

## HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 7, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Town Hall

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

### **MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT**

15-28	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 998.39
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$102,150.70
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$102,150.70

### **ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:**

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 26,937.01
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### **TREASURER'S NOTE:**

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 16,056.75
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**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Leary said that he hopes that everyone's heating system is working well tonight. He said that it is going to be very cold.

Mr. Conley showed an old newspaper to the Board, with many resident's pictures in it.

There were no comments from the audience.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2014, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2014 – POSTPONED**

### **RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUESTS – VETERANS SERVICES AND SELECTMEN**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A RESERVE FUND TRANSFER FOR THE VETERANS SERVICES FOR PROJECTED COSTS FOR THE VETERANS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A RESERVE FUND TRANSFER FOR THE SELECTMEN FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000, LEGAL EXPENSES FOR THE RAIL TRAIL AND THE ANDREWS SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,800. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE RAIL TRAIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,200. FOR A TOTAL RESERVE FUND TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

**APPOINTMENT OF CONSTABLE – NELSON GOLDIN**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO RE-APPOINT NELSON GOLDIN AS A CONSTABLE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JANUARY 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

**FISCAL YEAR 16 BUDGET PROPOSALS – SOLID WASTE, STREET LIGHTING, SEALER, ANIMAL CONTROL, DEBT, MOTOR VEHICLE FUELS AND SNOW AND ICE.**

Mr. Le Beau said that the Solid Waste budget, is a reduction from the current year in the amount of \$34,052. He said that this is below the guideline that was established for this budget. He said that the reason for the decrease is the reduction in the tipping fee at Wheelabrator/Millbury. He said that the fee went down from \$75.66 per ton to \$64.00 per ton on January 1, 2015. He said that this tipping fee of \$64.00 will remain the same through Fiscal Year 2015 to June 30, 2016. He said that is a savings of \$46,000, based on the average tons. Mr. Le Beau said that curbside pick-up collection services for recycling and trash will be going up about 1%. Mr. Le Beau said that there will be a small increase to host the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day. He said that there will be a small increase in the printing of the trash stickers. Mr. Le Beau said that he is asking for an increase in what he calls miscellaneous and this covers extra services that is provided by the contractor for dumpster collections in places like the Golf Course, Highway Department and some of the schools. He said cleaning up after special events such as the High School Senior Class Auction, Senior Center Craft Fair, Celebrate Holliston and other events that take place during the year. He said that this will also cover the cost of the CRT collection metals and cardboard at Marshall Street. Mr. Le Beau said that we do receive some revenue from Marshall Street and it goes into the General Fund.

Mr. Le Beau said the residents have been very strong in their recycling efforts. He said that we are running at 47% for recycling. He said that since 1990, the Community recycling rate on average has 37%. Mr. Le Beau said that there is a book recycling container at the high school. He said that it will also take DVDs and CDs. He said that the Selectmen's office collects thermostats that have mercury in them. Mr. Le Beau said that the Board of Health has a partnership with CVS for the disposal of sharps. And year round, you can dispose of old medications at the Police station. Mr. Le Beau said that because Holliston has great recycling skills this budget will go down. Mr. Le Beau said that the tipping fee will increase, but a little at a time. Mr. Le Beau said that several towns all combined together to work this out.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SOLID WASTE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,029,710. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

Mr. Leary said that there has been talk about eliminating the trash fee, will this effect this number? Mr. Le Beau said the final decision will be this month on the trash fee. He said that it will not have an effect on the Solid Waste budget.

**STREET LIGHT BUDGET**

Mr. Le Beau said that we suggest a small reduction in the Street light budget from \$61,200 to \$60,000.

He said that half way through the year, we have spent \$19,700. He said that looking forward, with a rate increase in electricity, there is room in the budget to absorb the cost. He said that this budget covers street lights, there are over 900 streetlights in Town. He said that this budget pays for traffic lights and flashing lights, school zone lights, the light at Blaire Square and the light at the Recycling Center on Marshall Street. He said that this line is the one that pays for outside lighting in public areas. Mr. Leary asked do we really need \$60,000 in this budget if we are running under it. Mr. Le Beau said the rates are going up and he does not want to be short in this line.

