

**HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

May 17, 2017  
7:30 p.m.

Selectmen’s Meeting Room – 105  
Town Hall

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

The Moriarty children were present to talk about a swap shop at the Marshall Street Recycling Center. They would like to set this up and have residents leave gently used toys, so others can take them. They said that they have been to the Sherborn Swap Shop many times. They were even able to meet with the volunteers who run it. They said that they learned a lot. Sherborn has two sheds that they use to keep things dry.

There is also a Swap Shop in Medfield and all their items are under a tent.

They said that the Swap Shop will all be run by volunteers.

In order to start this, they first need a place. Marshall Street Recycling is a great place.

They will need volunteers, signs, and list of items accepted.

They said that they think they need about \$1,000 to start this.

Mr. Leary said that they gave a great presentation. Mr. Leary said that he thinks that it will be a success.

Mr. Marsden said that anyone interested should contact the Selectmen’s Office.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT**

17-45	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 302,121.05
	VOIDS:	\$ (200.00)
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 22,947.20 from mm
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 2,250.00
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,208,339.13
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,533,207.38

**ACCOUNTANT’S NOTE:**

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 231,647.07
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**TREASURER’S NOTE:**

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 192,570.64
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**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Comments from the audience

Bobby Blair, 57 School Street, said that he would like to put up some historical signs. He said that Holliston in Bloom representatives will be in Holliston on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and Memorial Day is coming soon. He said that the signs are on the smaller side, except for one that is going to go in front of the Civil War Memorial.

Mr. Blair said that he has the approval of the Historical Commission, he just needs approval of the Selectmen. He said that the signs will be on top of a white pole.

Mr. Conley asked if Joanne Hulbert, Town Historian has approved the signs?

Mr. Blair said yes.

The Board thinks that this is a great idea.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE HISTORIC SIGNS THAT MR. BLAIR WANTS TO PUT UP. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Leary said that Bill Tobin passed away this past week. He said that he was well known to all of us at Town Hall. Mr. Leary said that he also did a lot of reporting for the Holliston Reporter.

Mr. Marsden said that Bill Tobin was dedicated to his family and the community.

Mr. Conley said that he will be missed. He was always taking pictures at all the events that were taking place in Town.

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

Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, was present to tell the Board that he is working on a grant through the Office of Disabilities. The grant is a \$166,295.00 reimbursement. He said that this was for work that was done at 1750 Washington Street. He said that the elevator, bathroom and the handicap sidewalks are all eligible for reimbursement. He said that he is submitting the grant and the Board needs to approve it before it can be submitted.

Mr. Ritter said that the DEP has a technical assistance grant available in the amount of \$12,500.00. He said that he is going to apply for that grant as well. He said that this grant is on a first come first serve basis. He said that notification goes out at 9:00 a.m. on June 14, 2017. He said that at 9:01 a.m. he will be ready to submit the grant application. He said that this will be used to look into the possibility of solar panels on the landfill. He said that this is a long time goal of the Board.

Mr. Ritter said that there was a meeting about the Flagg School demolition.

#### **SERGEANT CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS:**

##### **OFFICER KENNETH BELSON**

Mr. Conley said that there is an opening for a Sergeant on the Police Department. Officer Belson is interested in the position.

Officer Belson passed out a copy of his resume to the Board. Also in the package, was a copy of all the commendations that he has received over the years.

Officer Belson said that he is 41 years old and has two children. He and his wife live in Milford. He has been a Holliston police officer for a little under ten years. He said that he has eighteen total years, he transferred from Rowley MA. He said that before he became an officer he was an insurance adjuster. He worked at the Attorney General Office. He covered a lot of fraud investigations. He said that he does a lot of self-defense training at the station. He said that he took the three week class to become certified. He is also the taser instructor. He said that he recertifies the officers every year. He said that he certified Holliston, Sherborn, Hopkinton and Ashland. He said that Medway and Millis may be joining the group. He said that he has had patrol officers all the way to Chief that he has taught to use a taser correctly.

Mr. Leary asked Officer Belson about his background in Marshal Arts. Mr. Leary asked if he uses it in his defense training classes?

