh.

Joe Waugh, Matthew's father pinned his son.

Carl Damigella, 448 Underwood Street said he has known Matthew for many years and he knows he will retire from Holliston. Mr. Damigella said that Matthew has accomplished so much.

JONATHAN REDUS – NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY PROJECT

Jonathan Redus, 4 Westfield Drive, said that he is in the National Honor Society and needs a senior project. He said that the Andrews School playground is overgrown and he has seen trash in the lot. He said that the kids in the area could get hurt with the trash. He also said that there are cracks in the sidewalk. He said that he would like to clean it up and make the area look better. He said that he would like to do this in the spring. He would like to take away all the trash and trim back all the shrubs. Mr. Leary said that Mr. Redus should be in touch with Tom Smith, the Highway Superintendent and he may be able to help in the carting away the trash and overgrowth.

The Selectmen approve the project.

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – RANKING OF PROPOSALS FOR GOLF COURSE AND FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS

Present Debbie Moore, Larry Wise, Sylvia Stickney and Bob Smith. Mr. Leary said that the Selectmen appreciate the efforts of the Golf Course Advisory Committee for all their hard work. Ms. Moore said that they reviewed both proposals for the operations of the golf course. She said that they received proposals from New England Golf and Johnson Golf. Ms. Moore said that they had reservations about Johnson Golf. She said that when they looked at their history they been to numerous locations and they don't come up for renewal. Ms. Moore said that this week she tried to talk to some of the other golf courses and get information and feedback. She said that one course asked Mr. Johnson to leave. Ms. Moore said she did not hear back from most of the other courses. Mr. Wise said that the operating budget for capital for New England Golf is \$495,000 where as Mr. Johnson has the high of \$375,000. He said that this is one hundred and twenty thousand dollars different in the operating budget for the golf course. He said that in looking at that difference that is why they made the decision. Mr. Smith said that he is very familiar with Mr. Johnson because he played golf at one of the courses he was running. Mr. Smith said that it was a great course until Mr. Johnson got his hands on it. He said that it

was a disgrace the way this course looked after Mr. Johnson was done with it. Mr. Smith said that he did not want that to happen to Pinecrest. Mr. Smith said that the budget is too low to operate this course.

Mr. Conley said that New England Golf is running Pinecrest and has been for 20+ years. Mr. Conley asked if New England Golf runs any other golf courses. Ms. Moore said yes he runs about 5 or 6. Mr. Conley asked if he has been with these course for many years. Ms. Moore said yes. Mr. Conley asked how many courses does Mr. Johnson run? Mr. Smith said 3. But, there is a list as long as your arm of the courses that he has been in and out of. Mr. Wise said that Mr. Johnson has been in and out of eleven courses in the past years. Mr. Conley asked about the operating budget. Mr. Wise said that maintenance of the course, pro shop, salary and carts all come out of the operating budget. Mr. Conley said that he is concerned about the course and he would like to see more revenue go into the course.

Mr. Le Beau said that the Committee found both satisfactory but they were concerned about Mr. Johnson's budget and financial strength. Mr. Le Beau said that is why they gave the edge to New England Golf. Mr. Le Beau said that Mr. Johnson would pay the Town over a three year term, \$85,000 more in cash than New England Golf. Mr. Le Beau said that New England Golf would make-up part of the difference in the amount of \$45,000 by putting that amount into improvements into the golf course. Mr. Le Beau said that the difference in the total financial benefit to the Town between the two proposals is \$50,000 net difference. He asked if this would bring us to the point is the advantage indicated by the Committee to New England Golf does it have a value of \$50,000? Mr. Le Beau said that is what this is going to boil down to. If for example, if one of these proposals had been rated highly advantages and the other had been rated disadvantages there would have been a clear distinction and it would have been easier to assess the price difference. But, as they were both ranked the same, it becomes a close call. Mr. Le Beau said that when the proposals are ranked the same you are looking at the best price to be the quote tiebreaker. Mr. Le Beau said that there was an indication by the Committee there is a technical advantage to New England Golf. Mr. Le Beau asked what is the value of that advantage.

Mr. Marsden said that he agrees with the incremental improvements that have been made in Pinecrest. He said that improvements have been done year after year. He said that they have done the holes over and they have been working on the drainage. Mr. Marsden said that if you low-ball the maintenance report and you run into some problems. He said then people will not want to play golf at Pinecrest. He said that the difference is \$50,000 and over the course of a few years, you would see a decrease in golf traffic. Mr. Marsden did say that New England Golf has not only done a great job of running the course, they have proven to be a real partner in terms of taking some of that money and putting it back into the course and making those improvements. Mr. Marsden said that way that New England Golf runs the course, it leaves the Town in a better position at the end of the contract than getting into a position where as they could say they are not going to much back into the course. Mr. Marsden said that New England Golf has a proven track record. Mr. Leary said that he likes to look at longevity when he hires someone. Mr.

