

## HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 25, 2017  
6:30p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Room – 105  
Town Hall

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

### **MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT**

18-13	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 130,795.76
	DEBT SERVICE TOWN (001)	\$ 208,375.00
	CAPITAL PROJECTS (300)	\$ 9,345.00
	HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST (700)	\$ 3,240.50
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 2,724.35
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 16.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,449.00
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$1,129,837.30
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$1,484,333.91

### **ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:**

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 248,761.36
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### **TREASURER'S NOTE:**

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 210,056.38
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**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

### **MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2017**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2017, AS WRITTEN.**

**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE BUT NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

### **ROCK SALT BID AWARD AND CONTRACT**

Mr. Ahronian said that Mr. Smith has requested that the Board sign two bids, one for Eastern Mineral and Morton Salt for the salt Contract.

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE EASTERN MINERAL AND MORTON SALT FOR THE SALT BIDS AT \$49. PER TON. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

### **MASS DOT CONTRACT**

Mr. Conley said that we received a contract for the Rail Trail from MASS DOT. The Board needs to accept the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Mr. Ritter said that this is a reimbursement in the amount of \$750,000.

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$750,000 FROM MASS DOT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**HIGHLANDS AT HOLLISTON ENCROACHMENT CONTRACT**

Mr. Conley said that they want to hire a contractor to check on the encroachments to protect the Town's interest. He said that the contract will be with Oxbow Associates in the amount of \$2,800.

Mr. Conley said that they believe the developer is encroaching onto the Town's property.

Mr. Ritter said that yes, there is encroachment, but he is not sure about the level of it.

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,800 TO LOOK INTO THE ENCROACHMENT BY THE DEVELOPER AT HIGHLANDS AT HOLLISTON. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**APPOINTMENT – YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT JOHN DROHAN TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN ABSTAINED.**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE CHARGE**

Mr. Conley said that they have been discussing this for over one year. Mr. Conley said that last week the Board voted on the charge.

Mr. Ahronian said that there will be seven members.

One member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the Finance Committee, a School Committee member or a designee, one member of the Planning Board, Treasurer/Collector, and two citizen at large.

Mr. Marsden said that he has been thinking about the charge of this committee. He said that the Committee should be made up of people who do not have a say in the game. He said that if you have an interest in the game, it then becomes a challenge. Mr. Marsden said that a seven member Committee is too many people. He suggested two members at large, a Selectmen or designee, a Finance Committee member or a designee and the Treasurer/Collector. He said that Mary Bousquet would have all the understanding about the borrowing if that was needed.

Mr. Conley asked about the two at large. Mr. Ritter said that the Selectmen would appoint them as long as they have experience with capital planning.

Mr. Conley said that this Committee will not be ready for the Fall Town Meeting, but they should be by the May one.

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO CHANGE THE CHARGE FROM SEVEN MEMBERS TO FIVE MEMBERS FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO: TWO MEMBERS AT LARGE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR, A MEMBER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, A SELECTMEN OR DESIGNEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**EVENT PERMIT – WALK AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR WALK AGAINST BREAST CANCER FOR OCTOBER 15, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – CLASS REUNION**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR A CLASS REUNION, IN THE UPPER TOWN HALL, ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**GIFT ACCEPTANCE FORMS – AUXILIARY POLICE AND COUNCIL ON AGING**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CLERK TO SIGN THE ACCEPTANCE FORM FROM THE ASHLAND LIONS CLUB FOR THEIR DONATION OF \$400.00 TO THE AUXILIARY POLICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CLERK TO SIGN THE ACCEPTANCE FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100.00 FOR A DONATION TO THE COUNCIL ON AGING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**DRAFT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Mr. Ritter said that Article M is for the Blair Square Committee. Mr. Ritter said that it may be premature to ask for funding for a Committee that has not been appointed yet. He said that they will be appointed soon. Mr. Ritter suggested that the Committee get up and running before funds have been awarded. Mr. Ritter said that the Selectmen can delete this Article if they choose to.

Mr. Conley said that the Committee should be up and running before any funding is made available.

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO REMOVE ARTICLE M: ABOUT THE BLAIR SQUARE COMMITTEE FROM THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Mr. Marsden asked if the pay and Classification Plan needs to be on the Warrant? He said that we did this in 2012.

Mr. Ahronian asked Mr. Ritter if there are a lot of complaints?

Mr. Ritter said that there is an undertone that employees feel that they are not being compensated.

Mr. Ahronian asked if this is affecting his work?

Mr. Ritter said that people should be happy that they have a job.

Mr. Marsden said that if we do another compensation study it will cost the Town.

Mr. Ahronian asked how much did it cost last time?

Mr. Marsden said around \$30,000.

Mr. Marsden said that things have changed but not that much to warrant another study.

Mr. Ahronian asked Mr. Ritter how many people under him does this affect?

Mr. Ritter said that he has spoken to a few companies that do compensation studies. He said that if they were to do it, it would be for non-union personnel. He said this would cover about 75 positions.

Mr. Ahronian asked if Mr. Ritter was hearing every day, we need to get paid more?

Mr. Ritter said no he does not hear it every day. He said that it is just below the surface.

Mr. Conley said that in his business he has a time clock and each employee needs to punch in and out.

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO REMOVE ARTICLE N: FROM THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Mr. Ritter said that there is a place holder in the Warrant for the Moratorium on Marijuana.

**MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE LANGUAGE FOR ARTICLE R: IN THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**DOWNTOWN PROJECT CLERK OF THE WORKS UPDATE**

Mr. Ritter said that they had a project kickoff meeting last week. He said that McMahan and Associates, Larusso Corporation, Tom Smith and Sean Reese were present. He said that the start date is by October 15, 2017. He said that it has been suggested that they hire a Clerk of the Works to oversee the project. He said that they have sent out the request for proposals and we received four proposals. Mr. Ritter said that Karen Sherman, Town Planner, and Sean Reese, DPW Director, are reviewing all of the proposals.

Mr. Ritter asked the Board if they want to see who they have picked at their next meeting?

Mr. Marsden asked if McMahan and Associates have commented on this action?

Mr. Ritter said that he thinks that they are well known in the industry.

Mr. Ahronian said that it would be a good idea to meet the Clerk of the Works.

Mr. Marsden said that it would be an easy interview.

Mr. Conley said that Clerk of the Works would be the middle man of the project. Mr. Conley said that this project needs to go well. He said that it needs to be done correctly.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Charles Spaziante, 44 Burnap Road, said that he lives in Town and he pays taxes on his condominium. He said that he has been trying for 450 days to get a street light. He said that there are kids on the street and it is near the golf course. Mr. Spaziante said that Eversource has come out twice to fix this light but by the next day the light is not working.

Mr. Conley asked Mr. Ritter to get in touch with Eversource to fix this correctly.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Ahronian said a lot of volunteers were plantings mum's over the weekend. He said that America in Bloom is coming to Holliston in October, over the Columbus Day Weekend.

Mr. Ahronian said that they are looking for volunteers to show America in Bloom representatives a tour of the Town.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, was present. He said that this past Friday they opened up bids for the 8 Arch Bridge project. He said that six contractors presented bids. He said that all bids come in higher than what we had budgeted for. He said that he is working with the Finance Committee and the Community Preservation Committee to see how they can fund this project.

Mr. Ritter said that last week he sent a notice out about the Andrews School project. He said that all residents within 300 feet will be notified. He said that there will be a public discussion on October 2, 2017.

Mr. Marsden said that there are two proposals for the Andrews School, one to make fourteen units and the other is to build 3 homes.

Mr. Ritter said that Columbus Day is October 9, 2017, is a Monday, he asked if the Board wanted to meet on Tuesday October 10, 2017 instead.

Mr. Conley said that they will pass on that for now, but if things change the option to have a meeting is still on the table.

Green Communities program up-date, there will be a kickoff meeting on Thursday with DEP and the representatives from World Energy. He said that this is for weatherization and lighting at the Senior Center and Library. He said that he is looking into replacing the heating system in the Town Hall.

Mr. Ritter said that the up-date at the Orchards at Holliston for the streetlight to be added to the entrance of Garrett Way off Highland Street. He said that after talking to Eversource, the light will be installed with-in the next three weeks.

Mr. Ritter said that the downtown project will be starting no later than October 15, 2017. He said that there will be regular project meetings.

**AT 7:24 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO A SHORT FIVE MINUTE RECESS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**AT 7:30 P.M., THE BOARD EMERGED FROM THEIR RECESS TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION.**

Senator Karen Spilka and Representative Carolyn Dykema were present.

Mr. Conley asked about recreational marijuana policy. He said that he knows that Framingham and Milford have both voted not to have retail establishments. He said that will be on our Special Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Conley asked if recreational marijuana is going to follow the same route as liquor? One license for every five thousand residents.

Senator Spilka said there was a prevision for Towns that voted yes could have it if they wanted to or exclude it. And Towns that voted no were a no. She said that there is going to be a Cannabis Control Commission to help implement and set the regulations. She said that it will take a little time. Senator Spilka said that there will be a few recreational marijuana shops throughout the Commonwealth.

Representative Dykema said that recreational marijuana was a ballot question. She said that it was voted in by the people.

Mr. Conley asked if more and more Towns vote this in will the State take control of this or will it still be controlled by each Town?

Senator Spilka said that each Town would have their own control.

Mr. Conley asked about transportation.

Senator Spilka said that she has to leave the house before 6:00 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. meeting and sometimes she is late.

Representative Dykema said that the commuter rail is usually on time, but it does need some improvement. She said that there needs to be more parking in the commuter rail parking lots.

Representative Dykema said that a vision study will be done on the parking lot issues.

Senator Spilka said that MWRTA is a huge asset to a Town.

Mr. Conley asked about driverless cars. He said that the first and last mile is the most difficult thing.

Representative Dykema said that there will be a pilot project on this in Boston.

Senator Spilka said that technology is changing so quickly. She said that it is hard to keep up.

Mr. Conley said that by citizens petition, a full liquor license was passed at Town Meeting.

He asked why is there a limit to the number of liquor stores a Town can have?

Senator Spilka said that she thinks it goes back to the Sunday Blue Laws. She said that she thinks that the Town should be able to add another liquor store if they want.

Representative Dykema said that a city like Boston has a lot of liquor licenses, and they are worth a lot of money.

Mr. Conley said that if you give out too many liquor licenses the value of them goes down.

Mr. Conley asked how can get data smart?

Senator Spilka said that they have limited resources. They are looking at best practices on how to become more efficient.

Representative Dykema said that at a State level, they are behind in collecting data.

A resident asked if the State was going to put in more charging stations for electric cars?

Mr. Ritter said that the Town has an electric charging station behind the Town Hall. He said that we charge two cars at one time.

Mr. Ahronian said that educating the children is our biggest expense as a Town. He asked if we could be more consistent in what the State is giving us. He said not knowing how much it is going to be every year, it is hard to work around.

Senator Spilka said that the Governor comes out with his numbers in January, you could use that as the guideline. She said that sometimes the House will increase the funding.

Mr. Ahronian asked about health insurance. He said that health care is very expensive.

Senator Spilka said that about one year ago, the House President shared his concerns about the high cost of health insurance. She said that he started a working group of five or six Senators and they worked with the Wilbak Corporation for one year. She said that they did a lot of talking about re-admitting to the hospital. Sometimes a patient comes home and there is no-one there to help them, so an EMT or a nurse is in charge of the patient to follow up and visit that night and the next few days out of the hospital. She said that it saves a lot of time spent in the hospital for the patient. She said that would be a great tool for us to have. This is done in Vermont, Maryland, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington. She said that this is a great cost cutting tool.

Mr. Ritter thanked Representative Dykema for all her help with the downtown light project.

Mr. Conley thanked Senator Spilka and Representative Dykema for joining the meeting tonight.

**AT 8:08 P.M., MR. MARSDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. AHRONIAN. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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