

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 8, 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 WARRANTS

15-41	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 589,394.17
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) MIDDLE	\$ 58,810.00
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 13,619.51
	DEBIT CARD (001)	\$ 182.04
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 278.91
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,208.39
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,113,155.80
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,775,440.43

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 204,608.42
--	---------------

TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 161,791.61
--------------------------------	---------------

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Marsden thanked Mark Ahronian and his staff for all their hard work in putting in the sidewalk from the Central Street Fire Station to the Exchange Street public parking lot. He said that it looks wonderful. Mr. Marsden said that it is a three minute walk from the Exchange Street lot to Central Street. Mr. Marsden said that 80 cars can park in the lot.

There were no comments from the audience.

CONTINUATION OF THE WATER RATE HEARING

Sean Reese, DPW Director, was present. Mr. Marsden said that last week we talked about a water rate increase. Mr. Marsden also said that there was talk about adding a water infrastructure surcharge. Mr. Marsden said that the amount would be billed four times per year. Mr. Marsden said that the funds collected would go to replacing old pipes. Mr. Marsden said that we have talked about a 5% rate increase or a 7% increase. Mr. Leary said that we have been underpaying for water for years. He said that 7% increase is what he is thinking of.

Mr. Reese said that they have had several rate hearings over the past few months. He said that he did received about 30 responses back from the public. Mr. Reese said that he responded to most of the comments. He said that everyone was very nice. He said that the residents realize that we do need to make these improvements. He said that the seniors were the most concerned about the flat fee and the rate increase. He said that most seniors are on a fixed income. Mr. Reese said that any senior can apply for a hardship through the Assessor's office. Mr. Reese said that we will need 60 million dollars

to replace the pipes. He said that they will be able to maintain the water quality better. He said that if you maintain the system everything will fall into place. Mr. Reese suggested that we increase the water rate by 7% and still keep the tier structure. He said that the current rate is \$5.23 with a 7% increase it adds .36 to the bill that totals \$5.59 for the first 100 cubic feet of water. He said that the infrastructure fee should be \$50.00 per billing cycle. Mr. Reese said that if we put a \$75.00 fee per billing cycle, we will get to where we need to be faster. He said that the fee will not decrease. Mr. Marsden said that Mr. Reese has a lot of projects planned. Mr. Reese said that we have to make the investments now in the infrastructure before it becomes too late. He said that he knows that it will be expensive but it has to be done. Mr. Reese said that there are no grants or funds available at this time. Mr. Leary said that we need to be aggressive and he thinks a \$75.00 per billing cycle added to the 7% rate increase. Mr. Leary said that he has a lot of questions about how much one mile of piping would cost. He knows it is expensive, close to one million dollars per mile.

Don Bates, 124 Bullard Street, asked where is the Water Department going to start the replacement of lines. Mr. Reese said that they will start in the areas that have had a lot of main breaks. He said lower Norfolk Street and Central Street. Mr. Reese said that roads do not last forever.

Mr. Le Beau thanked Mr. Reese for all his hard work that he has put into his research on this.

Mr. Bates asked what do you do with the old piping? Mr. Reese said that it stays in the ground.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO CLOSE THE WATER RATE HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADD A \$75.00 TO EACH OF THE 4 WATER BILLS PER YEAR AND TO INCREASE THE WATER RATE BY 7%. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

EVENT PERMIT – RIDE FOR FOOD

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR RIDE FOR FOOD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2015, STARTING AT 9:00 A.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY WAS ABSENT.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

There was a brief discussion about the up-coming Town Meeting on May 4, 2015.

AT 9:15 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

approved _____

