

## HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 6, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall  
Selectmen's Meeting Room – 105

Present; Jay Marsden; Chairman; Jay Leary, Vice Chairman; Kevin Conley, Clerk and Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator.

**AT 7:00 P.M., MR. LEARY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL AND A POTENTIAL HOST AGREEMENT WITH A CANNABIS CULTIVATOR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

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

**MR. MARSDEN SAID THAT EXECUTIVE SESSION WOULD LAST ABOUT 30 MINUTES.**

**AT 7:30 P.M., THE BOARD EMERGED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MOVED TO OPEN SESSION.**

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

16-28	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 72,230.42
	DEBT SERVICE TOWN (001)	\$ 128,905.70
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 1,219.50
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,061,987.56
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,263,123.68

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

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 214,967.78
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### **TREASURER'S NOTE:**

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 174,504.33
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**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

There were none

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Sherry Anderson, 9 Irving Place, said that there are a lot of people who have attended this meeting to talk about the downtown. She asked that this discussion be moved forward on the agenda.

### **REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator said Holliston has been designated a Green Community. He said that a lot of hard work went into this. He said that the Chief Cassidy, Andrea Minihan, Administrative Assistant and Chris Meo, Technology Director, did a great job in putting this together. He said that the Town can

apply for more grants. Mr. Ritter said that an energy audit has been done on the town owned buildings. Mr. Ritter said that he will have more information available in a few weeks.

Mr. Leary thanked everyone for all their hard work.

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Mr. Marsden congratulated Town Clerk Liz Greendale on her certification as a Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Mr. Marsden said that the Board has a proclamation for Ms. Greendale. Mr. Marsden read the proclamation.

Ms. Greendale thanked the Board.

#### **7:35 P.M. FEE HEARING – BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Mr. Conley read the notice.

Peter Tartakoff, Building Inspector was present. He said that they checked the surrounding Towns for their fees. If they go with what is proposed, they will be in line with Ashland, Hopkinton, Medway and Millis.

<b>GAS FEES</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Gas Appliances	\$30 min/\$10 each add	\$50.min/\$10 each add
Heating Appliances	\$40	\$50
Gas Piping only (propane)	\$30	\$50
Re-inspection	\$25	\$25
Combo water heater/boiler repair	\$none	\$70
<b>PLUMBING FEES</b>		
Additional New Fixture Residential	\$4	\$6
Existing First Fixture Residential	\$30	\$50
Existing Additional Fixture Comm	\$6	\$10
Existing First Fixture Comm	\$30	\$75
Re-inspection	\$25	\$25
<b>WIRING FEES</b>		
Service Change 60-100 amp	\$40	\$75
Service Change 100-200 amp	\$65	\$75
Service Change 200-400 amp	\$75	\$75
Major Appliances	\$30 min/\$10 each	\$50 min/\$10 each
Swimming Pools/Hot tubs	\$75	\$75
Additions	\$50 min/\$10 each	\$50 min/\$10 each
Rewire Existing Room	\$50 min/\$10 each	\$50 min/\$10 each
Security Systems/low voltage	\$40	\$50
Temp. Service/other	\$50	\$75
Motor Circuits	\$50 min/\$10 each	\$50 min/\$10 each

Sign/service	\$50	\$75
All other Minimum	\$50	\$50
Re-inspection fee	\$25	\$25
Septic Pump Chamber	\$50	\$60

**BUILDING FEES**

Minimum Building Permit fee	\$50	\$50
Large Scope Projects	\$50	\$10 per thousand

Mr. Marsden asked when was the last fee increase? Mr. Tartakoff said 2009.

**MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW FEES FOR THE BUILDING INSPECTOR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**7:45 P.M. POLE HEARING – HOLLIS STREET**

Mr. Leary read the notice.

Thomas Blicharz said that he works for UC Energetic and they are consultants for Verizon. He said that the Congregational Church at 723 Washington Street there was a pole on private property at was used as a service pole by Eversource and Verizon. He said that the pole was hit by a falling tree and now the pole is no longer safe. He said that the first thought was to replace the pole, because there was no easement for the pole. He said that they would like to remove the pole and put in on a public way. Barbara Adams, 94 Hollis Street, asked how big is the pole going to be and exactly where it is going to be.

Mr. Blicharz said the pole is going to be between the two existing poles on Hollis Street. Mr. Blicharz said that you can see the pole marker that has been put in place. He said that this pole will be the same size as all the other poles on Hollis Street.

Judy Docurral said that she is the Executive Director of the Children's Center at the church. She said that the pole is in the middle of the children's playground. She said that when this pole is moved, it will be out of the playground and put on Hollis Street.

**MR. CONLEY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MOVING OF THE POLE ON HOLLIS STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**BOARD BUSINESS – EVENT PERMIT – FRIENDS OF THE HOLLISTON TRAILS**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLLISTON TRAILS ON JUNE 12, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Mr. Marsden said that the Annual Town Meeting will be on May 9, 2016, at the High school starting at 7:30 p.m., and will continue the rest of the week if needed, same time and same place.

Mr. Marsden said that the Warrant will open on Thursday, January 7, 2016, and will close on Wednesday, March 18, 2016.

Mr. Marsden said that the Special Town Meeting will be October 24, 2016, at the High school starting at 7:30 p.m., and continue the rest of the week if necessary, same time and same place.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE OPENING OF THE WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON MAY 9, 2016, AND CLOSING IT ON MARCH 18, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION ON MAY 24, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

#### **LIFE SAVING AWARD RECOGNITION**

Mr. Marsden said that Holliston has the best safety officials that any town could have. Mr. Marsden said they have saved many people in the past few months. Chief Moore said that in 2015, his officers were able to save eight people using narkan. He said that the week before Christmas, there were two incidents. Chief Moore said that every medical call that the police go out on the ambulance goes as well. He said that both departments work well together. They have saved many lives.

Mr. Marsden read the letter for the Life Saving Award to the following, Sergeant Chad Thompson, Officer Todd Hagan, Officer Jonathan Remkus, Officer Andrew MacGray and Officer Michael Woods.

#### **CHIEF CASSIDY**

Mr. Marsden said that Chief Cassidy via a memo he would like to appoint Daniel LeMay as an on-call firefighter. Mr. Marsden said that this an appointment by the Town Administrator. The Board had no objection to the appointment.

#### **CLASS II AUTO DEALERS LICENSE**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE CLASSIC MOTOR CARS D/B/A GREEN MONSTER MOTOR CARS, 86 WASHINGTON STREET, FOR A CLASS II DEALERS LICENSE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

#### **LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS**

Postponed

#### **DOWN TOWN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Marsden said that during the holiday season, we had a tragedy in Town. He said that a resident was hit by a car while crossing Washington Street. He said that this has been studied over and over again for a number of years. He said that a proposal for lights when to Town Meeting just last May. He said that it was voted down. He said that this plan would have put in three sets of lights and new cross walks. Mr. Marsden said that this has been brought back to the Board for consideration again. Mr. Marsden said that Mr. Zeamer, Planning Board, has been working on a few things with respect to lights in downtown. Mr. Marsden said that the Planning Board has been asked to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Marsden said that the lights would bring change and some residents do not like change.

Mr. Conley said that this tragedy was heartbreaking. He said that downtown is a beautiful area. He said that time is moving forward and downtown needs to move forward. He said that in August 2014, there was a public meeting to talk about downtown. Mr. Conley said that McMahon and Associates presented

two plans. He said that they also presented the two choices at the fall Town Meeting. Mr. Conley said that it was presented again at the Annual Town Meeting in the spring and it was voted down.

Mr. Leary said we have been talking about traffic light for years. He said that the last plans that were at Town Meeting, residents thought that Washington Street was going to become a highway. He said that McMahon put forward two plans and either one would be ok. Mr. Leary said that we have been looking at this for about five years. Mr. Leary said that residents did not understand the plans. Mr. Leary said that McMahon and Associates held four different meetings about the downtown area. Mr. Leary said that McMahon and Associates are professionals, they do traffic studies for a living. Mr. Zeamer, Planning Board, said when you push the button to cross the street, the light should turn red to stop all traffic.

Sherry Anderson, 9 Irving Place, said that the Town has to vote on a plan in May, it can't wait until the October Town Meeting. She said that lights have to go in sooner rather than later.

Mr. Leary said that he, the Selectmen and the Planning Board have put a lot of time into the downtown traffic study. He said that the reason that he thinks that it failed at Town Meeting was because the loss of parking spaces. Mr. Leary said that McMahon and Associated said that we have plenty of parking spots. Mr. Leary said that the spot may not be in front of the store that you want to go to, you may have to walk a little, but there is plenty of parking.

Mr. Marsden said that the Selectmen have a plan in mind and the Planning Board has another plan that they want to use.

Mr. Marsden said that the plan has been tweaked so much that it is not the same plan anymore. Mr. Marsden said that they presented all comments to McMahon and Associated and they said this is not going to work and they told us why. Mr. Marsden said that they do this for a living, they are the professionals. Mr. Marsden said that the Selectmen are ready to move forward with a plan that Town Meeting selects.

Mr. Zeamer said that plan from McMahon and Associates was sponsored by the Planning Board and the RFP was for lights in downtown. Mr. Zeamer said that the RFP was not sponsored by the Selectmen it was sponsored by the Planning Board. Mr. Zeamer said that the Planning Board picked McMahon not the Selectmen. He said that the Planning Board is working with McMahon as well. Mr. Zeamer said that he does not want to work on a plan and then not be able to bring it to Town Meeting in May. Mr. Zeamer said that it is a disaster to be pushing three plans on the residents. Mr. Marsden said that there are not three plans only two plans. Mr. Marsden said that he is thrilled to see the Planning Board back the plans, because that has not always been the case.

