



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

Present: Kevin Conley, Chairman; Jay Marsden, Vice Chairman; Mark Ahronian, Clerk

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

K. Conley called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Warrants: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll warrants in the amount of \$2,878,809.23. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

Public Comment: M. Ahronian said he really enjoyed the Holiday Stroll last Saturday and noted there were many out of towners. He thanked the Holliston Business Association. J. Marsden also said he had a great time during the event and thanked the Grape Vine. It was great for the small business community, there was a lot going on. K. Conley noted J. Marsden's singing ability and said the trolleys were great everyone had a wonderful time.

Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter briefed the Board on some recent activities. The 8 Arch Bridge will close on December 1st and work will start by the selected contractor NEL Corporation. K. Conley noted those using the Trail would be instructed to go around the construction site. Public building and property inventory information has been provided to UMASS Boston as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Work has started on the Green Communities Round # 3 grant funding. However, there is still a lot of work to be completed and we might not make the deadline. Bid specifications have been prepared for the Library consultant to assist with the RFP for the roof and HVAC work and that document is now under review by Town Counsel. Finally, the Town Hall door replacement bid specification has been prepared and is being reviewed by Town Counsel.

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Pinecrest Food Concession Contract: Michael Ficco was present. The current manager of Anthony's on the Green the food concession at Pinecrest Golf Course. The Contract is due to expire on December 31, 2018.

M. Ficco would like to re-new the Contract for another three (3) years and has come to the Board to discuss this option. He stated that he thinks the Town is Happy with the running of the food concession but had some idea as to how to improve the operation. He is not looking for any significant changes to the Contract. He understands what works and what does not work.

M. Ahronian said people are generally very pleased with the operation. J. Marsden stated M. Ficco is doing fine work and is giving the operation his full attention. He is doing a wonderful job.

The Board agreed to meet with the Golf Course Advisory Committee at an upcoming meeting. J. Ritter noted the Contract would have to be re-bid in the upcoming months

Board Business:

Gift Acceptance Form – Council on Aging: J. Marsden made a motion to accept the two hundred (\$200) gift with thanks in the memory of a long time senior center members and to authorize the Clerk to sign the acceptance form on behalf of the Board. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – Fundraiser for Haiti: J. Marsden made a motion to approve, grant and sign the application for a one day alcoholic beverage license (beer and wine) for an event to be held, by the Haiti Foundation in Upper Town Hall on December 7, 2017 from 7p.m. to 10p.m. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

Class II License Michael Orman Performance Marques: J. Marsden noted there was a clerical error in the License previously issued noted Unit 5 and it should read Unit 6. M. Marsden made a motion to correct the error and to sign the revised license previously issued by the Board. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

Downtown Traffic Report – Mudville Neighborhood: The Board reviewed a Memorandum from the Chief of Police and for the moment took the matter under advisement. The Board agreed to wait until the signals are installed this Spring and then to perhaps revisit the request for additional signage in Mudville at that time.

Finance Committee Budget Guidelines: The Board reviewed the proposed draft FY19 Budget Guidelines as prepared by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. J. Marsden noted that if a board, committee or department meets the budget guideline then he saw no reason for

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the Selectmen to meet with them. The agreed to discuss this matter again if needed later in the budget cycle.

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2017: J. Marsden made a motion to approve and release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2017. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

Continuation of the Tax Classification Hearing (Continued): M. Ahronian read the legal notice regarding the Tax Classification Hearing. The Board of Assessors were present and requested additional time to work out some of the details on the values. John Cronin, Chairman of the Board of Assessors said the Department of Revenue are somewhat challenged in defining the solar pilot projects and how those projects relate to new growth. They should have the information tomorrow afternoon.

J. Marsden questioned when the data was submitted to the Department of Revenue. J. Cronin said last Wednesday and Friday. The tax bills are scheduled to go out on time. The Board agreed to continue the Hearing until Friday morning at 9a.m.

Town Counsel Open Meeting Law and Updates: Jay Talerman, Town Counsel was present and provided an update to the Board regarding various legal matters facing the Town. He also provided an update on recent revisions to the Open Meeting Law and offered to provide training a for all public officials.

Regarding the Open Meeting Law changes now all boards must generate their meeting minutes within thirty (30) days after the end of the meeting. He will conduct Open Meeting Law training after the Holidays one for staff in the afternoon and one for boards in the evening.

