

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 25, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Town Hall – Room 105
703 Washington Street

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

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

15-34	GENERAL WARRANT	\$4,749.00
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$4,749.00

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

15-35	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 723.195.13
	VOIDS	\$ (6,078.79)
	MEALS TAX (220)	\$ 53.72
	PAY.COM (APPLICATION OFR MEDICARE-HEALTH)	\$ 661.00
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 27,702.05
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 998.39
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,107,865.97
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,853.399.08

ACCOUNTANT’S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 196,269.10
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TREASURER’S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 157,408.73
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Leary said that we have not had a snow storm in a few days. He said that we still have challenges. Mr. Leary thanked the DPW for all their continued hard work keeping the streets safe. Mr. Leary asked everyone to be careful if you plan on shoveling your roof. Mr. Marsden said the Lions’ Club is holding their Social in the Upper Town Hall on Saturday, February 28th, for anyone who wants to attend.

Comments from the audience

Diana Vosburgh asked how are things going moving forward with the Green Community application? Mr. Le Beau said that we have completed the building inventory and we have the history of energy consumption in all the Town buildings. He said that we have completed the vehicle inventory and they have to put together the history of energy consumption for the small group of vehicles that will be covered by the Green Communities Program. Mr. Le Beau said that we have to inventory all Town vehicles, but only certain ones will be covered by the program. They are passenger vehicles that are not

used for front line public safety. He said that after that is done, we have to put together the elements of the proposed energy reduction plan.

COUNCIL ON AGING BUDGET

Robert Malone, Chairman of the Council on Aging, and Jean Boulette, who is the Director of the Council on Aging, were present to talk about this budget. Mr. Malone said that the Senior population is growing. He said that just last year they provide services 1,900 seniors, in one way or the other. He said that is almost half of the total senior population. He said that there were twelve thousand visits to the Senior Center from July 2013 to June 2014. He said that the number of participants for programs has gone up by 20%. He said that the My Senior Center reporting system said that for the first six months of the year, from January to June, six hundred and sixty nine individuals participated in seventy one programs or events. Mr. Malone reminded the Board that no town funds are used to fund programs. He said that tax dollars are only spent on the building, administrative expenses and staff salaries. He said that the Senior Support Foundation raises most of the money for programs. Mr. Malone said that the Lions' , Newcomers Club, VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Eagle Scout projects and Keefe Tech all donate funds or time to the Senior Center. Mr. Malone said that there needs to more adequate fair funding for purposes of managing and operating programs. He said that this would help the entire community. Mr. Malone said that he would like to see adequate step increases in the existing positions.

Mr. Malone said that they would like a part-time clerical position for 16 hours per week at grade 200 at step 1. He said that the request is in the amount of \$15,510. Mr. Malone said that he was able to help with the Senior Center when they were looking for a new director. He said that he paid the bills, and did Accounts payable and purchasing. He said that it gave him the opportunity to see how things were run. He said that while he was helping, he thought that things could be done differently and more issues could be passed to other staffers so that the Director can do more fundraising, grant writing and programing. Mr. Malone said that they would like partial funding to the nutrition programs and transportation. Mr. Malone said that the Town, in the past, provided partial funding for the lunch program, but it was taken out of the budget. He also said that transportation is over budget and they will be asking for partial funding for that. Mr. Malone said that there are concerns about the building. He said the parking lot is too small. He said that GLM has been doing a study of the lot, but they do not have the cost estimate yet. He said that Mr. Reese, the DPW Director, said that he would help them with their concerns. Mr. Malone said that they would like a new cement pad for a dumpster, painting of several offices, also an electrician for outside electrical problems. Mr. Malone said that the side entrance ramp continues to fall apart. He thought that Keefe Tech was going to repair it or replace it but the work has not been scheduled. Mr. Malone said that the phone system is dysfunctional and he said that there is the need for technology. Mr. Malone said that a building energy assessment was done in January 2012. He said that the audit recommended insulation, HVAC and improvements in lighting. He said that the total investment would have been \$46,000. He said that at that time, it would have been an energy savings of \$8,000 over the course of less than six years. He said that the work was never funded because of the future of the building. The Finance Committee was not willing to move forward on it. Mr. Malone said that it is the Council's request that this audit be reviewed to see if we can move