Leary said that New England Golf is consistent. Mr. Leary said that Mr. Johnson appears to bounce around a lot. Mr. Leary said that not having a contract renewed speaks volumes. He said that sometimes it is just not a good fit. Mr. Marsden said that New England Golf has been putting money back into the course. He said that it costs money to run the course. Mr. Marsden said that he likes the recommendation of New England Golf by the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NEW ENGLAND GOLF TO RUN THE COURSE AT PINECREST. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mr. Leary said that the next discussion would be for the restaurant at Pinecrest. Ms. Moore said that in the past 10 years we have had several people running the restaurant. She said that some were better than others. Ms. Moore said that this time, they want to make it the best that they can. Ms. Moore said that when they rated the proposals, they did not meet the criteria. But, she said that now that they have seen the price. Proposals, the Golf Course Advisory Committee would like to interview both candidates. Mr. Leary said that the interviews would have to be in open session. Mr. Leary said that they could conduct their interviews next week with a joint meeting with the Selectmen. Mr. Smith said that MGM put out the bid for only the food sales not the liquor sales. Mr. Leary said that the State will not allow the Town to get a percentage of the liquor sales. Mr. Le Beau said that in the past they have set a base fixed monthly fee and then a percentage of the food sales. Mr. Le Beau said that they would have to calculate the base fee. Ms. Moore said that they, as a Committee, were looking for recommendations. She said that Mr. Ficco came back with wonderful recommendations for work that he had done for the Franklin Elks. Mr. Leary said that MGM came in with their personal financial statement and did not qualify according to the criteria. Mr. Leary asked Mr. Le Beau when we bring the applicants into a meeting can we ask them to bring specific things? Mr. Le Beau said that the evaluations made by the Committee are a public record. Mr. Le Beau said that you can ask the applicant to bring in information that you are looking for. Ms. Moore said that Mr. Ficco has been running the Franklin Elks and runs the entire food service. Mr. Smith said that Mr. Ficco did not submit a financial statement. Mr. Smith said that Mr. Ficco said that he works 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Mr. Smith said that he would need some help. Ms. Moore said that there are 14 events already planned for 2014, so they need the right person to come in and run the restaurant. She said that this would give who ever takes over a good start.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS – PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A DPW.

Present: David Keating, Brian Antonioli and Doug Valvocrin.

There was a discussion about the merger of the Water Department and the Highway Department to form a DPW. Mr. Keating said that the Water Department will work with Highway to make a smooth transition.

BOARD BUSINESS

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2013, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE BUT NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2013, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER, SPECIAL POLICE, KEEFE TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPOINT KATE HICKEY AS A SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPOINT JAMES RAY AS A SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPOINT SARAH COMMERFORD TO THE KEEFE TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

POLICY CHANGES AT THE SENIOR CENTER

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE IN HOURS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER. THEY WILL BE OPEN MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AND TUESDAYS FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 8:30 P.M. AND FRIDAYS FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

FY 15 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Leary said that during the budget process we need to be careful that we do not deliberate by e-mail. Mr. Le Beau said that he hopes that the budget review process runs smoothly. Mr. Le Beau said that we need to respect Department Heads' personal time. Mr. Leary said that it is helpful to have the information package early that way they can look at what is going to be discussed.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF TOWN HALL FEES – HOLLISTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE WAIVER OF FEES FOR THE RENTAL OF UPPER TOWN HALL ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2013, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. FOR THE HOLIDAY STROLL. THE MOTION

WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN ABSTAINED.

WARRANT FOR THE DECEMBER 10, 2013, SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION ON DECEMBER 10, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mr. Leary said that he received an e-mail from Steve Bradford about Holliston becoming a Purple Heart Community. He said that there is a person who he can send an e-mail to and it will be forwarded to a Committee. Mr. Leary said that this is at no cost to the Town. Mr. Leary said that this is a great way to honor our Veterans.

Mr. Le Beau said that the Police Officer candidate that is in line to be appointed to the force, is going through the pre-employment screening process. He hopes to have everything complete this week so that he can be appointed next week.

AT 8:45 P.M., MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____