Mr. Leary said that when Solect comes on-line we should see a savings.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE STREET LIGHT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **SEALER BUDGET**

Mr. Le Beau said that the budget is \$1,000 level funded. He said that amount has been the same for the past six or seven years. The Sealer works off a Revolving Account. All the fees that are paid support the budget. Mr. Le Beau said that there are enough funds to cover this line, so he is thinking of not funding the \$1,000. He said that the Revolving Account is paying for its self.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO ZERO OUT THE SEALER'S BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2016 LINE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET**

Mr. Le Beau said that we are recommending level funding this budget. Mr. Le Beau said that this service is purchased. He said that we contract with the Town of Ashland. He said that we pay them \$38,000 per year, and they take care of the boarding, equipment, vehicle, gas and personnel. He said that there has been some discussion about the possibility to broaden the region. He said that more towns could be involved. He said that Hopkinton, Southboro, Framingham and Sherborn all have expressed interest in joining.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **DEBT**

Mr. Le Beau said this budget includes the long-term debt for the Town not including the Water Department. He said that the Water debt is in the Water budget. He said that this includes debt for the ladder truck, bank and legal expenses. He said that we have to do an annual disclosure notice, because there are outstanding bonds. He also said that in an event that a citizen receives an abatement or a reduction in their assessment, if there is a long time in between the payment and the abatement, we may have to pay interest to the tax payer. He said that there is \$2,500 in this line. Mr. Le Beau said that the budget is \$70,000 less in FY 2016 than it was in FY 2015. He said that this is due to reduced interest costs and long-term debt. Mr. Le Beau said that we re-financed the long-term debt and it is a savings.

Mr. Le Beau passed out a detail sheet with the Fire Station, Golf Course, Police Station, School Building projects, Town Hall, Sewer project and the Ladder Truck. He said that the last payment for the ladder truck will be in 2016. He said that in 2022 and 2023 will be the biggest reduction.

Mr. Leary said that we need a new DPW garage. Mr. Conley said that Park and Recreation is looking for a new building. Mr. Leary said that the Senior Center is looking for a bigger place.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEBT SERVICE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,518,648 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **MOTOR VEHICLE FUELS BUDGET**

Mr. Le Beau said the budget currently is \$144,232. He said that this covers the bulk purchase of diesel fuel and unleaded gas. He said that this is available for the use on Town Vehicles. He said the DPW, Police Department, Fire Department, Building Inspector, School Department, the Auxiliary Police and the Council on Aging access it. He said that this is a level funded budget. He said that there can be a strong case to reduce this budget. He said that the fuel prices have dropped. But they could go back up just as fast. Mr. Le Beau said that he tracks the fuel usage every month.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTOR VEHICLE FUELS BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$144,232 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **SNOW AND ICE BUDGET**

Mr. Le Beau said that we are suggesting level funding in the amount of \$250,000. He said that this has been the budget amount since 2013. He said that historically we run out of funds and have to ask for a Reserve Fund Transfer. He said that in FY 2012, we had a mild winter so there was a surplus. He recommends keeping it at \$250,000.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SNOW AND ICE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

Mr. Conley thanked Mr. Le Beau for all his hard work on these budgets. Mr. Conley said that Mr. Le Beau has been doing this for a long time and he knows what he is doing.

Mr. Conley said that Coffee with the Selectmen will be Saturday, January 10, at 10:30 a.m. at Coffee Haven. Mr. Conley said that there is no agenda, so you can ask and talk about anything.

Mr. Conley also suggested that the Board get together with the Millis and Medway Selectmen to discuss common interests.

Mr. Leary said that it is a great idea. Mr. Leary said that last time that they interacted with other Selectmen Boards was when the topic was the casino. He said that all the Towns worked together well. Mr. Conley suggested that they meet in February at Restaurant 45.

Mr. Leary said then for the next meeting, they could meet in a different Town.

Mr. Leary said that the All Boards Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at the Senior Center starting at 7:30 p.m.

**AT 8:23 P.M., MR. LEARY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS BARGAINING STRATEGY WITH NON-UNION PERSONNEL AND TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**

**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
MR. CONLEY	X		
MR. LEARY	X		
MR. MARSDEN			X

**MR. CONLEY SAID THAT EXECUTIVE SESSION WOULD LAST ABOUT 30 MINUTES AND THEY WOULD NOT GO BACK TO OPEN SESSION ONLY TO SIGN DOCUMENTS ALREADY APPROVED.**

**AT 8:40 P.M., THE BOARD EMERGED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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