

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

April 19, 2022
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Matthew Stone, Holliston Police Chief; Sergeant Matthew Waugh; Sergeant Ken Belson; Sergeant Jon Remkus; Detective Ciara Maquire; Detective Chris Avey; Officer Bryan Digiorgio; Officer Mike Woods; Officer John Loftus; Officer Charlie Grace; Officer Dave Charette; Officer Ryan Parent; Officer Ethan Coakley; Dispatcher James Ray; Dispatcher Renee Masiello; and James Keast, Facilities Manager.

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

HOLLISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT – OFFICER RECOGNITION AWARDS:

Chief Stone joined the meeting to recognize several Holliston Police personnel who attended 3 separate calls of service with potential danger which resulted in safe outcomes for all involved. J. Cronin read the description of each event beginning with an incident on March 11th, 2022 in which an 11 year old resident was missing and was located safely and returned to her family. The Officers involved were Sergeant Matthew Waugh; Sergeant Ken Belson; Detective Ciara Maquire; Detective Chris Avey; School Resource Officer Bryan Digiorgio; School Resource Officer Mike Woods; Officer John Loftus and dispatcher James Ray. The second incident occurred on March 9th, 2022 and involved a situation regarding domestic violence. The Officers at the scene included Sergeant Jon Remkus; Officer Dave Charette; Officer Charlie Grace; Officer Ryan Parent and Dispatcher Renee Masiello. The Officers received Police Commendation Awards for their response to both of these incidents. The third call took place on September 15, 2021 and involved a mental health issue. Sergeant Jon Remkus and Officer Ethan Coakley both received Distinguished Service Awards. In all three cases the Officers/dispatchers responded with competence, professionalism, bravery, teamwork and overall excellent police work. T. Hein called the Officers present to the front of the room and congratulated and thanked them for all that they do to make Holliston a safe community.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT – DISCUSSION PRIOR TO POSTING:

T. Ahern stated that he would like to post the May 9, 2022 Meeting Warrant by the end of the week, (April 22, 2022). The Annual Town Meeting will start at 7:00pm. Articles 3-10 are all cannabis related. Kate Feoderoff, Town Counsel will be in attendance to assist with any relevant questions.

J. Cronin made a motion to refer Article #9 and #10 (Citizens Petitions) to the Planning Board for the appropriate Public Hearing. B. Sparrell second with the comment that the Public Hearing be posted as part of the posted Planning Board meeting on May 9, 2022 at 6:30pm. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern continued to go through each of the Articles on the Warrant. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Article #27 Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Omnibus Budget and Article #28 The Capital Expenditure Fund. The Select Board Recommended budget was voted on March 21, 2022. The Finance Committee Recommended budget was voted on April 12, 2022.

J. Cronin voiced his disappointment over the fact that the Finance Committee was unable to find a way to acquire funding for the 26th Police Officer requested by the Holliston Police Department. T. Hein suggested finding an approach to opening a debate on the matter at Town Meeting.

T. Ahern stated that he received an email from the Chair of the Community Preservation Committee and they are expecting changes on the numbers pertaining to the Blair Square Site Improvements and the Community Farm Improvements, Article #32. The appropriate changes will be made prior to Town Meeting. J. Cronin asked if the Committee could show a balance of remaining funds in their documentation.

The Select Board had a brief discussion regarding the amount of the \$30,000 placeholder for the 300th Anniversary Fund, Article #34.

T. Ahern received confirmation from the Chair of the Governance Committee that they no longer wish to make a presentation at Town Meeting. Article #35 will be removed.

T. Ahern will arrange a meeting with J. Talerma (Town Counsel), Bill Mayer (moderator), the Town Clerk, and various Chairs of Boards and Committees to go through Warrant prior to Town Meeting.

J. Cronin made a motion to open the Warrant for the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to remove Article #35 at the request of the Governance Committee. B. Sparrell second with the comment that he respects their decision to hold off on a presentation at this time. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to confirm the amount of \$30,000 as appropriate for Article #34, 300th Anniversary Fund. B. Sparrell second with the comment he agrees \$30,000 is the appropriate amount as well. Vote 3-0.

After additional discussion regarding Article #28, (Sum of Money for the Capital Expenditure Fund) and the estimated cost, T. Hein and J. Cronin agreed to change the amount from \$1,875,000 to \$1,715,000 which was the amount reflected in vote of the Select Board recommended budget on March 21, 2022. B. Sparrell did not agree with the change to reduce the estimated cost to \$1,715,000. No vote required.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve language changes to Article #38, (Change to Accessory Building and Structures, V-A; Location of Districts, II-B; Definitions, I-E). as suggested. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to close the May Annual Town Meeting Warrant. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANTS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Warrant in the amount of \$315.00 for the Veterans District. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,336,529.49. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin noted that he supports the Governance Committees decision to focus on the Town Administrator Special Act of 1994 and recommend changes. This will most likely be a lengthy process after which the Committee can also then review expanding the Select Board to 5 members.

T. Hein reminded the public that April is Sustainability Awareness month. Residents can take part in the Metal Recycling event at the Marshall Street Recycling Center on Saturday April 23, 2022 and Sunday April 24, 2022.

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE:

T. Ahern stated that Matt Zetteck was unable to attend the meeting and therefore will put the Sustainability Update on a future agenda. Information can be located via the Trash & Recycling link on the Town's website.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

2021 Annual Town Report: T. Ahern stated that the final draft of the 2021 Annual Town Report will be printed and available at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Copies will also be available at the Library and Town Hall. You may also access it online.

BOARD BUSINESS:

The School Committee voted at their last meeting to approve the Statement of Interest (SOI) application to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority and now presented it to the Select Board to authorize Dr. Kustka to submit it on the Town's behalf.

J. Cronin made a motion as follows: Having convened in an open meeting on April 19, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date the Select Board in the Town of Holliston in accordance with its by-laws has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 2022, for the Holliston High School located at 370 Hollis Street which describes and explains the deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future; and hereby further specifically

acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School building Authority. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin cautioned residents that Holliston's SOI is a "soft application", meaning the High School is not considered a "sick building" and there is not an overcrowding situation. These are 2 of the most prevalent issues that warrant the approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. J. Cronin suggested the Town begin to think about other ways the community could look to secure funding for the Schools.

Facilities Manager James Keast presented the Select Board with various rate options for Natural Gas Suppliers. The current contract expires in September 2022. The national indicator shows gas prices going up at a fairly steady rate. J. Keast recommended a 29 month fixed price contract with Direct.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the 29 month fixed rate contract with Direct to begin in September 2022 for natural gas supply. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Keast presented a Cellular/Wireless Communications Lease revision at 405 Hopping Brook Road for a change in equipment at the site. This will result in an additional fee paid to the Town.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the proposed Cellular/Wireless T-Mobile lease revisions at 405 Hopping Brook Road. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2022 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Ahern will be sending in paperwork relating to the \$300,000 earmarked for the DEP Grant for the Wasterwater Project highlighting how the funds will be used to the State.

T. Hein stated that she and T. Ahern will be drafting a Report of the Select Board for the May Town Meeting. She asked both her fellow Board members for their input.

At 9:07pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved____05-31-22

