

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

August 7, 2017
6:45 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Room - 105
Town Hall

Present: Kevin Conley, Chairman; Mark Ahronian, Clerk and Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, Jay Marsden, Vice Chairman was absent.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL AND POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

AT 7:31 P.M., THE BOARD EMERGED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MOVED TO OPEN SESSION.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

18-06	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 135,849.65
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 5,8145.00
	OPEB (760)	\$1,500,000.00
	CAPITAL PROJECTS (300)	\$ 135.00
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 4,994.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 430.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,125.00
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$ 173,127.11
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,820,351.31

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 45,682.08
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TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 31,923.10
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Ahronian said that Farm to Table will be on August 19, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church.

Mr. Conley wished Martha a happy birthday. He said that she is a gardener. He said that we have several small spaces in town and a business could sponsor the location.

A resident said that we have that on Hollis Street.

Mr. Conley said that he wants more than one location.

Mr. Ahronian said that it is worth looking into.

Another resident said that there are a few that are taken care of by the Garden Club.

Mr. Ahronian said that Holliston in Bloom is going to be offering awards starting next week. He said that the awards will be given out 1 each week. He said that one week will be a business and the next week it will be a resident.

He said that there will be 3 judges, one Bobby Blair, representing the Marigold project, the next is Jill Malcolm, the Garden Club and the last judge is Mark Ahronian representing Holliston in Bloom.

Comments from the audience

There were none.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, was present. He said that the Flagg School project is now in its eleventh week. He said that the building is down and the environment is clean. He said that there were no surprises in the ground. He said that you never know what you are going to find. He said that the project is ahead of schedule and under budget. He said that there will be grass growing at that site before the end of the month.

Mr. Ritter said that he has had a complaint from HCAT TV that the Board needs to speak up. He said that residents have to come to the mic and they have to identify themselves.

Mr. Ritter asked about a meeting schedule. Mr. Conley said to meet every other week until September. Then start meeting every week.

Mr. Ritter said that last Thursday, Town Counsel held office hours. He said that it was a huge success.

Mr. Ritter said that Attorney Talerma will have office hours the first Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Ritter said that he will be on vacation from August 17 to August 28, 2017.

HOLLISTON IN BLOOM UPDATE AND FEE WAIVER REQUEST

Postponed

DOWNTOWN BID AND CONTRACT AWARD – MCMAHON ASSOCIATES

Robert Smith, McMahon and Associates, said that the bids were opened on July 19, 2017. He said that there were eight bidders. He said that the low bidder was Larusso Corp.

Robert Smith said that Larusso submitted a lengthy list of references and he did check out a few. He said that all good things were said about the contractor.

Mr. Ahronian did not have any questions.

Mr. Conley asked for a progress report from start to finish.

He said that they will start in the fall with the conduit for the traffic signals. He said after the conduit is in place for the lights, that will be the last thing that they will do until the spring. He said that you can't do this kind of work in the winter.

Mr. Ahronian asked about the tree that needs to be removed.

Robert Smith said that it is at the corner of Washington Street and Central Street. He said that because it has to be handicap van accessible. He said that they have to cut into the sidewalk to make this happen.

Mr. Ritter said that they are actively looking for a Clerk of the Works. Mr. Conley said that there will be guidelines for the Clerk of the Works to follow.

There was also talk about a charging station for the electric car. The thought was to put it on Washington Street at the bottom to the right off Hollis Street.

Mr. Ahronian said that there is a Veterans' memorial at that corner.

Robert Smith said that he has seen it, and they are staying closer to Washington Street.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE LARUSSO CORP. TO DO THE DOWNTOWN LIGHT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,048,697. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

HOUSING TRUST COMMITTEE – 172 CONCORD STREET

Bryan Clancy, 45 Wendy Lane, President of the Housing Trust, was present. He said that he would like to discuss the Housing Trust taking over 172 Concord Street. He said that the Town took the property because the taxes were not paid. He said that at Town Meeting, the property was going to be auctioned off, but the Housing Trust would like to take over the house and then sell it. He said that the Housing Trust would pay the back taxes, if the Town would forgive any of the late fees and interest. He said that the house needs a new septic system. He said that he asked Ms. Bousquet if the Housing Trust could pay the Town in 60 days. He said that the property is scheduled to be on the auction block at the next auction. He asked if it goes on the auction block, can it be taken off? He said that they may find that the septic system is going to be very expensive, and it may not be a great project to undertake.

Mr. Ritter said that the auction is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2017. Ms. Bousquet has an Auctioneer to start getting everything together. Mr. Ritter said that the Auctioneer would not want to waste his time by getting everything together on a property, then have it taken away.

Mr. Clancy said that it is a common practice to have that happen.

Mr. Ritter said that it does happen. He said that he and Ms. Bousquet have talked about delaying the auction. He said that they really do not want to do that.

Mr. Clancy said that he is going to hire an engineer to do perk tests on the property. He said that he has talked with Harry Kampersal about the system, and Mr. Kampersal said that it is a failing system.

Mr. Clancy said that Paul Saulnier said that the soils in the front yard are very deep, compared to the backyard.

Mr. Ritter said that they are meeting with the Auctioneer next week. Mr. Ritter asked if Mr. Clancy could get pricing for the septic system.

Mr. Clancy said that perk testing needs to be done.

Mr. Ritter said that there is a possibility that the auction would be moved to October. Mr. Ritter said that would work better for Mr. Clancy.

Mr. Clancy asked if the Selectmen would forgive the back interest and legal fees?

Mr. Clancy said that this is the same arrangement that was done on Burnap Road. They paid all the back taxes and the Selectmen forgave the interest and the late fees and legal fees.

Mr. Conley said that he can imagine that they would go the same route. Mr. Conley said that Mr. Clancy has done good work for the Town.

Mr. Clancy said anything that they could do to keep the price of the property down to make the property more feasible. He said that they know that they need to gut the house and replace the septic system.

Mr. Ritter said that Ms. Bousquet is ok with the \$37,150. She would like more, but she will settle for the \$37,150.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PAYMENT OF \$37,150 FROM THE HOUSING TRUST FOR 172 CONCORD STREET AND WAIVE THE INTEREST, LATE FEES AND THE LEGAL FEES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

8 ARCH BRIDGE COMMITTEE PROJECT

Jay Robinson, 233 Chamberlain Street, was present. He said that Herb Brockert and Dennis Ferreira were in the audience.

Mr. Robinson said that he sent the Board a set of slides for them to look at. He said that Gill Engineering has been hired to help with the bid opening. He said that their goal for this project is to have it completed by May 31, 2018. He said that there are several things that can be done during the winter.

Mr. Conley said that he likes the look of the railings on the 8 Arch Bridge.

Mr. Conley suggested that a copy of the slides be sent to HCAT.

Mr. Ritter asked if there was going to be sandblasting on the bridge?

Mr. Robinson said no sandblasting.

Mr. Robinson said that in the contract it states that the contractor can't go into the wetlands.

Dennis Ferreira, 734 Adams Street, Larusso Corp. has bid on this project, and they are doing the downtown light project.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO ISSUE THE BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE 8 ARCH BRIDGE PROJECT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

BOARD BUSINESS – MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2016, DECEMBER 7, 2016 AND DECEMBER 14, 2016

Post-poned

BLAIR SQUARE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Conley said there is a committee that is looking into some plans for the area.

Mr. Conley said that any plans would all have to be approved at Town Meeting. He said that he knows that a lot of work has already been done. Mr. Conley said that the area behind Casey's Crossing will be expanded. Mr. Conley said that Blair Square is a Town treasurer.

Mr. Ahronian said with the purchase of the rail trail, things are moving quickly. He said that we need a plan for both sides of Central Street in the Blair Square area. He said that he would like to see someone from the Veterans be on this Committee. He said that a friends group can't be asking for funds it needs to go through the Town.

Inge Daniels, 38 Grove Street, said that she has been working with the Blair Square Development Committee, they have established advisors. She said that they started this about two years ago and they would like to carry that work forward. She said that there are seven members on the Committee and many advisors. She said that they wanted more involvement from the veterans groups, but they have not gotten any input from them. She said that they need to design this with their input. She said that this could be first spot in Holliston that people see. She said that the Rail Trail could be a destination. Ms. Daniels said that they want Blair Square to show the personality of the town.

Ms. Daniels talked about the events that take place on the trail. She said that there is First Night and several fundraisers. She said that there has been a farmers market and on occasion, people having lunch. She said that many residents ride their bikes and walk along the trail. She said that Blair Square is the "hub" of the trail. Ms. Daniels said that they did a town wide survey getting ideas on what the Blair Square area would look like. She said that this area is very important to the Town and they would like the Veterans' involved.

Mr. Conley said that he has friends from out of town that come to Holliston just to walk the Rail Trail. He said that Celebrate Holliston would like to put a caboose there for bathrooms.

Mr. Ritter said the Friends of the Rail Trail are not a municipal Committee.

Mr. Ferreira said that anyone should be able to join the committee. He said that it should not just be people who live near Blair Square. He said it should be almost like a park setting.

Robert Weikknecht, Trail Committee, said that east side heading towards Sherborn said that there is a paved area between Casey's Crossing and the fence.

Mr. Ferreira said that people do come from all over to use the Trail. He said that they need a parking area. That way, people will not be parking at the CVS and Casey's Crossing.

Mr. Conley asked Ms. Daniels if she would go back to her Committee and tell them that the Board of Selectmen want to go through the public process for Blair Square design.

Mr. Ahronian said that they can come back to the Board with their suggestions.

Ms. Daniels said that the Friends have put a lot of time into this project and they do not intend to drop the ball.

Mr. Conley said that they are going to put this on the agenda in two weeks so that they can talk about this again.

Herb Brockert, Central Street, said that he is on the Rail Trail Committee, said that they will be putting stone dust down along the new portion of the trail.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – BONFETE, INC.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR CHRIST THE KING CHURCH ON AUGUST 19, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

SENIOR CENTER GRANT ACCEPTANCE – BAY PATH ELDER SERVICES

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE A GRANT FOR MEDICAL ESCORT SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,400, FOR THE SENIOR CENTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

360 WOODLAND STREET DRAINAGE ISSUE

Robert Weidnknecht, Trails Committee, was present. He said that they are in the process of fixing up the portion of the trail from Casey's Crossing to the Sherborn Town line. He said that along the trail, several business are using the trail as their own property. He said that there is also a building that has a drainage issue and it goes into the trail. He said that the owner of this building at 360 Woodland has offered to pay for the improvements to divert some of the drainage. Mr. Weidnknecht said that the property owner needs an agreement to work on the Town right-of-away.

Mr. Conley asked if Town Counsel has reviewed the documents?

Mr. Ritter said that they have been reviewed by Town Counsel and they do not have an issue with it.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE WORK ON THE RAIL TRAIL TO HELP WITH THE DRAINAGE ISSUE AT 360 WOODLAND STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE LETTER FOR THE DRAINAGE WORK TO BE DONE AT 360 WOODLAND STREET TO HELP WITH THE WASH-OUT ON THE RAIL TRAIL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC WAYS GUIDELINE

Mr. Conley told Mr. Ritter that he does not like the way this is written. Mr. Conley said that he wants a check list. He said that after each item is checked off, he wants it signed. He said that this document would follow the project from start to finish.

Mr. Ritter said that he has emailed Karen Sherman, Town Planner, about a check list to go with the documents, he said that he has not heard back from her yet, but he is sure that a check list will be created. He told the Board that they could approve this as long as the check list is added to the documents. He said that he could present the check list to them at a later meeting. Mr. Conley asked if this could wait two weeks?

Mr. Ritter said yes it could, but he would really like to get this done tonight.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC WAYS GUIDELINE PROVIDING A CHECK LIST IS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION SIGN

Mr. Coney said that the Conservation Commission was asked for a no parking sign at the entrance of the conservation land on Gorwin Drive.

Mr. Ritter said that a resident brought this up to the Conservation Commission. He said that people park in this area and do not go on the trails.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A NO PARKING SIGN AT THE CONSERVATION LAND ON GORWIN DRIVE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

APPOINTMENT – WEIGHERS FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT RANDY BICKFORD AS A WEIGHER FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT PAUL GARNEAU AS A WEIGHER FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT GARY KEITH AS A WEIGHER FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT ISSAC KING AS A WEIGHER FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT NOWELL COLON AS A WEIGHER FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

OPEN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO OPEN THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ON AUGUST 8, 2017, AND TO CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER ON 8, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

BID AWARD – SURPLUS VEHICLE

Mr. Conley said that there is a vehicle that has been parked at the Flagg School that has gone out to bid. He said that the bid opening was today, and we received one bid.

Mr. Ritter said that this is a 1985 utility fire truck. He said that the bid was \$10.00

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE \$10.00 BID FOR THE 1985 UTILITY FIRE TRUCK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

Mr. Ahronian said that tomorrow he is going to a meeting at 1750 Washington Street. He said that the contractor that we were using has not worked out well. There is a new contractor in place to fix the mess.

AT 8:50 P.M., MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____