



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
APRIL 9, 2018**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

At 6:30p.m. K. Conley called the meeting to order.

**1.) Police Department Swearing in Ceremony – Upper Town Hall:** The Board attended the Swearing in Ceremony of Officers Ethan M. Coakley; Sergeant, Jonathan T. Remkus; and Lieutenant Chad E. Thompson. The Board returned to their regular meeting room downstairs at approximately 6:59p.m.

**2.) Public Employee Committee (PEC) Agreement and Other Health Insurance Issues:** Mary Bousquet, Treasurer/Collector was present and reviewed with the Board the current actions of the PEC. M. Bousquet recommended the Board adopt and forward a "High Deductible Plan Offering for Non-Union Employees," (see attached). M. Bousquet said this is a good opportunity for both the non-union employees and the Town.

J. Marsden made a motion to adopt the High Deductible Plan and send it to all benefit eligible non-union employees. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

M. Bousquet reviewed the recently agreed to "Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) Pursuant to Sections 21 and 22 of Chapter 32B of the General Laws and 801 CMR 52.04 by and Between the Town of Holliston and the Holliston Public Employee Committee." J. Marsden made a motion to approve and adopt the MoA. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Ritter thanked M. Bousquet for all of her hard work in implementing this very difficult change to health insurance offerings for town employees.

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**4.) Public Comment:** M. Ahronian thanked the Police Chief for implementing the recent personnel changes in the Department. Everything appeared to go very smoothly. J. Marsden agreed. These changes required a detailed process and he thanked the Chief for his hard work.

Steve Bradford, from the American Legion was present and introduced Alex Walters. A. Walters is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout and would like to donate three (3) boxes which house old American Flags. The three (3) boxes would be located at Town Hall, the Post Office and the Senior Center. The boxes would replace the old plastic containers currently being used for this purpose. The new boxes which are better designed and constructed by A. Walters and will show more respect for the Flag.

J. Marsden said the boxes look great and many people do not know what to do with old American Flags.

Bob Hopkins was also present in his capacity as liaison to the Eagle Scout candidate A. Walters.

M. Ahronian noted this is just another extraordinary example of what Eagle Scouts do on behalf of the community such as work at the Police Station and Stoddard Park. It is great for community spirit. There was no objection from the Board for the placement of the boxes at the Senior Center and Town Hall.

**3.) Warrants:** M. Ahronian read the Warrants and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll warrants in the amount of \$1,935,832.04. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

**5.) Report of the Town Administrator:** J. Ritter reported there was a Department Heads meeting last Thursday with eleven (1) attending.

As a reminder, M. Ahronian is scheduled to for Coffee with a Selectman this coming Saturday at Jasper Hill starting at 10a.m.

A letter to the Republican and Democratic parties has been prepared seeking volunteers to serve as election workers. The letter is in the to be signed folder.

Last week he met with Sean Reese, Director of the Department of Public Works and representatives from Kleinfelder for the purposes of discussing the preparation of an RFP for the re-development of the former landfill into a solar field.

There will be pre-bid meeting this Wednesday at the Library at 2p.m. regarding the roof replacement of the roof and the HVAC unit.

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The Marshall Street Recycling Center will be open this Sunday for the purposes of accepting brush from residents.

Performance evaluations are now all complete on those Department Heads who fall under the Board of Selectmen. J. Ritter provide the performance evaluation form to all three (#) Selectmen and asked they complete the form on the Town Administrator and send that information to the Chairman of the Board who will compile the results and meet with J. Ritter to discuss.

The bids are due this Wednesday at 2p.m. regarding the railing replacement project at the Pine Crest Golf Course.

The Town Center signal lights project has re-started and is scheduled to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Board is not scheduled to meet next week due to school vacation. However, the Annual Town Meeting Warrant will need to be signed. The Board agreed to meet next Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at noon for the purposes of signing the Warrant.

**6. Youth and Family Services Director Interview:** K. Conley welcomed Jaclyn C. Winer, LICSW. J. Winer reviewed her experience and professional background. Especially, her experience with community mental health issues.

K. Conley noted that the position requires hours to be all over the place. J. Winer said her goal is to have the office covered during normal business hours. It is critically important to take in school referral and set-up treatment in a timely way.

She would work closely with the Police Court Diversion and Prevention Program, the clergy among others.

M. Ahronian asked if she would be working with the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition. J. Winer stated yes especially when it comes to grant writing. She recognizes there are limitations but she would work with the MetroWest Health Care Foundation and other non-profits.

J. Marsden stated she had outstanding qualifications and had no further questions.

M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint J. Winer to the position of Youth and Family Services Director subject to successful wage negotiations. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

**8.) Board Business**

**Minutes from April 2, 2018:** J. Marsden made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes April 2, 2018. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

**Capital Request – Fire Department:** Chief Cassidy was present and explained he was hopeful that other funds could be located to fund his capital request. But he is aware the Selectmen are scheduled to sign the Warrant next Tuesday at noon and he wanted to get before the Board to explain his request.

Chief Cassidy said he is seeking \$25,000 to replace some of his turn out gear and to purchase a new drying cabinet. Washing turn out gear is very important and noted firefighters are more and three times likely to contract cancer than non-fire fighters. M. Ahronian said he supported the proposal. J. Marsden said the Town has a great partnership with the Fire Department and we need to give them the tools to get the job done safely.

J. Marsden made a motion to approve the request as presented. Second, M. Ahronian. Discussion: K. Conley asked where the equipment would be placed and how long it would last. Chief Cassidy said there is room set-aside for this purpose at the Station and the equipment would be good for approximately twenty (20) years. Voted 3-0

**Gift Acceptance – Fire Department and Senior Center:** J. Marsden made a motion to approve and accept a gift donation on behalf of the Fire Department to support firefighter cancer awareness and prevention initiative from Framingham Union Aid Association in the amount of \$1,500 with thanks. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and accept a gift donation on behalf of the Council on Aging and Senior Center in support of the nutrition program from Holliston Superette in the amount of \$500 with thanks. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

**DEP Public Hearing Discussion:** J. Ritter briefed the Board that there will be a Public Hearing held this Wednesday. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will be holding the Hearing regarding a renewal application submitted by Michael Brumber and American Recycled Materials, 157-165 Lowland Street.

J. Ritter prepared a brief statement to be submitted as part of the public record for the Selectmen to consider.

J. Marsden said he might prepare his own letter as well.

J. Marsden made a motion to approve and submit the letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

**Proclamation:** J. Marsden made a motion to approve and sign a Proclamation to be presented to Barbara Chamberlain on 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this Wednesday at the Senior Center. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

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**9.) Other Business:** J. Marsden made a motion to approve and sign a letter to the Chairman of the Holliston Republican and Democratic parties seeking election works. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Marsden made a motion for the Chairman to sign an "Engagement to Represent" regarding the wrongful distribution of prescription opiates and damages caused thereby. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

**7.) Mass Botanicals, LLC:** J. Ritter briefed the Board regarding the request to cultivate adult use marijuana. Currently, the only approved grower for this purpose is Mayflower all other growers are banned from the cultivation of adult use marijuana until the moratorium is lifted. Attorney Adam Fine was present representing Mayflower Medicinal (89 October Hill Road) and Erica Wright was present representing Mass Botanicals.

A. Fine said Mayflower is up and running and has made the first payment to Holliston under the terms and conditions of the Host Community Agreement of just over \$100,000. Mayflower has maxed out the building footprint at this point in time. The approved medical marijuana product will be in Boston around the middle of next month.

Now Mayflower would like to participate in the cultivation of adult use marijuana but they need a Host Community Agreement. There would not be any changes to anything on the current site.

The Department of Public Health currently oversees medical cultivation and sales while the Cannabis Control Commission oversees adult cultivation and sale. Adult use is more regulated and is a different product.

K. Conley asked about the percentage that would be cultivated for adult use and medical. A. Fine said approximately 35% would be medical and 20% adult use. (There was no explanation about the missing 45%.

K. Conley asked if there is a higher gross profit for adult cultivation or medical cultivation. A. Fine said in general medical is more profitable.

M. Ahronian asked where the adult cultivated product would be sold. A. Fine said mostly in Boston. There is a wholesale market for medical which is then sold to a licensed facility.

M. Ahronian asked where to closest point of sale would be for adult use. A. Fine was not sure perhaps Newton.

J. Marsden said we have had these discussions about medical cultivation and to date the growers have been good partners and he views this to be an expansion of a commercial activity and he is comfortable with the manufacturing concept.



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K. Conley said they would take the matter under advisement. A Fine proposed 3% of annual gross sales or a maximum of \$164,000 per year as part of the Host Community Agreement.

E. Wright said she is representing a grower who would like to renovate a building located at 91 Kuniholm Drive and develop an adult use grow facility in 47,000 s/f. Her company is concerned about the black market and the poor quality product that is other there. The adult use application fee is \$500 and the application submissions start on May 1<sup>st</sup>. They need a Host Community Agreement to submit with their application.

K. Conley asked if they were only looking an adult use cultivation and processing. E. Wright said most likely retail through adult use facilities retail will start July 1<sup>st</sup>. We could start with adult and move toward medical.

M. Ahronian said the product cultivated in your regulated environment is better than the black market and protects the people from getting ill. E. Wright said in the black market the buyer does not know what they are getting they are required to do in house testing.

K. Conley said the Board will make a decision on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**9.) Other Business (continued):** M. Ahronian said he continues to be concerned based on the information the School Committee presented about leaking roofs in the auditorium in particpal. He is concerned about the health and welfare of the children and their possible exposure to mold and mildew.

The Schools need to address the situation and we need to see a plan of action. We need to understand what is going to be done to address the leak. He would like to invite the School Committee in to have a follow-up discussion about that specific issue. J. Ritter said the Board signed a letter on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the School Committee seeking their plan of action. The response date is May 1<sup>st</sup>. M. Ahronian said we need to address it now.

**Adjourn:** M. Ahronian made a motion at 8:21p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator