

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 1, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Town Hall – Room 105
703 Washington Street

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

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

15-40	AGENCY (890) VETERAN	\$ 1,208.39
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$ 99,366.10
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$ 99,366.10

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 24,375.81
--	--------------

TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 13,579.36
--------------------------------	--------------

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Leary said the parking ban has been lifted. He asked residents that if we should get a snow storm, to move their cars off the road at night.

Mr. Marsden said that street cleaning will start and it will be an odd/even cleaning schedule.

Mr. Leary wished Mr. Conley a quick recovery.

There were no comments from the audience

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. Marsden said that there was a request for an override by the schools for Town Meeting. Mr. Marsden read a letter from the School Committee stating that the request for an override has been withdrawn.

Mr. Marsden thanked the Finance Committee and the School Committee for all their hard work.

Mr. Leary said that the Chairman of the School Committee said that this is a one year delay in asking for an override. He said that next year there is the possibility that they will be asking for an override.

WATER RATE HEARING – CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.

Sean Reese, DPW Director, was present. He said that he is looking at water rates and to not go with a tax levy increase. Mr. Reese said that he has looked at a few of the surrounding towns and what their water rates

are. Mr. Reese said that we should implement a rate increase, they could change the tier structure. He said that we have 4 tiers now we could change it. He said that we could also have a minimal fee even if you don't use any water. He said that now, even if you do not use any water, you are being charged \$7.50 for the meter fee. Mr. Reese said that he would like to re-do Pinecrest Road. They would like to replace the water lines. Mr. Reese said that utilities have up-graded their services on Pinecrest Road. He said that there are other roads that are in worse shape but the utilities have already opened the road, now is the time to do our replacement. Mr. Reese said that he would like to up-grade well #5.

Mr. Leary said that all this work would come at a cost. Mr. Reese said that they can pay for the engineering for well #5 out of surplus without a rate increase. Mr. Leary asked how long would the pilot study take. Mr. Reese said maybe a month or just a little longer. He said that he would like to have all the results in before the October Town Meeting so he can present the findings there. Mr. Reese said that the meter fee that is on every water bill goes into a different line just for meters and replacements. He called it a rolling fee. He said that in Bellingham for example, there is a \$38.00 semi-annual charge and then there is also a \$210.00 separate annual capital charge. Mr. Reese said that is on the high end of the scale. Mr. Reese said that we do not charge a minimum fee.

Mr. Leary said that he would look at following what Bellingham has started. He said that he was thinking about \$50.00 per quarter for the fee. He said that would be \$200.00 per house. He said that a 5% rate increase would generate about one million dollars. He also said that there could be additional water revenue. Mr. Leary said that we could also borrow the funds and pay back the loan early if we could. He said that the funds would only be used in replacing the water lines.

Mr. Marsden said that Mr. Reese would have to put his projects in order.

Mr. Leary said that we could borrow the funds as suggested, but maybe not as much and it would be easier to have it pass at Town Meeting.

Diana Vosburg, Constitution Circle, asked if there would be any State Aid or grants available for this work. Mr. Reese said at this point there are no grants available. Mr. Leary said that there are always low cost loans available. Mr. Reese said that there is no free funds now.

Ms. Vosburg said at one meeting that she attended, there was talk about working with Carolyn Dykema and Karen Spilka about advocating for our Town for enhanced funding for the schools and water. She asked as Selectmen what more can you do to help? Mr. Marsden said that there are a few organizations that are out there that can help by talking to State Representatives and giving them a rundown of what they as a Town is looking for help. Mr. Marsden said that the Board always has an open door policy in contacting Ms. Dykema and Ms. Spilka. Mr. Reese said that the water side of the DPW has made great strides. He said now they have a direction and they know what is going on. He said that they if funds were to open up, they would be able to apply for them.

William Dowd, 95 Shaw Farm Road, said that he is a member of the Finance Committee but he is asking as a resident. He asked about how much would the fee bring in. Mr. Leary said that each house would pay

\$200 per year and it would be about \$933,000. Mr. Reese said that the 5% rate increase would be about \$84,000. Mr. Leary said that is just over one million dollars. Mr. Dowd said that he likes low water rates, but we have to be too low for years. Mr. Dowd said that we need a long term plan. Mr. Marsden said that he was thinking of a 7% rate increase. Mr. Leary said that he was thinking of a 5% rate increase. Mr. Marsden said that water is the most valuable resource. Mr. Marsden said that he may be comfortable with a smaller rate increase with an annual capital charge. Those funds collected for the annual capital charge will only go to replacing water pipes and mains. Mr. Marsden said that he does not think that borrowing the funds is the way to go. He thinks that an annual capital charge is the way to go. Mr. Reese said that they are streamlining the process of fixing the streets with the replacement of water pipes. He said that they will be more efficient. They are going to complete projects and create new ones.

Mr. Marsden asked Mr. Reese to get a final number for next week for the rate increase and the final number for the annual capital charge. Mr. Marsden said that he thinks \$50.00 per quarter with a 5% or

7% increase in water rates. Mr. Leary said next week they will make a decision. Mr. Reese thanked the Board for being on the same page. Mr. Le Beau said that since Mr. Reese has been hired, they are able to do road work and water work together. Mr. Le Beau said that things are running great.

COUNCIL ON AGING FY 16 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Marsden said that they are asking for a part-time employee. Mr. Leary said that they would like an employee for 16 hours per week. He said that they would have a large amount of responsibility. He said that they would be paying the invoices, payroll, oversee the calendar and keep the My Senior recording count. Mr. Leary was thinking of delaying this request for one year. He suggested that the new Director have at least one year under her belt before anyone else is hired.

Mr. Marsden said that he agrees with Mr. Leary. He said that they hired a part-time employee a few months ago. Mr. Marsden said that he would like to vote the Council on Aging budget without funding the request for a part time employee. Mr. Leary said that they could re-visit it at a later date.

WASTEWATER BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Le Beau said that the Waste Water Treatment Plant budget is over guideline. He said that utilities have been increased from twenty-one thousand dollars to twenty three thousand dollars. He said that contracted services for the operation of the system is proposed from forty-six thousand six hundred dollars to forty-eight thousand dollars. He said that the total budget proposed is seventy-three thousand three hundred dollars. He said that it is twenty-five hundred dollars over guideline. Mr. Le Beau said

that it is difficult to project the cost of the utilities. Mr. Le Beau said that after a discussion with Mr. Reese, we may be able to bring in some of the services in-house. He said that it could take a few years to do that. Mr. Le Beau said it has been running efficiently.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR \$73,300.00, FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES AND UTILITIES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST – postponed

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SCREENING COMMITTEE

Mr. Marsden said that they have six members on the Committee and he is asking to have William Numbers be appointed as the final member.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT WILLIAM NUMBERS TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SCREENING COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

EVENT PERMITS – CHRISTINA CLARK GENCO MOTHERS' DAY MEMORIAL RIDE

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR THE CHRISTINA CLARK GENCO MOTHERS' DAY MEMORIAL RIDE ON MAY 10, 2015, STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – HOLLISTON IN BLOOM

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR HOLLISTON IN BLOOM, IN THE UPPER TOWN HALL, FOR A FASHION SHOW ON MAY 31, 2015. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

FEE WAIVER REQUEST – HOLLISTON IN BLOOM

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE USE OF UPPER TOWN HALL FOR HOLLISTON IN BLOOM ON MAY 31, 2015. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

Mr. Leary said that we were going to have a traffic study. He said they talked about a complete engineering study. He said that it would cost \$275,000. He said that it was approved at last Town Meeting in October. Mr. Leary said that the Finance Committee has suggested that this come back to them. Mr. Leary said that we have been through this many times. He said that he would like to see this on the May 2015, Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Leary said that there are three different choices to be made at Town Meeting about this.

There was discussion about borrowing to fund the project.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO PUT ALTERNATIVE ONE AND ALTERNATIVE TWO FOR TOWN MEETING FOR THE DECISION ON THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO PUT A DEBT EXCLUSION OVER-RIDE ON THE NEXT TOWN ELECTION MAY 19, 2015, ASSUMING THAT WE HAVE A POSITIVE VOTE ON ONE OF THE TWO PLANS THAT WERE PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Leary said that there has been a lot of discussion about bringing the Committee back. Mr. Leary said that the original thought was to have the Town Planner work for the Economic Development Committee ten hours per week. Mr. Le Beau thinks that the work can be done in five hours per week. Mr. Barbieri and Mr. Colantonio said that the work can be done in six hours per week.

AT 8:48 P.M., THE BOARD MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

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

AT 9:50 P.M., THE BOARD EMERGED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MOVED TO ADJOURN.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____