There is no major litigation. He holds regular office hours for departments and boards to discuss issues with him. Special Town Meeting appeared to go smoothly.

J. Marsden brought up the Special Act to be filed with the State Legislature regarding an additional liquor license. Will it be filed on behalf of the Petitioner at Town Meeting or the Town?

J. Talerman stated that would be a policy decision the Board would have to discuss and decide. The extra license could be for a zone or as a benefit for economic development. J. Marsden said he was concerned if the Board were to agree to a specific location that could place a future Board in a difficult situation and establish a past practice. Others in the future could seek the same treatment. K. Conley noted that Town Meeting approved a specific location and address. J. Talerman said it could raise expectations.

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M. Ahronian asked about the status of the FAFARD development. J. Talerman said there appears to be no progress and it is up to them to make the Planning Board happy.

Open Meeting Law Violation Complaint: Pursuant to the Laws of the Commonwealth the Town Clerk received a complaint stating the Board violated the Open Meeting Law by entering Executive Session on November 13, 2017 without the Executive Session being properly posted.

K. Conley noted the Board received an Open Meeting Law complaint from the Town Clerk last Wednesday morning.

J. Talerman stated he is aware of a recent complaint filed against the Board of Selectmen. Interestingly, the Board may enter into Executive Session to discuss the complaint because it could be viewed as litigation. But the Board has already addressed the complaint this evening by releasing the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from the previous week.

K. Conley noted the Board entered into Executive Session in error and did not intend to violate the Law. J. Marsden further noted the individual who filed the complaint has the right to take it to the next level if they want but considers the matter resolved. The minutes have been released, Town Counsel will conduct training, and the error was acknowledged.

Class II License Hearing: - Roadmaster Motors, LLC: The applicants were present and were available to answer any questions from the Board. J. Marsden read a Public Hearing notice.

Robert Ciardi co-owner purchased the building at 543 Concord Street. M. Ahronian asked about the number of cars to be parked inside and outside the building. P. Haranas, attorney for the applicant said there would be a total of 25-30 cars in total. K. Conley said so half would be inside and half would be outside? R. Ciardi said yes the high end vehicles would be inside and the more market rate vehicles would be parked outside.

J. Marsden asked if there was to be an adjustment to the driveway? R. Ciardi said no but a new sign will be installed shortly they are working with the Building Inspector on that.

The parking plan has been received and approved by the Building Inspector. The Police Department did background research and found there to be no issues.

K. Conley made a motion to allow fourteen (14) vehicles to be parked outside and fourteen (14) vehicles to be parked inside. Second, M. Ahronian. Discussion: J. Marsden noted we need to look at the Bylaws regarding Class II Licenses. Voted 3-0

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Board Business

Department Head Compensation Discussion: K. Conley said he asked for this item to be on the Agenda. There is a need to take a look at surrounding communities and how they are compensating Department Heads. The economy has changed. The public and private sector are totally different. He thought it would be a good idea to look at surrounding communities and what they pay their department heads as a starting point.

J. Marsden said he was totally against this idea. He thought this be a recipe for disaster. It is not the best issue of J. Ritter's time and the research would place him in an impossible situation. It is nearly impossible to equally compare positions in other communities because the benefits are different, the working conditions are different and in many cases the actual job responsibilities for department heads are different.

Wage growth in the private sector might be faster but benefits in the public sector are also very good in comparison. For example, we are putting more away for OPEB than any other city or town in the Commonwealth. Perhaps the issue should be reviewed every 7-10 years along with the Finance Committee, we are only four (4) years out from the Stone Study. The whole picture needs to be reviewed, the ongoing financial liability, our ability to pay, the tax rate, borrowing etc.

M. Ahronian agreed we are not there yet.

Any Other Business:

M. Ahronian signed the schedule of meetings for the Board from January 2018 to June 2018.

M. Ahronian signed a gift and donation from Jeff and Patricia Leonard & Beverly and Tom Magnanti in the amount of \$100.00 from each couple for the Senior Center.

The Board signed a Class II License for Michael Orman Performance Marques, LLC to be located at 210 Kuniholm Drive, Unit 6.

The Board signed a one day Alcoholic Beverage License for beer and wine for an event to benefit the Haiti Foundation to be held at the Upper Town Hall on Saturday, December 7, 2017 from 7p.m. to 10p.m.

The Board signed the weekly expense and payroll Warrants.

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Adjourn: At 8:15p.m. J. Marsden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, M. Ahronian.
Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator