



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
MARCH 26, 2018**

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

Absent: Kevin Conley, Chairman

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

- 1.) **Warrants:** M. Ahronian read the Warrants and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll warrants in the amount of \$3,127,369.94. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0
- 2.) **Public Comment:** M. Ahronian thanked the DPW Department for completing the downtown clean and removing all the snow. It makes it much easier for customers to access the stores in the downtown. He also noted the DPW had two (2) crews out cleaning up brush from the very difficult winter storms. J. Marsden agreed and said the DPW is doing an outstanding job.

Paul Saulnier, 29 Church Street asked if the Board would consider doing a town-wide brush removal and clean-up. The removal of tree limbs and brush is especially difficult for the elderly in that they have no mean to get the debris to the Marshall Street recycling center. The Board took the matter under advisement.

- 3.) **Report of the Town Administrator:** J. Ritter reported the 8 Arch Bridge project appears to be on schedule and on budget. The next weekly project conference call will be on Wednesday between NEL, Gill Engineering the Chairman of the 8 Arch Bridge Committee and himself.

The Annual Town Meeting Warrant should be ready for the Board to sign and post on April 16, 2018. He is still sorting a few details.

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The will be a DEP Public Hearing regarding a permit application from Mr. Brumber for a recycling facility at 157-165 Lowland Street. The Hearing is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 starting at 7p.m. at Town Hall. Area residents will be notified.

Thursday evening the Planning Board will be hosting an Open Meeting Workshop with Town Counsel. Regulatory boards have been notified. M. Ahronian asked if staff could also be notified. J. Ritter will take care of that.

J. Ritter noted interviews are now complete to fill the position of Police Lieutenant. The Selectmen will interview the finalists next week. He asked how many the Board would like to interview. It was decided to interview all four (4) in about thirty minute blocks.

With the approval of the Board the Marshall Street Recycling Center will remain open three Sundays in April. There was no objection.

- 4.) **Benefits Budget:** Due to illness this item will be taken up next week at the request of the Treasurer/Collector.
- 5.) **Pole Hearing Request: Highland Street** – Thomas Blicharz, representing Verizon was present. M. Ahronian read the legal notice and made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

T. Blicharz reviewed the Petition from Verizon New England and NSTAR Electric to locate poles, wires, and fixtures including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures at a location on Highland Street.

Specifically, on Highland Street – the placement of one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.154S/E.154-84 on the westerly side of Highland Street at a point approximately five hundred sixty-three (563) feet northerly from the center line of Rolling Meadow Drive.

J. Marsden noted the Petition has been reviewed by various Town Departments and there are no objections and no comments from the public.

M. Ahronian made motion to close the Public Hearing. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the Petition. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

- 6.) **State Senator Karen Spilka and State Representative Carolyn Dykema:** J. Marsden welcomed both representatives and thanked them both for securing two (2) appropriations. One (1) for the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition in the amount of \$50,000 and one (1) for the Holliston School Department for substance abuse

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prevention in the amount of \$50,000.

J. Marsden thanks Representative Dykema for working with DEP to get a confirmatory letter from DEP that Holliston's drinking water is in full compliance with DEP regulations.

C. Dykema congratulated K. Spilka for her apparent pending election to be the next Senate President. They have always worked well together to move the Town forward.

K. Spilka provided a summary of legislative activities. The budget should be sent to the Conference Committee by the end of May and approved by the end of June. Priorities include Special Education Circuit Breaker and an increase in funding. Also, Chapter 70 should see an increase. The Regional Transit Authority is also a priority to allow for more services as is affordable housing.

She understands the water treatment plant funding is very important to Holliston. There is pending Environmental Bond Bill and that should present an opportunity for Holliston to access some funding to offset the cost of the project.

C. Dykema said they are working with the Winehouse to secure a full all alcohol license. Robert Kevin Malone has been appointed to the Housing Authority.

Regarding renewable energy the legislature is working on a fix Eversource have imposed a residential fee for solar installations and connecting to the grid.

The Cannabis Control Commission has been established. They are not allow for home delivery or cafes and limiting the size of facilities. The Registry of Motor Vehicles is rolling out a new licensing program.

As Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee they are studying commuter patterns and the future of rail use.

M. Ahronian asked about funding for the treatment plant. K. Spilka said perhaps under the Environmental Bond Bill a couple of million could be added to that. C. Dykema added there is also the State Revolving Fund (SRF) which provides low interest loans to communities. The applications open in June and construction must start in six (6) months.

M. Ahronian asked about improvements at the Senior Center especially the window replacement. K. Spilka said it would be best to put something into the State's budget to cover that project.

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J. Marsden asked about various environmental issues. For example, when a property which is contaminated goes into tax title to the Town becomes the potential owner of the property and the liability. K. Spilka agreed that each parcel is different and unique. She suggested getting a listing of all parcels, prioritize the list and then there could be a joint meeting with various environmental agencies.

M. Ahronian said most communities are in the same boat. He would like to explore the feasibility of creating a "Community Preservation Act," type program where residents might be assessed a fee on their tax bill to address these contaminated sites along with a match from the State.

C. Dykema said the challenge will be getting funding from the State since CPC funding has been declining in recent years. But she liked the approach.

M. Ahronian said it would be a very popular program and perhaps more important than historic preservation. Axton Cross is a perfect example, it does not qualify as a Superfund Site or a Brownfields Site but the environmental issues need to be addressed.

C. Dykema suggested contacting the Massachusetts Municipal Association environmental committee for support in developing the idea.

J. Marsden said or perhaps retooling a current program.

The Board thanked both for attending their meeting.

**7.) Board Business:**

**Minutes of March 19, 2018:** M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the regular session meeting minutes from March 19, 2018. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** J. Ritter presented the Warrant as drafted to date there is some more refinement that needs to be done on the document. But we are getting close to the point where the Selectmen can sign it on April 16, 2018.

**Trails Committee Donation:** M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a donation from the Holliston High School Alumni Association to the Trails Committee for various improvements. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

**Water Treatment Plant Article:** Sean Reese, Department of Public Works Superintendent was present and briefed the Board regarding the status of the Water Treatment Plant Article for Annual Town Meeting. He said it was great to hear the Environmental Bond Bill might include some funding to offset the projected \$8,375,000

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project costs. We are looking at two (2) articles. The first would allow the Town to borrow the money and the second would authorize a debt exclusion.

J. Marsden made a motion to open the Warrant for this specific purpose subject to Bond Counsel wording of the Article(s). Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

8.) **Any Other Business:** None

**Adjourn:** M. Ahronian made a motion at 7:50p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 2-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Jeffrey Ritter".

J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator