

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 22, 2014
7:30 P.M.

Holliston Town Hall
Room 105

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

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

15-17	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 429,494.03
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) MILLER	\$ 1,830.00
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) MIDDLE	\$ 9,468.29
	MEDICARE (001)	\$ 661.00
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 7,707.50
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 998.39
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,085,928.04
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,535,088.86

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 189,287.83
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TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 153,544.34
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There were no comments

Comments from the audience

Dianna Vosburg asked about the status of the Green Community.

Mr. Leary said that they were not able to get the application in on time. He said that it will be filed next year. Ms. Vosburg said that we are in compliance in most areas. Mr. Leary said yes we were.

Ms. Vosburg asked what is outstanding that is holding this back?

Mr. Leary said that when Mr. Le Beau is back in Town, he will let them know what is missing.

Ms. Greeley said that she is disappointed that the paperwork did not get in on time. She said that now they have to wait another year. Mr. Leary said that they wanted to adopt the Stretch Code along with the Green Community. Mr. Leary said that this was a little different on what they had voted on.

Mr. Leary said that it is disappointing that we could not get it done in time, but it will be done for next year.

DPW DIRECTOR – SEAN REESE

Mr. Reese said that they are moving forward. He said that the Highway Department has been doing the digging for hydrant replacements. He said that now that they are now a Union. He said that they are building relations with the departments. Mr. Reese said that on the water, they are in the process of hiring more field staff. He said that they posted the position at the Highway Department to give someone the opportunity to transfer over. Mr. Reese said that they are going to promote with-in for

the Forman's position. He said that they have been checking the hydrants and have serviced several that were not operational. Mr. Reese said that they have been flushing the hydrants at night and have cleared several water issues by doing it. He said that they put a notice in the paper and there is a map on the Town's Website. He said that they have been updating daily, listing the streets that are going to be flushed. He said that there has been a lot of brown water calls, and with the flushing, it has been helping. Mr. Reese said that there has been an on-going problem with pressure on Cedar Street. He said that a representative of the DEP was here for a meeting. He said that the booster system at the bottom of Cedar Street was not sized properly. Mr. Reese said that they will install the proper pumps. Mr. Reese said that the Cedar Street residents were on Ashland water in the past, but were taken off because of the quality of the water. He said that Ashland has no problems with the quality of water now. Mr. Reese said that he is working on a Capital Improvement Plan. He said that he would like to put a filtration system on well #5 because the levels of iron are increasing. He said that it is still below level but they want to be safe. He said that Stoddard Park will be taken off line. That well needs a filtration system. He said that it will save the Town because they will not have to test it. Mr. Reese said that he is happy with the existing staff on both the Water and Highway side.

Mr. Conley asked how many hydrants do we have in Town? Mr. Reese said about 900. They are working on a list. Mr. Conley asked how do you know when they hydrant has been flushed enough? Mr. Reese said the water is clear. Mr. Reese when they go to put in a new water main, they do not have to take the old one out. He said that you can crush it and leave it in the ground.

Mr. Leary asked Mr. Reese what is his greatest need? Mr. Reese said that he needs more staff.

Mr. Marsden thanked Mr. Reese for all his hard work. Mr. Marsden said that Mr. Reese has been very positive. He said everything that Mr. Reese has done is very important.

DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC

Mr. Conley said the Downtown Traffic Analysis was requested about two years ago. He said that this will have a big impact on the town. Mr. Conley said that many people like the look and feel of a small town. He said that many people moved here because of that. He said that surrounding Towns wish that they had a downtown like ours. Mr. Conley said that the study was done and it showed us how to get cars to through downtown faster. He said that the study was done on a three block area and did not include the entire area. Mr. Conley asked Mr. Reese what he thought of the downtown area? Mr. Reese said that he has not seen the study. He said that he would hesitate to do anything to change the charm of the downtown area. He said that once you change the look, you will never get it back. He said that one dangerous thing is when you are coming out of Central Street taking a right onto Washington Street, there is a sidewalk right there. The intersection is very close to the cross walk.

Geoff Zeamer, Planning Board, said the original vision was going to be a small change and now if it goes through, it will be a very large change in downtown. He said to step back and make it simple is an excellent idea. He said that this was put in place to help with Hollis Street and Central Street not Washington Street. Mr. Zeamer said that lights would be great, but used only when needed.

John Paltrineri, owner of Fiske's General Store, has had his business in town for many years. He is concerned about changing some of the sidewalks. He said that he has been at this location for forty-one years and has seen and heard many accidents. He said that the most accidents happen not during

the rush hour, but midday. He said that some trucks drive through at such a rate of speed it shakes the windows in his building.

Gregg Lewis, Cold Spring Road and volunteer firefighter, said to do something simple like a rotary at Central Street and Washington Street. He said that when you come to a rotary, you have to slowdown. He said that would be the simplest solution.

Mr. Conley said that not one of the engineers that looked at the downtown area suggested a rotary, they thought that the area was too small. Mr. Lewis said that the rotary in Norfolk works well. Mr. Conley said that it could be a nightmare for public safety and public works. Mr. Lewis said that if you move the crosswalk from the bank to in between Fiske's and Superette, it is down a little further so people will have to go around the corner and there.

Mr. Lewis also suggested to Mr. Reese that if a hydrant is not in service to put a bag over it. He said that would help the fire department. Mr. Reese said that they notify the fire department and put an out of service tag on the hydrant.

Linda Arkow, 21 Carlton Drive, said that to install lights would be a simple fix and less complicated than a rotary.

Martin Sawzin, 45 School Street said that he loves a rotary. He said that Norfolk has a beautiful rotary. He said that a rotary in Holliston would not help. Mr. Sawzin said that Holliston downtown is a walking area.

Pat Duffy, 5 Regency Drive, said that she is on the America in Bloom Committee and they have been working to try and make downtown more pedestrian friendly. She said that there are benches in town so that people can sit and chat. She said that taking any sidewalk space would be a bad idea. Ms. Duffy said that the first time the judges were in town they commented about how nice the benches were. She said that people are coming from the Rail Trail and coming into town for something to eat and just walk around downtown.

Mr. Leary said that when the study was done, they took the low bidder. He said that the study was done following the RFP. Mr. Leary said that this report was to see if we could get the cars to drive through town more efficiently, not faster. Mr. Leary said that the RFP was followed exactly.

Mr. Marsden said that the project purpose is to have a pedestrian friendly downtown. Mr. Marsden said that McMahon followed the RFP exactly as written. Mr. Marsden said that this is not the first time that the downtown area has had this kind of study. He said that McMahon referenced the 1995 study that was done. He said that in that study they suggested that lights be put at Washington Street at Hollis Street and at Washington Street and Central Street. He said that it still has not been done.

Beth Greeley, 1038 Washington Street, said that the changes with the Superette building will have an effect on the flow of traffic. Ms. Greeley said that there is a small town on the cape that has a lot of pedestrians. At the corner of the road on both sides of the street is a bucket of flags and when you want to cross the street, you pick up the flag and walk across the street and then put that flag back into the bucket for the next person. She said that could be a temporary fix for a low cost. Ms. Greeley said that if we want to be pedestrian friendly, why would we want to make the street wider?

Mr. Leary said that was just one of the plans. Mr. Leary said that we are going to have to compromise on any of the plans that we choose.

Geoff Zeamer, Planning Board member said when the Planning Board suggested that this study be done, it was for a study of traffic lights, not changing the flow pattern. He said that they were not planning on restructuring the downtown area. He said that this was to be a simple fix, under one hundred thousand dollars. He said that somewhere along the line this was blown up. Mr. Zeamer said that this should have been an easy fix. He said that it gets complex if you try and do too much. He said that he is not in favor of either of the proposals.

Mr. Marsden said that if Mr. Zeamer's plan is for about one hundred thousand dollars, it could not include lights, because the lights are over five hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Zeamer said yes lights were included but it all depends on what you are doing as to how much it costs. Mr. Zeamer said that they were thinking of only having one or two sets of lights, not three.

Mr. Conley asked Mr. Zeamer who put the RFP together? Mr. Zeamer said that it was written by Jack Donovan and the rest of the Planning Board members. Mr. Zeamer said that Jack Donovan is not a member of the Planning Board any more. Mr. Marsden said that it does not matter. Mr. Zeamer said that this was to be kept small.

Nikki Borman said that in towns like Milford and Wellesley, there is a light at every intersection. Ms. Borman said that we have lights at Washington Street and Concord Street and at Washington Street and Highland. She said that you can wait downtown trying to get to Milford because of the light at Highland Street. She said that the cars coming from Central Street should be able to get onto Washington Street safely. She said that we have two lights and we do not need any more. She said that lights do not need to be a block apart. Ms. Borman said that the sidewalks should remain the same, but they have to think about how to manage the side streets. Ms. Borman said that if there was to be a light that goes in, it should be at Central Street and Washington Street. She said that would make the most sense because of the sidewalk.

Mary Greendale, 57 Roy Avenue said in 1975 they talked about putting a light at Central Street and Washington Street the State was clear that we would have to have one at Hollis Street at Washington Street. She said that they said that it too close just to have one light. Ms. Greendale said that on this design, there was the proposal for a light at Exchange Street and Washington Street as well.

Someone said that there could be a better solution for the area.

Mr. Conley said that the issue during the day is cars speeding through the area. He said that at night, the traffic is bad between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mr. Conley said that the concern of the Selectmen is pedestrian safety. He said that the engineer did what they were asked to do.

Mr. Leary asked the audience if anyone was in favor of moving forward with the project at the cost of \$275,000? There will be more added to the bill closer to completion. He said it will cost about one million dollars to one million and a half. Who would think this is the way to go? There was a show of hands.

Mr. Leary said that if we asked five different engineers for their opinion, we would get five different ones. He said probably one just like we have now. Mr. Leary said that they are the experts in traffic.

Mr. Leary said that we always have the right to question the experts.

Ms. Greendale said that every study that has been done has said that we need lights. She said let's just do the lights. She said that this has been going on since 1975 almost 40 years.

MR. HAGER

Mr. Hager did a presentation about light bulbs. Said that he looked at the schools and fire station lights. He said that they replaced some lights at the high school with LED lights. He said that they replaced them with a lower wattage bulb. You can still see in the auditorium. He said that they are saving about eighteen thousand dollars per year. Mr. Hager said that the payback is just one year. He said that the bulbs are guaranteed for five years. He said that the way the school uses the auditorium they should last fifteen to twenty years.

Mr. Hager said that he went to the fire station and did the same thing. He said that there is great savings at the fire station. Mr. Hager said that there is a light at the high school that is run by solar power because it would cost over one thousand dollars to fix the wiring. He said that the solar charges during the day and can be on all night. Mr. Hager said that there is no charge from NStar to run a solar light. Mr. Hager said that if we did this with the lights, it would bring Holliston closer to a Green Community. He said that there are a lot of grants and rebates for a program like this one. Mr. Hager said that they are doing this in Boston and in Quincy. He said that he can save the town a lot of money.

BOARD BUSINESS

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014, AS WRITTEN BUT NOT TO BE RELEASED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2014, AS WRITTEN BUT NOT TO BE RELEASED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC RULES AND ORDERS

Mr. Conley said that this is to eliminate the parking spot just before the crosswalk on Washington Street in front of the Superette.

Mr. Marsden said that this will help with oncoming cars.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO REMOVE THE PARKING SPOT JUST BEFORE THE CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF THE SUPERETTE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – YOUTH FOOTBALL

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR A YOUTH FOOTBALL FUNDRAISER, IN UPPER TOWN HALL, ON OCTOBER 24, 2014, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

ONE DAY LICENSE FEE WAIVER – VETERANS DAY DINNER

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE AND WAIVE THE FEE FOR THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE AND THE ROOM FEE FOR THE UPPER TOWN HALL FOR THE VETERANS DAY DINNER ON NOVEMBER 11, 2014. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mr. Conley said that they have set the meeting schedule starting in January and they will meet every other week.

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL FUNDING AGREEMENT

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,300.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MOTIONS FOR SUPPORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION AND THE TRAILS COMMITTEE

MR. LEARY MOVED TO SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION AND THE EFFORTS TO SECURE LAND FOR THE TOWN MEETING VOTE ON OCTOBER 27, 2014. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO SUPPORT THE TRAILS COMMITTEE FOR THE EFFORTS TO SECURE LAND FOR THE TOWN MEETING VOTE ON OCTOBER 27, 2014. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

AT 9:15 P.M., MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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