

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 7, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Room – 105
Town Hall

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

AT 7:01 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STRATEGY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

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

MR. CONLEY 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. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

17-10	GENERAL WARRANT	\$270,630.44
	CAPITAL PROJECTS (3900)	\$ 2,750.00
	HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST (701)	\$ 18,465.50
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 12,020.08
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$.39
	EXPENDABLE TRUST (722) CONSERVATION	\$ 295.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,033.64
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$119,100.52
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$423,261.93

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 31,767.62
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TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 20,307.70
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Conley said that Farm Day will be on September 11, 2016. He said that many of the farms are participating in the event.

Mr. Leary said that on September 10, 2016, the Senior Center is holding their annual fair. He said that the following weekend will be Celebrate Holliston. He said that we have a lot of fun things coming up.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, was present. He said the American Legion will be holding a reception at 8:00 a.m. on September 11, 2016.

He said that there will be a bid opening this Friday for the cubicles and desks that we are selling at 1750 Washington Street. He said the bid opening will be on Friday, September 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Ritter said that the replacement tank at the Highway Garage is on budget and on time.

He said that there will be another bid opening for the lockers that are at the Flagg Building at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Ritter said that the lines have been painted at the Senior Center parking lot and the lights in the parking lot are working. He said that Eversource has moved some of their wires. He said that they will come back and finish the week after next.

POLICE CHIEF – DISCUSSION ON NEW SPEED LIMIT/SAFETY ZONE LEGISLATION

Chief John Moore and Sergeant Matthew Waugh were present.

Mr. Leary said that there is legislation that will allow the Town to change their speed limit in a safety zone area.

Chief Moore said that this amendment to the speed limit/safety zone allows the Board of Selectmen to lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. He said that it can be moved lower if the Selectmen make the area a public safety zone. Chief Moore said that there is a lot to look at in making that decision. Is the area a business area? Is there a lot of walkers? How is the road condition? Just to name a few.

Chief Moore said that most Towns are not even going to look into this until it becomes the law.

He said that if they do move forward, then other towns will look at how they formalized the safety zone area.

Mr. Marsden asked if the speed limit could go up during a traffic study?

Chief Moore said yes the speed limit could go up if that is the average speed on the road, while the study was taken place.

Mr. Conley said that there will be peaks and valleys in traffic flow.

Mr. Conley asked if they would be putting down rubber strips or will they do a manual traffic count?

Chief Moore said that they are looking into both options.

Mr. Leary said that if they do lower the speed limit on certain roads, the police can't patrol those roads seven day a week twenty four hours a day. He said that enforcement is going to help with speeding.

Chief Moore said that if they feel that a street needs to have the speed lowered, they can ask the Board for guidance and recommendations. Chief Moore said that if they do change the speed limit on a street, they would make a public service announcement and they would use social media.

Mr. Conley asked if they could use the electronic sign? Chief Moore said that if was available, they could use it.

DOWNTOWN SIGNALIZATION UPDATE BY MCMAHON AND ASSOCIATES

Robert Smith and Christine Palmer from McMahon and Associates were present to give a power-point presentation about the downtown area. Mr. Smith said that there will be twelve foot travel lanes and

left hand turns traveling north. He said that traveling south, there will be eleven foot travel lanes. He said that the parking spots in front of the Library are nine feet but they will be narrowed down.

Mr. Smith said that a new traffic count will take place on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

He said that there will be no parking on the street during different times of the day. Heading to Sherborn, there will not be any parking on the Library side of the street in the morning.

Mr. Smith said that heading to Milford in the evening, there will not be any parking on the Superette side of the street. He said that they moved one of the crosswalks to in front of the Library.

Mr. Conley asked about the crosswalk going from Green Street to Exchange Street. He said that he would like to see it go corner to corner. He said that there is no curb cut at the gas station so it may fit.

Mr. Conley said he is very concerned about cars traveling through neighborhoods that will try to avoid the downtown traffic.

Mr. Smith asked if there was cut through traffic now trying to get out of Central Street?

Mr. Conley said yes there is a lot of cut through traffic.

Mr. Smith said that traffic is a balance, and sometimes you get problems trying to correct the first problem.

Mr. Leary asked Fire Chief Michael Cassidy if he had any questions. Chief Cassidy said that he is concerned about the eleven foot wide travel lanes. Chief Cassidy said that at every meeting that he has been to they only talked about twelve foot lanes, never eleven. He said that his fire station is on Central Street and if there is a fire call and there are cars backed up at the lights at Central Street, there will not be enough room for the trucks to drive by, because the width of the road is narrow. He said that when a fire truck goes on a call, all traffic moves over to the right, there will not be enough room for them to pass.

Mr. Smith said that they can look into giving the road as much width as possible. He said that the lanes will be eleven feet wide, and there will not be any parking on the street so he thinks that an engine can go by. Mr. Smith said that he will show Chief Cassidy the plan.

Sean Reese, DPW Superintendent, asked if there were going to be any drainage issues? Mr. Reese asked if there was going to be a change in the curb line? Ms. Palmer said there will be no change in the curb line. Mr. Smith said that there will be a cut for a wheelchair.

Chief Cassidy asked if there was going to be a flashing traffic signal for emergency vehicles? Ms. Palmer said yes.

Vincent Murphy, Norfolk Street, Finance Committee, asked if the cross walk was going to be moved to the left instead of the right side, because of turning traffic. Mr. Smith said yes.

Tina Hein, 142 Union Street, asked about cut through traffic, because Union Street runs parallel to Washington Street. She said that drivers are using it as a cut through now, and the lights are not even in place yet. She said that they are noticing a big difference in the amount of traffic. She asked what kind of a solution would they recommend?

Mr. Smith said they are trying to develop their plan to minimize the traffic in Mudville. He said that the closer the driver gets to the signal the better they feel. He said that no one wants to wait for more than one cycle of lights. Ms. Hein asked if they were thinking about putting up signage in the Mudville area telling drivers that this is not a cut through road. Mr. Smith said that they do not want to advertise that you can get through this area. He said that if they restrict people, they get wise to it very fast.

A resident asked if the light would cycle through the night. Ms. Palmer said there will be a green light on Washington Street all the time. But, when a car comes to Central Street and Washington Street, the green light on Washington Street will turn red, so that the car can come from Central Street onto Washington Street. Ms. Palmer said that the light will not ever go to flashing.

BOARD BUSINESS – MINUTES

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2016, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPOINTMENT – AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPOINT JOCELYN TREMBLAY AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION. MR. CONLEY SAID THAT THIS APPOINTMENT WILL EXPIRE JUNE 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. AL IN FAVOR.

LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS**POST-PONED****LETTERS TO SENATOR SPILKA AND REPRESENTATIVE DYKEMA REGARDING HOLLISTON PROJECTS**

Mr. Leary asked the Board if they have any corrections or additions to the letter. There were none. Mr. Leary asked Mr. Ritter to send out the letters.

AT 8:52 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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