

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

December 13, 2021
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

Present: Tina Hein, Chair; Ben Sparrell, Vice Chair; (John Cronin, Clerk, Absent.)

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief, Matthew Stone, Police Chief, Blake Mensing, Attorney representing Zen Growing, Steven Valchuis, principal for Zen Growing, and Jay Talerma, Town Counsel.

At 7:00pm T. Hein called the meeting to order.

HPD LIFE SAVING AWARDS:

Chief Stone joined the meeting to share with the Board and residents an incident that occurred and resulted in four Police Officers receiving Life Saving Awards at a ceremony at the Police Station earlier that day. The Chief recounted the events of December 2, 2021 at the Holliston CVS Pharmacy where a gentleman had taken ill and stopped breathing. The CVS Pharmacist started CPR until the Holliston Police arrived at which time the Police took over. Four Holliston Police Officers in total responded as well as an off duty paramedic. A defibrillator was administered on site, then the patient was taken to the hospital where he underwent surgery and was later released.

The four Officers whom received the Life Saving Awards were Officer Digiorgio, Officer Downey, Officer Heney and Officer Keefe. Two civilian awards were also presented to the CVS Pharmacist and the off duty paramedic. The awards will be re-presented at the 2022 9/11 Ceremony conducted by the American Legion.

Both T. Hein and B. Sparrell offered their deepest gratitude to the outstanding work done by the entire Holliston Police Department.

HCA REQUEST ZEN GROWING LLC 72 JEFFREY AVE:

S. Valchuis and Attorney B. Mensing representing Zen Growing LLC were present to update the Select Board in regards to the HCA request for Zen Growing LLC at 72 Jeffrey Ave which was originally discussed at the November 29, 2021 meeting. The Board had asked for a more detailed presentation. S. Valchuis shared numerous slides outlining the proposed company structure which included prospective employees, building layout, odor mitigation, security and transportation of product. The Board continued to express their concerns around the location of the proposed business in relation to others in that area of the Industrial Park as well as the possible issue with odor around the product. S. Valchuis stated that the facility would be constructed with an extremely effective air treatment system in which the air will not be

flushed outside the building. S. Valchuis continued to state that the security plan will be approved by the Holliston Police Department and also be in compliance with the State. Attorney Mensing added that the trucks transporting product will be unmarked as is required by State Law and there is no direct site line to Holliston Pediatrics, which is located nearby. B. Sparrell stated that the responsibility of the Select Board is to make sure that the proposed business is a good fit for the Town.

T. Hein asked Town Counsel for clarity around a question of transferability of the HCA.

J. Talerman responded by stating that language could be added to dictate the specifics of a transfer of ownership of the HCA.

Chief Cassidy asked where the CO2 tanks involved in the cultivation process would be stored, and also a question about the extraction process. S. Valchuis responded by stating that the 100lb CO2 tanks will be stored within the building itself and the extraction process includes heat pressing and ice water bubbles.

T. Hein voiced her concern over what she feels is risk regarding the proposed staff experience and realizes that 100% order mitigation is unlikely. She concluded by thanking both S. Valchuis and Attorney Mensing for their time and asked that they postpone a vote until all 3 Board members were present.

Attorney Mensing noted that he and S. Valchuis will be holding another in person presentation at the Holliston Public Library on Wednesday December 15, 2021 at 6:00pm.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began the weekly update by stating that in the past 2 weeks the amount of Covid cases has risen to 1,101. The Chief explained that the Omicron variant is more easily transmissible, however at this point the symptoms seem to be milder than the original strain. The message still remains "Get vaccinated and get your booster if eligible to help stop the spread". Chief Cassidy noted that testing kits will be purchased and distributed by States individually, however he does not expect delivery until January 2022. Due to high demand testing kits will most likely be sent to areas with the most need and may be eligible for ARPA funding. As information becomes available the Chief will post it on the Town's social media.

CARES ACT /ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy stated that the final report on the CARES Act Funding was sent to the State on December 3, 2021. All of the \$1,137,000 granted to the Town has been utilized and no funds have been returned to the State. The next step will be to prepare and submit items eligible for reimbursement to FEMA.

T. Ahern had a conversation with the Auditor from Roselli and Clark, the Towns' Auditing Firm, around their interpretation of ARAP related revenue. He plans to share that information at the next ARPA Steering Group Meeting.

The next ARPA Steering Group Meeting will be scheduled after the Select Board has met with Senator Spilka and Rep Dykema to obtain a clearer picture of what Federal and State infrastructure funding the Town may be eligible for.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,176,266.47. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell encouraged all interested to please complete the survey for Envision Future Holliston.

B. Sparrell stated that there will be no change in the trash and recycling schedule the weeks of December 20, 2021 and December 27, 2021. Also the Recycling Center will be open on Thursday December 23, 2021 and December 30, 2021, closed Saturday December 25, 2021 and Saturday January 1, 2022. The Recycling Center will be open Sunday January 9, 2022 as well as the normally scheduled date of Saturday January 8, 2022.

B. Sparrell read the memo for the “No On-Street Parking Ban” which is in effect from November 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

T. Hein / None

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern will sign the documentation regarding a national opioid settlement on behalf of the Town of Holliston per advice from Town Counsel.

The Sidewalk and Water presentations/reports which were presented by Stantec during the last Select Board meeting are now available on the Towns website.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Goodwill Design/Engineering contract to Chemini Architecture, a subsidiary of Rodenheiser, not to exceed \$50,000. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize the amendments and corrections written by Town Counsel to correct the Host Agreement with New England Cannabis, now 4 Front, as previously voted in October 2018 at a Select Boards Meeting. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

T. Hein noted that this was a matter of “house cleaning” to clean up the language. This was not a vote to amend at this time.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NONE

At 8:23pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_1-24-22