Mr. Conley said that we have been talking about this since 2012, and the Planning Board walked away from it.

Mr. Zeamer said that the Selectmen are the Surveyors of Roads. Mr. Zeamer said that they could have come to the Selectmen with a single plan but they have two. Mr. Zeamer said that the residents did not like the plans, that is why it was voted down at Town Meeting.

Mr. Zeamer said that we should decide on a plan tonight. He said that he does not want to waste anymore time.

Mr. Leary said he would like to hear from the audience.

Meg Mahoney, 645 Washington Street, said she has only lived here for under two years and she loves living downtown. But, some changes need to be done.

Mr. Leary said that the RFP includes just the downtown area, not from Bertucci's to Highland Street light. He said that we should have expanded the area to include Bertucci's to Highland Street. He said that if we do that it would be a new plan and a new RFP would have to go out. He also said that it would cost more. He said that we would have to go out to bid again. Mr. Leary said that it would take awhile, about six to ten months. He said that would be just for the plans. He said that the work could take about three to four months to do. Mr. Leary said that if they decide to widen the downtown area, it would have to go to Town Meeting for another vote and that would be in May. Mr. Leary said that traffic lights would solve a lot of problems in downtown. He said that in 1995, there was a study done and we were told that we needed traffic lights, 20 years later we are still talking about it. Michael Simon, 33 Rolling Meadow Drive, said that we can't change the past. We have to move forward. He said that he can feel the tension between the Selectmen and the Planning Board. Mr. Simon asked Mr. Zeamer what downtown plan would you be showing at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting? Mr. Zeamer said that the Selectmen have two plans, he will be showing a third plan. He will have a very different plan. Mr. Zeamer said that the Planning Board is working with McMahon for a different plan. Mr. Zeamer said that they formed an Advisory Committee who have skills and are professional people. Mr. Zeamer said that they are taking all the traffic studies and taking from one to another. Mr. Zeamer said that he would like to be working in a less hostile environment. Mr. Leary said that McMahon and Associates made four presentations. Mr. Simon said that he was present for the presentation and the presenter from McMahon and Associates did not do a good job. Mr. Leary said that the public has to educate themselves. You can be in the crosswalk but a car is going to win every time. Mr. Leary said that you should dress in bright clothing at night. Mr. Leary said to Mr. Simon that he would like to hear a better presentation. He said that if we have to take away a few parking spots to keep downtown safe that should not be a problem. He said that he does not mind walking a little to get to the shop he wants to visit. Mr. Zeamer said that we should go to Town Meeting with one plan that has the adjustments that the Planning Board is working on. He said that the Selectmen and the Planning Board should support the plan. Mr. Leary said that he does not have a problem presenting three plans. Mr. Zeamer said that one plan is necessary not three. Mr. Leary said that there were reasons that there was two plans. Mr. Marsden said that when McMahon and Associates were present a lot of residents attended that meeting. Mr. Marsden said that the Selectmen meet every Wednesday night and the Planning Board meets every other Thursday night. Mr. Zeamer said that anyone can attend. Mr. Leary asked Mr. Zeamer if the minutes have been published from the meetings yet? Mr. Zeamer said they are published through September 2015. Susan Jones, Hollis Street, said that she has lived in Holliston about eight years. She said that traffic is tough to get through. She asked if there could be a temporary plan so that we do not wait eighteen months so that something can be done now. She said that the traffic needs to be slowed down. Mr. Leary said that the pedestrian needs to be watchful of themselves. Mr. Leary said that the Police spend a great deal of time in downtown. Eugene Palmatier, 7 Roberta Circle, said that he does traffic lights for a living. He has been in the field for twenty-seven years. He said that his company is putting in a system in Newton, a high intensity cross walk. He said that it could be possible to retro fit two of the intersections with what we have now.

He said with lock light and push buttons. He said that this system would have one yellow light and two red lights. He said that you push the button to activate the yellow light. it will come on to slow down the traffic it will be on for three or four seconds then it will go solid yellow for a few seconds then the two red lights will come up. He said with the red light and the walk light will activate. He said that when the walk light is finished, it will flash red and then go off.

Mr. Marsden said that he would like to talk to McMahon and Associates about this.

Mr. Leary said that we need three hundred feet of roadway to put it in. He said that it would be a challenge to put that in. Mr. Leary said that it is a great idea. But he does not think we have enough room for the site distance.

Howard Hager, 425 Winter Street, said he has lived in Holliston for many years. He said that at the May Town Meeting is the time that the Selectmen are going to ask for the funds to put in lights. He said that sometime before May 9<sup>th</sup>, have a smaller meeting with the Planning Board, the Selectmen and McMahon and all get together to discuss this. Mr. Marsden said that they have done that many times already. Mr. Hager asked Mr. Zeamer when would he have his plan in place. Mr. Zeamer said by the end of February. Mr. Zeamer said that he would like to bring one plan forward.

Mr. Marsden said that the Selectmen meet every Wednesday night they can take this up at any meeting. Sandra O'Neil, 110 Bullard Street, said that she supports the original plans either one would be fine for her. She said that the presentation is where it fell apart. Ms. O'Neil said that this should be sponsored by the Selectmen. She said that they are in charge of the roadways. Ms. O'Neil said that Town Meeting was not the place to figure out plan A or plan B. People should have a general idea before Town Meeting.

John Droham, 4 Casandra lane, asked what, is the temporary band aid fix now?

Mr. Marsden said that he did not have a plan.

Mr. Leary said that we could put out green pedestrian crossing signs. Mr. Leary said that he would like to have an education session about downtown. He said that public safety people could help along with the community. He said that the pedestrian needs to keep themselves safe while crossing.

Mr. Droham said that if anyone has any ideas, please pass them along to the Selectmen and the Planning Board.

Chief John Moore said that they have been present in downtown. He said that the area is only a quarter of a mile. He said that they do traffic enforcement and community interaction. Chief Moore said that since the accident, people are more aware of the area. He said that the police are part of the temporary fix for downtown. He said that the police patrol ninety miles of roadway. He said that last year, the police went to twenty three thousand calls for service.

Mr. Leary said that the police have been called to write tickets for driving too fast through downtown.

Chief Moore said that would not prevent another tragedy. Chief Moore said that the police do a great job educating the public when they have committed a violation.

A resident asked if the existing lights could be re-programed to flash yellow all the time instead of just when someone wants to cross.

Mr. Marsden said that he is not sure if that can be done, but he will look into it.

Mr. Leary said that when you see a flashing yellow light all the time, you just get used to it.

Mr. Leary said that the speed signs coming into town have been working. It shows the speed of the traveling vehicle. He said that he has noticed people slowing down because of these signs.

Bill George, 62 Persis Place, said that he is the former Police Chief in Holliston. He said that in the 1960 they tried to put traffic lights in but it failed. He said that now is the time to put lights in.

Mary Greendale, 57 Roy Ave, asked about the eye level lights that we talked about at Town Meeting. She wants to know what happened to that thought.

Mr. Marsden said that level lights, what Lieutenant Gatchell is talking about can be distracting. He said that there is a lot going on downtown. He did not think that it would solve the problem.

Ms. Greendale said that the point would be to have the eye level light be distracting. She said that it would get your attention. She said that we want you to understand that there is a light flashing.

Mr. Leary said that the Selectmen can call a special Town Meeting to discuss this. The audience agreed that this should be done. Ms. Greendale said that it will only move things up by about three to four months. She said that we can't rush this.

Mr. Conley said that it gives residents a false sense of security if the crosswalk light said time to cross. He said that it is challenging to cross the street. Mr. Conley said that he will take all suggestions and give them to the professionals and see what they can come up with for a plan.

Lieutenant Gatchell, Holliston Police Department, said that he wanted to clear up a few things. He did not say that the lights would be distracting, he said that the site line for the lights at eye level with the parking spaces would need a bump-out on the odd side of the street so that people could be them. He said that the one coming on the even side of the street would be ok.

A resident said that someone trying to cross the street is in the shadow of the car you can't be seen. He said that you do not even know if the light is flashing to cross without going into the street to look. This resident asked if a chirp or an alarm could be added to the flash.

Lieutenant Gatchell said that with a car going by and the windows up and the radio on, no one would hear a chirp.

Mr. Marsden said that they will solve this problem. It has been going on for a long time and they will get lights installed and it will be done correctly.

Mr. Zeamer asked Mr. Marsden if there is one plan that he can take back to the Planning Board or do the Selectmen want to keep the two plans.

Mr. Marsden said that they have two plans to choose from. If the Planning Board does not like the plan then the Selectmen are willing to look at all suggestions that may improve the plan. The discussion would include McMahon and Associates because they are the professionals.

Mr. Zeamer said that his Board will get together with McMahon and discuss a plan with all the suggestions. Then they will bring it back to the Selectmen.

Janice Ryan, 32 Stoney Brook Drive, said that she does not care how many plans there are. Let's just get light installed, it is long overdue.

Mr. Leary said that all residents need to go to Town Meeting and vote on a plan. He said that residents should come informed of what is going on with the plans.

Mr. Marsden thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

**AT 10:00 P.M., MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**



Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved\_\_\_\_\_