forward on it. He also said that if Park and Recreation moves forward with a bigger space, they may be able to move in with them for more space for classes. He said that they will be asking for a Reserve Fund Transfer to cover the cost of the emergency HVAC work that was done. He said that the dishwasher is on its last leg and needs to be replaced. Mr. Malone said that if the Board had any questions he would make himself available at any time that worked for them.

Mr. Leary asked about the breakdown for the Outreach Coordinator? Mr. Malone said that he would fill him in at a later date. Mr. Leary also asked about the part-time clerical position. What are the hours that she is working now? Mr. Malone said that he will get that information. Mr. Leary asked what are the number of hours that the Senior Center is open?

Ms. Boulette said the Center is open Monday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Leary asked if this is working out well for the Center? Ms. Boulette said yes.

Mr. Leary said that he knows that the dishwasher needs to be replaced. He asked how old is the dishwasher? Mr. Malone said that he did not know.

Mr. Marsden said that the Center is looking for a part-time clerical position. He said that he would like to know what the staff does now and what roles they perform. Mr. Malone said that he would look into it.

WATER RATE HEARING Mr. Leary read the hearing notice.

At 7:45 p.m., Sean Reese, DPW Director, was present to talk about the water rates. He said that he has a Capital Improvement Plan for the Water Department that includes upgrades to the system. He said that he needs to have continuous revenue to increase the Water Surplus. He said in order to do that, we need a rate increase or a water surcharge.

Mr. Leary read a list of things that the DPW would like to do. A well study for well #5, water main replacement, also work on booster stations and hydrant and valve replacement. Mr. Reese said that this will be a start, everything will get done. Now but it is something to be thinking about. Mr. Leary said that we are not going to make a decision on this today, he just wants to talk about it. Mr. Leary said that we can apply for SRF Funding through the State. He said that it is a low interest loan. Mr. Leary said that there is a surcharge for CPC that is on our tax bills. He was thinking we could do the same for water. Mr. Reese said that no-one wants to pay higher taxes, but it is time to make an investment to repair things that have not been taken care of in the past. Mr. Reese said that if we do not make the investment, the system will fail.

Ms. Vosburg, Constitution Circle, said that many residents are having brown water that stains cloths.

Mr. Reese said that is the first capital request. Mr. Marsden said that we have been talking about this for many years but nothing was ever done. Mr. Reese said that when Highway re-does a road, he would like the water mains replaced and the gas lines as well. He said that way, the road will not have to be dug up for many years. Mr. Marsden said that it will be very expensive to do this kind of work. Mr. Reese said that there are a few projects that the Water Department can fund themselves. But, if something goes wrong, it will cost more and there would not be any funds to fall back on.

Mr. Marsden said that we are not through talking about this and we should continue this hearing until March 11, 2015. Mr. Reese said he may have more numbers by that meeting.

Mr. Le Beau said that the total revenue for the Water Department is \$2.7 million dollars. He said that most of that comes from user charges. He said that there are other ways that the funds have come in, connection charges and development charges and back flow fees. He said that the current expenses for the Water Department is just about 2.4 million dollars. He said that they are creating about \$300,000 per year into surplus. Mr. Le Beau said that he expects that with the closing of some of the Town Meeting Articles, they should have over one million dollars in surplus. Mr. Le Beau said that the average water bill is about \$340 per year and they bill every three months. Mr. Le Beau said that there was a Asset Management Plan Inventory prepared for the Water Department by an outside Consultant in 2011, that said that more than 50 miles of the water lines were installed before 1970. He said that more than 50% of the lines that remain may contain asbestos. It is a cement pipe. He said that at that time they recommended 5 million dollars with a 2 million dollar per year program for 25 years to try and maintain the overall integrity of the distribution system. Mr. Le Beau said that Mr. Reese has done a great job with short-term projects and the calculation of them.

DPW BUDGET

Sean Reese, DPW Director was present to talk about his budget. He said that he met the guideline at 1.5%. He said that they are a little over on the Highway side and a little under on the Water side. He said that his budget is in good shape. Mr. Reese said that there is a savings because the Water side eliminated the Water Superintendent, at a savings of \$77,701, and an Operations Manager in the amount of \$61,194 for a total of \$138,895. This has been removed from the budget. He said that the Operator Water System has been increased \$47,923. Mr. Reese said that Professional Services/ Development has been increased from \$7,000 to \$9,000. He said that license renewal is part of this increase. He also said that there is a budget line for tank inspections in the amount of \$3,000. Mr. Reese said that uniforms are now part of bargaining with the Union. He said that they are requesting \$45,000 for a new pick-up truck under Capital Improvements, funded out of Water Surplus. Mr. Reese said that on the Highway side, the biggest change is the addition of Personnel Services for the Director with a salary shift from Water to Highway. He said that there is a budget for uniforms in the amount of \$450 per employee totaling \$1,500. Capital Improvement request is \$140,000 for a trackless tractor for snow blowing and field blowing. Mr. Leary said that it is great that Mr. Reese was able to come in at guideline with the two departments. Mr. Leary said that Mr. Reese is ready to tackle the next project. Mr. Reese said that Mr. Smith is an outstanding Superintendent and they have a great crew. Mr. Marsden said that things have worked out well since the DPW was formed. Mr. Le Beau said that the combined budget is \$12,000 below the guideline. Mr. Le Beau said that both Highway and Water have been working well as a team, in a short amount of time. Mr. Reese said that there is a Highway staff member and a Water staff member always on call to respond to any emergency.

EMT APPOINTMENT

Mr. Marsden said that Chief Cassidy is requesting that Daniel Lamme be appointed as an EMT.
MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT DANIEL LAMME AS AN EMT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

EAGLE SCOUT LETTER

Mr. Marsden said that Luke Vladimir Milbocker has completed his service project. He did the landscaping at the handicapped entrance at the High School.

Mr. Marsden said that the Board will send a letter of congratulations.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO SIGN A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO LUKE VLADIMIR MILBOCKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2015, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

TASER DISCUSSION

Chief Moore, Lieutenant Gatchell and Lieutenant Denman were present to talk about tasers.

Mr. Marsden said that this is a follow-up discussion from a previous meeting.

Chief Moore said two weeks ago, they had a detailed discussion about tasers. He said that the presentation was good and there were a lot of questions. He said that they put all their reasons out there as to why this would be a good tool for their officers to have. He also spoke about all the research that went into it. He also said that they take all their decisions very seriously. He said that they keep in mind a number of things, best practices, safety analysis, the tool its self and if they can utilize it in a town like this. He said that they talks about it helping keep the residents safe as well as his officers. Chief Moore said that anytime they are called to a disturbance, they try and solve it with words as apposed to force. Chief Moore said that they do a lot of things with different agencies, schools and the Senior Center, to make sure that they can handle anything that may come up. Chief Moore said that at the last meeting, they talked about policy making and how they handle calls and how they train. Chief Moore said that verbally is the best way to rectify a situation. Chief Moore said that they would develop role call training, in-service training and they looked at training with the tool. He said that they have covered all the grounds. He said that this tool is highly regulated. Chief Moore said that they take the use of this tool very seriously. Chief Moore said that the Holliston Police Department is very experienced. He said that they would rather resolve a matter without force.

Mr. Leary said that he appreciated the opportunity for the number of times that Chief Moore has discussed this. Mr. Leary said that Lieutenant Gatchell has done a great job in researching the use of tasers. Mr. Leary said that a taser is an effective tool. He said that he does not want the public to get hurt or the officers. Mr. Leary said that he has heard from officers with long careers, that they have never had to use their service revolver. Mr. Leary said that he is in support of the tasers.

Diana Vosburg, Constitution Circle, said that she attended the meeting that Chief Moore had and she said that it was very interesting and well worth attending. She said that it was well presented and very informative. She said that she did some research at home and she does not think that it is an appropriate tool for the police to have. She said that she has faith in the officer but not the taser. She

said that tasers are aggressively marketed. She thinks that it would be wise to step back and think about the quality of the information that was given by the company.

Chief Moore said that we received a Regional grant for a Health Clinician to ride around with officers and this person would have a background in mental health. He said that they are sharing this service with Hopkinton and Sherborn and Ashland.

Someone asked how much the total cost of the tasers would be. Chief Moore said that they got a quote last year was about \$1,400 per taser. He said that the training would come out of the training budget. He said that they are in the process of getting an up-dated cost. He said that this tool is in demand all over the country. Mr. Leary asked how many do you need? Chief Moore said that they are talking about that. Should they train only a few or should they train the entire department?

Someone said that it looks like the department has been very good for not using force, why do you need a taser then? She asked if they would be replacing firearms? Chief Moore said that a taser is considered an intermediate level of force. He said that it is the same category as pepper spray or a baton. Mr. Leary said that Holliston is a great town and no one wants to see anything bad happen. Robert Malone, Central Street, said that Holliston is a small town and our police officers are at no less risk in Holliston than any other police officer in any town in the country. He said that it may appear that there is less danger in Holliston, but that is not true. He said that every day that an officer is on the job, they are putting their life on the line. Mr. Malone said that any tool that they can have, may help with their safety.

Meghan O'Brien, Washington Street, said she is a social worker for severely mentally ill people. She said that she has worked with other Police Departments in other towns. She said that when she heard about tasers, because the police have had an increase in mentally ill people that the police were encountering. She said that Chief Moore and she had a discussion about what if a Holliston officer approached a mentally ill person, how they try and help them? She said that she is pleased that an officer has never had to use a weapon.

Mr. Marsden wanted to thank Chief Moore for coming and talk to the Board and answering all the questions. Mr. Marsden said that when this was first presented to the Board, he was not a fan. He did not like it. Mr. Marsden said that Chief Moore presented all kinds of details on how things work and how they handle things. Mr. Marsden said that he thinks that tasers would be helpful for the officer? Mr. Le Beau said that Chief Moore and the department did their homework.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Chief John Moore said that this budget is at guideline. He said that many times people say that this is my guideline and they have to fill it up. He said some of the highlights are they are taking on per-deim dispatchers. He said that it is a cost effective way to fill a vacancy on the dispatch desk. He said that way, there will not be officer on overtime. He said that they have three new hires. Officer Woods, Officer Remkus and soon to be Officer Hickey. The Quinn Bill of 2009, does not apply to them. Chief Moore said that the utility budget has been increased because electricity is going up. He said that they are trying to conserve. He said that the overtime line is now more realistic. He said he is hoping not to come back for a Line Item Transfer or a Reserve Fund Transfer next fiscal year. Chief Moore said that new cars will be the Capital Plan, portable radios, possibly tasers, an antenna for the radio system and a finger print machine. Chief Moore said that with Officer Hickey, some of those costs will

be in the FY 15 budget. Mr. Leary asked about the new Sergeant. Chief Moore said that part will be in FY 2015 and the balance 2016. Mr. Leary said that Chief Moore always has paperwork to back-up anything that he asks for. Chief Moore said that Lieutenant Gatchell and Lieutenant Denman do a great job in researching. Chief Moore said that Judi Johnson does a great job with spread sheets and she has been very helpful. Mr. Leary asked what Chief Moore thought was the departments biggest immediate challenge if something catastrophic happened. Chief Moore said with-in the next ten years there could be some turn-over. He said that on one hand we will be saving because of the difference in salaries, but it is included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He said that there will be start-up costs, training and the Academy.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE POLICE FY 2016 BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

AT 9:40 P.M., MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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