Officer Belson said yes he does. He said that he started when he was five or six. He said that you have to keep up with everything. He said that he is older and it helps.

Mr. Leary asked Officer Belson why would he be a great Sergeant?

Officer Belson said he has natural leadership skills. He said that he has great teaching ability. Officer Belson said that he cares about the people that he works with and he is a team player. He said that if he was promoted, he would have an open door policy with the other officers. He said that he is very approachable and he is very easy to talk to. He said that as a Sergeant you are the filter between the patrol officers and the Lieutenants.

Mr. Leary asked Officer Belson how would he get along with the other Sergeants?

Officer Belson said that he gets along with everyone. He said that he is easy going.

Mr. Leary asked if you were promoted to Sergeant, would this impact your schedule? He said he works two midnights and two four to midnight, he called it split shifts. He said that this is the same shift that he is working on now.

Mr. Conley asked how does it feel to be tased?

Mr. Belson said that it hurts.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Belson how many times have you been tased?

Officer Belson said that there are two different modes to the taser. He said that full deployment and a lower one. He said that both work well. He said that he said that if you are tased it is over very quick. He said that if you are pepper sprayed it lasts a longer time. He said that as an instructor, you should know what it feels like to be pepper sprayed and tased.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Belson what is his day going to be like as a Sergeant?

Officer Belson said role call comes first, they talk to the shift that is coming off duty. He said that the log is read next. He said that they will look to see if something from the previous shift is going to carry over to his shift.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Belson, why did you become a police officer instead of a teacher?

Officer Belson said that he has always wanted to be a police officer. He said that he did not know that he liked teaching until he started teaching the class on the taser and pepper spray.

Mr. Conley asked what do you do on your day off?

Officer Belson was that he and his family will go to the zoo, and a fun park. He said that his kids like it. Officer Belson said that they as a family, they spend a lot of time at Goodwill Park.

Mr. Conley asked when do you use offensive tactic or defensive tactics?

Officer Belson said that his program is a self-defensive program. He said that all the calls that they go to they may not know the person, they have to see what the tone is when they get there.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Belson about three of his major trends.

Officer Belson said dealing with the opioid crisis. He said that they have been able to save many people who had over dosed. He said that the use of force. He said that sometimes you see a video and they only show half the video, you never get to see it in full, you only see one side.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Belson his thoughts on the militarization of the Police Department?

Officer Belson said it depends on the city or the town and their size. He said that Holliston will not need a tank. He said that if there were something to happen there is the Regional Task Force. He said that they would come to help us, they have all the equipment. Officer Belson said that the State Police are always available.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Belson his biggest professional disappointment?

Officer Belson said he had eight years of being an officer when he transferred to Holliston, he said that it put him behind. He said that when you transfer from a different Town, people think that you are a rookie, and you never get the opportunity to contribute your own ideas. He said that it was not a disappointment only a frustration. He said that he is very happy with what he has done. He said that since Sergeant Stone was promoted to Chief, most of his duties have been spread out in the Department. He said that he has taken on a few. Officer Belson said that he wants to see more of the business owners. He said that there is turnover and he would like to keep a contact list going and up to date.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Belson to give him an example of not getting along with your supervisor? Officer Belson said that when he first started as a Police Officer, he was an insurance adjuster before that. He said that there were things that an insurance adjuster would look for to determine who was at fault. He said that he put a lot of detail into his reports because of his background. He was told that he did not need to go into detail. He said that he tried to share his side of the story. He said that once he was able to explain, things went better for him.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Belson what was the last book you read?

He said that it was a book about following your instincts. Officer Belson said that he recommends the book.

Mr. Conley said that he has already read it.

The Board thanked Officer Belson for coming to the interview.

Officer Belson said that he would make a great Sergeant and he would complement the great staff that is in place now. Officer Belson thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Officer Todd Hagan

Officer Hagan said that he is looking forward to this opportunity.

Mr. Leary asked Officer Hagan to give the Board a little background on himself.

