

## HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 18, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall  
Selectmen's Meeting Room – 105

Present; Jay Marsden, Chairman; Mark Ahronian, Vice Chairman, Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator. John Cronin, Clerk was absent.

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO INVOKE THE RULE OF NECESSITY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

18-51	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 470,039.09
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) PLACENTINO	\$ 972.00
	MEALS TAX (220)	\$ 33.62
	SPECIAL FUELS TAX	\$ 1,025.04
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 3,896.70
	HIGHWAY CH 90 (230)	\$ 32,321.23
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,534.31
	TOTAL PAYROLL	\$2,619,324.09
	TOTAL PAID WARRANT	\$3,128,211.77

**ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:**

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 417,145.77
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**TREASURER 'NOTE:**

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 367,788.29
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**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mark Ahronian thanked the School Committee Chairperson who he met with last week. He said that it was great to get together. He said that he would like the School Committee to attend one of the Selectmen's Meeting's in the next few weeks. He said that the Selectmen will be taking a guided tour of the high school. Then they will talk about the school's Capital Plan.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Tina Hein, 142 Union Street, said that the traffic in Mudville has increased with the installation of the new lights in downtown. She said that she and a few other residents are attending a meeting with the Police Chief this Wednesday. Ms. Hein said that the traffic study that is proposed for this September timeframe when will it be on the agenda? She said that the residents want to be included in this traffic study to see what pieces will be in it.

Mr. Marsden asked when you say traffic study, what are you referencing?

Ms. Hein said Mr. Marsden had mentioned at last week's meeting, that there was a traffic study done in December 2016. She said that it did not take speed into it but it did the flow of cars. She said that Ms. Hein said that the Board said that they would be willing to move forward with a repeat traffic study to look to see how traffic patterns had changed in Mudville. She said that school will be back in session

then, and the traffic patterns will have settled out. Ms. Hein said that the residents want to be put on the agenda before September so they can see what the traffic study will look like.

Mr. Marsden said that they can make it available and talk about it. He said that he is not sure when it will be. Mr. Marsden said that he is not an Engineer but he thinks that they will have a follow-up study. He said that he is not sure how much of a study it will be.

Mr. Ahronian said that some of the Mudville residents are parking on the sidewalks and that makes walkers have to walk in the street. Mr. Ahronian said that residents have to follow the rules as well.

Mr. Ahronian said to make sure that you mention that to the Police Chief when you have your meeting.

Ms. Hein said that she does not think that is a concern for the residents.

Mr. Ahronian said that this was talked about a last week's meeting a resident could not run on the sidewalk because several cars were parked on it.

Ms. Hein said that you would have to talk to the Highway Department because the sidewalks are not in great shape. She said that the sidewalks are not runnable. She said that she is not sure that this is a police issue.

Mr. Ahronian said that it is a safety issue. He said that if you park your car on the sidewalk, walkers have to go into the street. He said that it is very dangerous to walk with a baby stroller in the street.

Ms. Hein said that in the areas that you are seeing baby strollers in the street the sidewalk are not in good shape in that area.

Aislinn Weaver, 69 Woodland Street, said that she is still having trouble with her recycling pickup. She said that Woodland Street was missed this week. She said that she attended a Republic Service meeting a few weeks ago and she has had trouble off and on with the pickup of recycling.

Mr. Marsden said that Republic Service is on the agenda for tonight.

Toni Clark, 266 Washington Street, she said that sometimes it gets picked up and sometime it does not.

Ms. Clark said that they always pick up the trash, she may just start putting her recycling in with her trash. She said that she lives on Washington Street and you have to put your container in the correct location or a big truck going by the wind will blow it all around. She asked if Republic Service needs more trucks?

Mr. Marsden said that they are going to talk about that tonight.

M. Clark said that if she takes the time to recycle, she wants it picked up.

Carl Damigella, 218 Concord Street, said that when Republic service comes up tonight, is there going to be an opportunity to ask questions? He said that he has some contract concerns.

Mr. Marsden said that it is not intended to have question and answers for the audience. He said that if there is a need it would go through the chairman.

#### **DRIVEWAY OPENING REQUESTS – 194 ASHLAND STREET, 101 MARILYN STREET AND 41 PLEASANT STREET.**

Skip Kelleher, 41 Pleasant Street, said that his driveway is new construction. He said that there was never a driveway at this property. He said that there is a new garage and he does not want to park cars in the street.

Jeff Tompkins, 194 Ashland Street, said that his is a safety issue. He said pulling out of his driveway you can't see because of a telephone pole and a mailbox are in the way. He said that they have a new

driver and they will have to swap out cars in the street. He said that Ashland Street is a very busy street.

Doug Troland, 101 Marilyn Street, said that they have four cars and they would like more parking. He said that they live on a corner lot so they do not want to park in the street.

Tom Smith, Highway Superintendent, said he does not have any issues with the driveways. He said the rules for a driveway said sixteen feet. He said that most of these driveways are twenty foot and up. He said that he has to say no because of the regulations. He suggested the he and the Selectmen adjust the regulations. He said that more and more people are asking to widen their driveways.

Ms. Smith said that he checked all three driveways and really does not have a problem with it.

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRIVEWAY WIDENING FOR 194 ASHLAND STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO A APPROVE THE DRIVEWAY WIDENING FOR 101 MARILYN STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRIVEWAY WIDENING FOR 41 PLEASANT STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **REPUBLIC SERVICES**

Nick Stefkovich, Marketing Vice President for Republic Services in New England and Upper State New York, lives in Braintree. Dan Higgins, Municipal Service Manager for Republic Services, were present. Mr. Marsden said that he knows that Republic Services has been hearing from the Town and residents a lot about missed recycling pickups. Mr. Marsden said that Republic Services was in a few months ago to talk about this ongoing problem.

Mr. Stefkovich said there is no excuse to overcome their challenges. He said that there are combination of issues that have lead up to this. Mr. Stefkovich said that they are having truck issues, and driver shortages. He said that they have been trying to hire more staff. He said that the Town of Auburn is a difficult place to keep staffed. Mr. Stefkovich said that eleven more vehicles will be added to the fleet between now and October, then another five in 2019. He said that they have a fleet of about eighty vehicles, he said that is an investment of over three million dollars. He said because they have not been able to staff the vehicles, they have brought in employees from other states. He said that today was a good day, not perfect but a better day. Mr. Stefkovich said that Tuesday is the worst day of the week for Republic Services. He said that starting Tuesday of this week, there will be three trucks.

Mr. Higgins said they have been looking to see where they have fallen short on the routes and it is the recycling drivers who are not familiar with the streets and that is having an impact.

Mr. Stefkovich said that he will be available after the meeting to take address of missed recycling. He said that he has been with Republic Service for 20 years he has not been called into a Selectmen's Meeting to discuss the company's failures. He said that as a company he is embarrassed that they have not been able to get the resources to solve our collection problem.

Mr. Higgins said that an option would be for residents to text or email Republic Services so they do not have to wait on the phone.

Mr. Ahronian asked if there was a management issue as well.

Mr. Stefkovich said that they have made some local changes. He said that there have been changes in the Auburn location. He said that he does not want to blame anyone who is no longer working for the Company. He said that he takes full responsibility. He said that people really do not notice the trash and recycling pickups, but if it is not done everyone notices.

Carl Damigella, 2018 Concord Street, said that he goes back to the Lawrence family. He said that when they first wrote the contract to go to curb side pickup, he said that one of the Selectmen's concerns was to see if Republic could supply free dumpsters for different organizations. He said that one of the organizations is the Holliston Pantry Shelf is a cardboard dumpster. Mr. Damigella said that he can't remember the last time that it was emptied. He said that it is so full now that a volunteer takes the cardboard and puts it in the van and taking it to Marshall Street on Saturday. He said that they did not sign up for that. Mr. Damigella said that the Food Truck show was always given a dumpster but not this year. Mr. Damigella said that he can remember when we felt like we were the only Town that Republic was taking care of. He said that things were like clockwork.

Mr. Damigella said that the high school senior class auction needs to be supplied with dumpsters. He said that there are other organizations that have always gotten donated dumpsters, but that is not happening any more. Mr. Damigella said that this is a violation of the contract.

Mr. Damigella said that he would like to see the DPW picking up the trash and recycling. He said that we are lucky to have Covanta in Town so that they could dump when it was needed. He said that it would be one more thing for the DPW to do.

Jay Leary, 146 Karen Circle, asked Mr. Stefkovich what are you going to do when you know you will be short staffed? How are you going to get the word out to the Town? He said that if the Town gets that information they can pass it along to the residents. He said that Republic Services needs better communications between themselves and the Town.

Mr. Higgins said that sometimes the drivers are all ready to go and the truck will not start. When they finally get it going then it becomes a late start for the driver. Mr. Higgins said that now they are checking in on their drivers during the day to see how they are doing. If they are behind, they will let Town Hall know. They can also bring in other trucks from surrounding Towns to help them finish their route.

Ms. Stefkovich said that this is something new that they are working on by bringing in other drivers to help.

Mr. Marsden said that he is concerned about the residents that have not had their trash and recycling picked up for weeks.

Mr. Marsden said that if a street is not completed on any given day, the next day republic Services should be there first thing in the morning to get it.

Mr. Stefkovich said that yes that is the policy that the drivers are to follow.

Mr. Stefkovich said that since they have been bringing in drivers from other communities, they do not know the routes, or the route maps could be wrong.

Mr. Marsden suggested a chase driver. He said that this driver could chase down the driver if he has missed stops.

Mr. Stefkovich said that he would like to consult with the Operations Managers about that suggestion. He said that he would get back to the Board after he has spoken with Operations.

