

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 26, 2016
7:30 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.

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

17-17	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 163,457.30
	DEBIT SERVICE TOWN (001)	\$ 31,071.25
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) MILLER SCHOOL	\$ 4,140.00
	DEBIT CARD (001)	\$ 132.03
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 2,780.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 503.14
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,033.64
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,115,789.94
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,317,873.66

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 220,273.42
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TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 182,982.28
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Leary said last weekend was the flu clinic. He said that it was well attended. He said that he then went and had Coffee with a Cop at Coffee Haven.

Mr. Leary said that we are still have a water ban.

There were no comments from the audience.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, was present. He said that he was at Coffee with a Cop when they started at 9:30 a.m. He said that several Officers attended.

Mr. Ritter said that we are still having early voting. He said that this takes place at the Town Hall when Town Hall is open.

Mr. Ritter said that this past Thursday was a reception at Anthony's on the Green for the Economic Development Committee. He said that the showed the new Town video. He said that this is now on the Town's website.

Mr. Ritter said that there will be a flu clinic on November 1, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mr. Ritter said that he had his quarterly support staff meeting last week.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Mr. Conley said a group of girls that take part in Destination Imagination were attending the meeting. Abby, Sadie, Rachel, Josie and Cami, from Destination Imagination. Abby said that this is an after school activity. They would like to do a Community Service Project to help people in the Community that need help. They asked the Board for ideas for projects. They said that they would like to have an idea by December 1, 2016, then start on the project in January. They said that they have to do all the work, their parents can't help them. To reach them the email is Hollistonneonowles@gmail.com.

HOLLISTON IN BLOOM

The Holliston in Bloom group went to California for the judging in October. Holliston won the population category again this year. Holliston also won the Community Involvement Award. There were 39 Communities that participated. Holliston in Bloom is a volunteer group. The judges were very surprised that all members were volunteers. Holliston in Bloom thanked Tom Smith and the Highway Department for all their help. When the judges come to Holliston next year, they plan on a traditional New England scene along with traditional food.

AXTON CROSS ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEY CONNELLY

Kathleen E. Connolly, Attorney was present. Mr. Leary told Attorney Connolly that Axton Cross had a building on the property that worked with chemicals. He said that last year we hired a company to come in and take the building down. He said that now it is overgrown with weeds. He wanted to know if anything could be done to the property without contaminating the environment. Mr. Leary said that the business went out of business and they still owe a large amount in back taxes. Attorney Connolly said that she does practice environmental law and she has partnered with Pat Costello. She said that she has been practicing for twenty-five years. She said that she did work for the EPA at one point. Ms. Connolly said that she is familiar with the site, because her firm was handling the case. Ms. Connolly said that if a municipality takes over a property that has hazardous waste on it, providing that you do certain things, you are not considered on the same level as the person who caused the contamination. She said that we purchased it with the existing condition of hazardous waste. Ms. Connolly said that there is a large list of things that will need to be done. Ms. Connolly said that there could be condos, office buildings or even a solar field. She said that we need to know the level of contamination first. She said that there are benefits to taking the property, taxes are still owed, and it is the responsibility of the property owner to clean it up. She said that there is some liability. She said that the laws have not changed. Ms. Connolly said that there is funding through Brown Fields. She said that most of the funding usually goes to other towns. She said that Holliston is an affluent town. She said that now is a good time to be thinking of what we are going to do. Ms. Connolly said we would need to know what contaminants are in the soil. Mr. Leary said that they took the property and what we should do now is get rid of it as soon as possible.

Attorney Connolly said that it will be hard to find a buyer for the property. She said that if we follow the steps that are listed to follow the Brown Field Properties it should be easier to sell. Attorney Connolly said that she knows a lot of developers that do build on this kind of property with guidance from the Brown Fields act. She said that that they would have to work with the DEP and EPA. Attorney Connolly said that the plan would have to be approved by DEP before building takes place. Mr. Ritter asked Attorney Connolly if the firm that she works with can do an auction? Attorney Connolly said yes they can.

TREE WARDEN DISCUSSION

Mark Ahronian, Tree Warden, and Tom Smith, Highway Superintendent were both present. Mr. Ahronian said that they have been cutting back tree limbs before winter. He said that there was some dead growth. He said that it was caused by the drought and the gypsy moths. Mr. Ahronian said that Mass DOT has been cutting back limbs. He said that Mass DOT is responsible for about eighty communities, and they are spread out thin. Mr. Ahronian said that he was able to get the DOT in Holliston to trim up several trees. He said that there has been a lot of in-house tree work done. Mr. Ahronian said that the Town has a tree planting program from the Tree Wardens account. He said that we have planted a dozen trees. He said that they are all different kinds of elm trees. Mr. Ahronian said that the best time of the year to plant is in the fall. Mr. Ahronian said that he would like to ask Brian Fisher of the Highway Department to take over as Tree Warden. He said that he has all the licenses and requirements for the job, and he has been working for the Town for a couple of years. Mr. Smith said Mr. Fisher would be very good in this position. Mr. Smith said that this is not in Mr. Fisher's job description so he would need a stipend. Mr. Smith said that Mr. Ahronian goes to evening meetings, Mr. Fisher would have to be paid for his time if he were attending a meeting. Mr. Ahronian said that Mr. Fisher would also have to attend Planning Board meetings if he were to be a Tree Warden. Mr. Ahronian said that he would have to work with Conservation about shade trees. He said that there is a lot of work for a Tree Warden. Mr. Leary asked Mr. Smith to talk this over with Mr. Reese and add this to Mr. Fisher's job description and add any compensation that they think is needed. Mr. Smith said that he needs to talk this over with Mr. Fisher to let him know everything that he will be responsible for. Mr. Smith said that Mr. Fisher is interested in the position.

BOARD BUSINESS

HOLLIS HILLS SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING REQUEST

Post-poned by the Board

Larry Dennin, Glacier Way; and Paul Chalupa, Piedmont Drive, were present. Mr. Dennin said that he has been in touch with Mr. Ritter and Balancing Rock was part of the discussion because Hollis Hills is requesting trash and recycling pickup. Mr. Dennin said that Balancing Rock has been having their trash and recycling picked up by the Town for over one and half years. Mr. Leary said because of the request, it is creating issues.

Mr. Leary said that they will have to look into this. He said most condo associations always have private trash and recycling pick up. Mr. Leary said that they have opened up a can of worms by adding Balancing Rock to Town pick up. He said that every condo association will be coming to the Board to have their trash and recycling picked up. Mr. Leary said that trash and recycling is part of the condo fees.

Mr. Chalupa asked how much more does it cost the Town to add Balancing Rock to trash and recycling pickup?

Mr. Leary said that they asked the residents of Hollis Hills how much does trash and recycling cost them?

Mr. Dennin said that it cost the residents of balancing Rock \$6,000 per year for trash and recycling pick up.

Mr. Chalupa said that when he talked to Mr. Ritter about this, Mr. Ritter said that it did not cost the Town any more to add them for pickup.

Mr. Leary said that the Town pays for every ounce of trash. He said that the tipping fees have gone up for the removal of trash.

Mr. Dennin said that when he purchased his condo he was told that the streets were not public ways and that the Town would not do any plowing or sanding or repairing. He said that after all the units were sold they could ask for trash and recycling pickup. He said that the developer was not asking for pickup while he was working on the units.

Mr. Dennin said that since they have been on Town trash and recycling pickup, they have followed the rules. They have purchased the necessary sized trash barrels. And now you want to pull the plug. Mr. Dennin said that it is unfair. Mr. Dennin said that this is an over 55 community they do not have any public services. He said that they do not have small children that use the schools. He said that they pay the same taxes as everyone else in Town.

Mr. Marsden asked how many units are in Balancing Rock? Mr. Dennin said there are 49 units. He said that they maintain Balancing Rock. They landscape the rock area. He said that they keep a light on it at night, and when someone spray painted it they had it removed. He said that they spent thousands of dollars and it took a few cleanings. He said they take care of all their own tree work.

Mr. Leary said that in all fairness, when you own a condo you are responsible for all the up keep charges.

Mr. Leary said that they will discuss this again at next week's meeting.

Mr. Dennin said that the Balancing Rock unit owners will be attending next week's meeting.

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL CONTRACT

MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,700. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

BASELINE TRAFFIC DISCUSSION – SCHOOL, SPRING AND PLEASANT STREETS

Mr. Conley said that lights will be installed in downtown this spring. He said that he is concerned about the number of cars that are going to be using Mudville as a cut through. He said that he has heard from several residents about this. He said that he is concerned that with construction, the amount of cars using Mudville will go up. Mr. Conley suggested that a traffic study be done on Spring, School and

Pleasant Streets. He said take a couple of days in November to count the traffic at times. He said that would give us a base line of the amount of cars on an average day.

Mr. Leary said that we can ask McMahon and Associates about doing this, and what the cost would be.

Mr. Marsden said that it is a great idea.

AT 9:06 P.M., MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____