Officer Hagan said that he is married and has two children. He said that he has been in law enforcement for nineteen years. His first position was as a dispatcher in Millville. Then he was a reserve officer. He was then promoted as a full time Officer and went to the academy. He said that he has been working in Holliston for fifteen years tomorrow. He said that he started on midnights. He said that he has had several different positions. He said that he does the majority of the weekly scheduling. He is also a training Officer, and he has been training for the past four years. He said that he works with the dispatchers a lot. He said that 911 is being upgraded. He said that being a dispatcher is not an easy job. Officer Hagan said that he would like to move up the chain. He said that the role of Sergeant is an excellent position for him.

Mr. Leary said that Officer Hagan does a lot of work that a Sergeant does, scheduling, and administrative. Mr. Leary asked how much time are you doing administrative chores compared to being on the road?

Officer Hagan said that he spends about 60% of his time on the road.

Mr. Leary asked Officer Hagan why would he be the best Sergeant for the position?

Officer Hagan said being involved with the schedule and involved with the training. He said that in all the years that he has worked for Holliston, he has worked well with all the other officers. He said that he has children and he has spent many years of coaching.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Hagan why do you want to be a Sergeant?

Officer Hagan said it is one of the most respected positions in the Department. He said that you still work with the patrol staff and the administration. He said that you are in the middle. Officer Hagan said that he is very organized.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Hagan if he had ever been tased before?

Officer Hagan said yes he has.

Mr. Conley asked what was it like?

Officer Hagan said that it was not fun.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Hagan what do you do on a fun day with your family?

Officer Hagan said they ride bikes, and they have a new puppy and she is keeping them busy. He said that they use the rail trail to do a lot of training with the puppy.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Hagan what was his most interesting call?

Officer Hagan said trying to get a bat out of an apartment about 2:00 a.m.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Hagan to describe two or three major trends in the law enforcement profession now.

Officer Hagan said the opioid crisis. He said that they are dealing with it on a daily basis. He said that they are being well educated. He said that every officer carries Narcan.

Officer Hagan said that they are dealing with mental health issues. He said that there is less and less help available.

Mr. Marsden said that you move to the Sergeants position and now you have a different role. How are you going to get people together to agree on something when everyone has a different opinion? Officer Hagan said there have been times when they are on a call and there is more than one officer present and they are all hearing the same thing but they are each taking it a different way. He said that it is a shift and they all have to work together.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Hagan what is the most difficult thing that happened between you and a supervisor?

Officer Hagan said he has had a great group of supervisors. He said that he has never had a controversy with any one of his supervisors.

Mr. Marsden asked for an example of a situation that did not turn out well?

Officer Hagan said that they have guidelines to follow. He said that sometimes they do second guess what they do.

Mr. Marsden asked what is your biggest professional disappointment?

Officer Hagan said not being promoted in the last three years.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Hagan what was that last book you read?

Officer Hagan said Lone Survivor.

The Board thanked Officer Hagan for attending the interview.

Officer Hagan thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Officer Remkus

Officer Remkus thanked the Board for allowing him to interview for the Sergeants position. He said that Holliston hired him from the start and he has enjoyed his time working for the Holliston Police Department.

Mr. Leary said that Officer Remkus has only been an Officer for a short amount of time, why do you think that you would be a good Sergeant?

Officer Remkus said that this would not be his first time in a leadership role. He was in the Army in Afghanistan and part of a team. He was eventually promoted to team leader. Then he was promoted to Squad leader. Officer Remkus said that he has learned a lot from the people that he works with. He said that they are all very knowledgeable. He said that he comes from a great background. His grandfather was in the Army and his dad is a Sergeant with the State Police. He said that he would represent this Town the best way that he can.

Mr. Leary asked Officer Remkus why is that Sergeants position so important?

Officer Remkus said he can bring accountability and leadership. He said that you have to lead by example. He said that there will be new personnel coming to the Department, he said that it would be great to mentor new recruits.

Mr. Leary said that let just say that we promote you to Sergeant tonight, there will be more officers on your shift that have a lot more experience than you, how do you get that to work in your favor?

Officer Remkus said that is one of the biggest assets that he can bring to the team, they would have to teach him a lot of things. He said that he is a fast learner. He said that he is eager to learn. He said that they can each learn something new. He said that everyone will be a valuable asset working on his shift.