Aislinn Weaver, 69 Woodland Street, she said that her entire street was picked up, but the driver skipped her house, she called right-a-way. She said that she was told that they would come back and pick it up. They never showed up. She said that for six weeks in a row her recycling was missed. She said that she is so frustrated at the lack of service that she thinks that the Town should go to another service.

Mr. Stefkovich said if they do not correct this, he expects the Town to exercise their right and hire another Company. Mr. Stefkovich apologized and said that he understands and he has the message. He said that Republic Service is fighting for their jobs. He said that if they don't do their job, then the Town should be looking at other companies.

George Johnson, 21 Temi Road, said that he has scheduled a bulk pickup three times and it still has not been picked up. He asked if the Call Center knows what is going on in Auburn? He said that there is a disconnect between Customer Service and Auburn.

Mr. Stefkovich said that the Call Center does know what is going on in Auburn. He said that they are getting an ear full from them.

Mr. Higgins said that most of the contracts outside of Massachusetts do not have bulk pickup. He said that they have seasoned employees who have been with them for a while and they understand the bulk pickup issue. Mr. Higgins said that every contract is different.

Cherie Hafford, 242 Lowland Street, said that Mr. Higgins and Mr. Grier were in before the Selectmen on March 19, 2017. And at that time, Mr. Grier said they were in a transition period, with gaps in communications. She said that Mr. Higgins said that there were lots of reasons for the gaps in communications, but it was mostly weather related. She said that now she knows that there is a bigger problem than first thought. She is looking for a solution. She said that with new trucks coming in October, does the mean that all the problems will continue until then?

Mr. Stefkovich said no he does not expect to have problems until October.

Mr. Stefkovich read a statement from Republic Service. He said that they are hiring additional drivers and technicians. He said that they are pulling in resources from other Towns and State to help. He said that the problems that they are having now is because of execution of the routes. Mr. Stefkovich said that they have enough resources to do the work, and they are focusing on Holliston. He said that he thinks that they will be more reliable as they move forward. He said that they can't work with temporary forever. He said that they need a full staff. Mr. Stefkovich said that from what he was told today was a good day.

Mr. Marsden thanked Republic Service for attending this meeting. Mr. Marsden asked if Mr. Higgins would reach out to him at least once a week to see how things are going. Mr. Marsden said the patients of the residents is wearing thin.

Mr. Damigella asked how many more years on this contract?

Mr. Marsden said that this is the last year. He said that there is a Committee that has been put in place to review all the options. Mr. Marsden said that there has been talk of single stream recycling. He said that he is not sure if that is a good idea or not.

#### **TRAILS COMMITTEE ENCROACHMENT LETTER**

Ken Henderson, 1028 Washington Street, Robert Weidknecht, 40 Hemlock Drive, both from the Trail Committee were present.

Mr. Henderson said that the Town owns the entire Rail Trail from Sherborn to Milford. He said that it is 6.7 miles long. He said that they want to make sure that Town property stays Town property and not used for other things. Mr. Henderson said that they sat with Town Counsel and came up with a letter that will be sent to all abutters of the Rail Trail. He said that some residents have been using the Trail as their personal dump. He said that in some places, there are vehicles parked on the Trail. Mr. Henderson said that some residents have built on the Rail Trail.

Mr. Henderson said that this all mapped out on the letter that will be sent out. He asked if the Selectmen are willing to support them.

Mr. Marsden said that yes they support them. A copy of the letter is attached.

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENCROACHMENT LETTER FOR THE RAIL TRAIL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2018**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2018, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE JULY 9, JULY 16, JULY 23, JULY 30, AUGUST 6, AUGUST 13, AUGUST 27, SEPTEMBER 10, SEPTEMBER 17, SEPTEMBER 24, OCTOBER 1, OCTOBER 15, OCTOBER 22, OCTOBER 29, NOVEMBER 5, NOVEMBER 19, NOVEMBER 26, DECEMBER 3, DECEMBER 10, AND DECEMBER 17, 2018 STARTING AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY NIGHT. THERE MAY BE THE CHANCE OF CANCELAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **APPOINTMENT – CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPOINT MALINI RAO TO THE CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 2021. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **CHAPTER 90 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST AND FINAL REPORT**

Tom Smith, Highway Superintendent, was present.

Mr. Marsden said that this is a reimbursement in the amount of \$325,329.50 for Chestnut Street, Evergreen Street, Hemlock Drive, Highland Street, Kuniholm Drive, Spruce Street, Walnut Street and Wedgewood Drive.

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE CHAPTER 90 REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$325,329.50. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

#### **YEAR END TRANSFERS**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE A LINE ITEM TRANSFER FOR THE PARK DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00 TO COVER UNEMPLOYMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

**MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO APPROVE A LINE ITEM TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00 FOR FIELD EXPENSES FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

**AT 8:10 P.M., MR. AHRONIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CRONIN WAS ABSENT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved\_\_\_\_\_