Mr. Leary asked if being promoted to Sergeant would impact your schedule?

Officer Remkus said that it will not impact it at all. He said that he is working split shifts now.

Mr. Conley asked what will you do as a Sergeant that will be different from the other Sergeants?

Officer Remkus said the first thing that he would do is ask the other Officers to improve communications. He said that in the beginning he will need to listen more than talk.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Remkus why did you want to become a Police Officer?

Officer Remkus said it is a lifelong dream. He loves to be of service to the community. He said that he served his Country.

Mr. Conley asked Officer Remkus if had been tased before?

Officer Remkus said yes he has.

Mr. Conley asked what do you and your wife do on a night off?

Officer Remkus they like to go on drives and look at other neighborhoods.

Mr. Conley asked if he was on a call and the person was not complying. He said that he would start asking question to see how much more information he can get out of him.

Mr. Conley asked if Officer Remkus had any interesting stories?

Officer Remkus said he received a lifesaving award just last week for a drug overdose.

Mr. Marsden asked for two of three trends that are going on now in police work.

Officer Remkus said the Public Trust. He said that they have to start rebuilding it. He said that servicing the community was lost, now is the time to rebuild it.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Remkus about police militarization.

He said that they as officers need to be safe. He said that the public was not made aware of why we need it. He said that it was forced on the public. He said that the public does need to be educated.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Remkus what his biggest professional disappointment was.

Officer Remkus said he was fresh out of college and applied to Westboro Police Department he was interviewed but not chosen. He said that he did not like that feeling. So he improved on everything possible.

Mr. Marsden asked about a decision that you made that did not end well.

Officer Remkus said he decided to focus on police work and give up the military work. He said that sometimes it still bothers him that he is not in the military any more.

Mr. Marsden asked what was the last book you read?

Officer Remkus said Lions of Kandahar. He said that it was a great book.

Mr. Marsden asked Officer Remkus, what happens if you do not get promoted to Sergeant?

Officer Remkus said he still has a great job. He loves being a police officer and that is not going to change. He said that it will make him more hungry to better himself.

The Board thanked Officer Remkus for attending the interview.

Officer Remkus thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS – EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2017**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2017, AS WRITTEN BUT NOT TO RELEASE THEM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

#### **NO PARKING REQUEST – BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION LAND**

Mr. Leary said that there is little parking in this area. He said that is for people who wanted to walk the trail they would have to park on a side street.

Mr. Marsden said that this is off Gorwin Drive.

Mr. Leary said that there is a pull in area there that can hold about three cars.

There was no action taken by the Board.

#### **MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING PARTNERSHIP ASSISTANCE GRANT**

Mr. Conley said that the Zoning Board of Appeals has applied for this grant and it was awarded. He said that a \$15,000 grant was awarded to the Town. He said that it will be used for technical assistance.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE AWARD LETTER FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING PARTNERSHIP ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

#### **EVENT PERMITS**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR TRI-STATE TREK JUNE 23, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR THE LIONS CLUB WHITE CANE TOLL ROAD ON JUNE 23, 2017, AT ROSSINI CORNER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR CCALS ERNIE'S RUN ON JUNE 17, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR THE PORCH FEAST ON MAY 20, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN ABSTAINED.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR THE BIKES NOT BOMBS RIDE ON JUNE 4, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE LAST 2.5 MILES OF RAIL TRAIL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**SERGEANT DISCUSSION**

Mr. Conley said that all three applicants have great strengths.

Mr. Leary said that he was impressed with all three applicants. He said that Officer Belson impressed him the most.

Mr. Marsden said that he was thinking the same thing. He said that Officer Belson has put his time in and he has a little more experience.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO PROMOTE OFFICER KENNETH BELSON TO SERGEANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR. STARTING JUNE 5, 2017.**

Mr. Leary said that this is his last Selectmen's Meeting he is retiring from the Board. He thanked the Selectmen and the Town Administrator for all their help over the past few years.

**AT 9:30 P.M., MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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