

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON**  
**SELECT BOARD**

May 2, 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; Kathryn Peirce, Retiring Principal Assessor; Mary Greendale, Peter Barbieri, Jeffrey Marshall, Board of Assessors; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; and Mary Bousquet, Treasurer/Collector.

At 7:02pm T. Hein called the meeting to order.

**RECOGNITION FOR KATHRYN PEIRCE, PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR:**

T. Hein introduced Kathryn Peirce, the Principal Assessor for the Town of Holliston for the past 25 years. T. Hein noted her long and successful career as Principal Assessor and thanked her on behalf of the Town for her outstanding service to the community. P. Barbieri stated that K. Peirce took on the job of Principal Assessor during a very challenging time and before long created an efficiently run office which still exists today. M. Greendale noted that K. Peirce has outstanding credibility with the State and other communities, she is that special combination of personality and knowledge. J. Marshall stated that as the newest member of the Board of Assessors he thanked K. Peirce for her dedication to the Town and her support to the community. J. Cronin, who had served on the Board of Assessors previously stated that it had been a pleasure to work with K. Peirce over the years. B. Sparrell and T. Hein expressed sincere gratitude for all the hard work K. Peirce put in during her tenure in Holliston. T. Ahern pointed out that K. Peirce had a part in the Town achieving the AAA rating.

K. Peirce noted that one of her main goals over the years has been to strengthen communication between the Town residents and the Assessor's Office, and to educate the public. K. Peirce thanked Holliston for the opportunity to serve and stated that she will be available to her successor Kevin Rudden as he transitions.

**BOARD BUSINESS / SIGN GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND:**

Treasurer/Collector Mary Bousquet joined the meeting and presented the Select Board with paperwork related to the General Obligation Bond (GOB) Notes for the Water Treatment Plant at Well #5. J. Cronin read the 3 page memo detailing the specifics of the General Obligation Water Bonds.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Vote of the Select Board as previously read by the Clerk. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

M. Bousquet noted that the Town will approximately \$150,000 over the life of the bond.

### **COVID-19 / ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy stated that the CARES Act report has been submitted and closed out with no issues. The first ARPA financial report was submitted on April 30, 2022.

The ARPA Steering Committee met earlier in the day, (May 2, 2022) and voted to pass on 3 requests to the Select Board.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$105,000 for the Park & Recreation revolving fund and \$100,000 for the School Bus revolving fund for lost revenue from ARPA funding. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell inquired as to how the amounts in the motion were derived. T. Ahern stated that the Director of Park & Recreation used information from previous years revenue. The lost School Bus revenue was actually substantially greater and the \$100,000 was considered a reasonable amount.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve up to \$45,000 for technical assistance for the Economic Development Committee to be funded by ARPA under the technical assistance and counseling or business planning. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern will draft a report that will highlight and summarize all the ARPA funding approved to date and how that compares with the original intended allocations in the overall ARPA Fund. In the future discussions may result in some adjustments.

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING PREPARATION:**

Chief Cassidy stated that the Annual Town Meeting on Monday May 9, 2022 will resemble past Town Meetings in that it will be a more “normal” experience. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Attendees will enter through the main doors, check in in the main hallway and will be able to sit throughout the auditorium as they please, as there will be no social distancing required. Masks are optional. The quorum will be set at 100 and additional information regarding onsite child care will be provided in the near future.

T. Ahern noted that the Planning Board has posted a Public Hearing prior to Town Meeting on May 9, 2022 at 6:30pm in the High School Library for cannabis related articles. The Select Board has also posted a Board Meeting on May 9, 2022 at 6:00pm in the High School Library.

### **WARRANT:**

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$594,516.51. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Cronin stated that the Holliston Fire Department successfully extinguished a fire which spread over 28 acres this past Friday April 29, 2022.

HCAAT will run profiles for the Holliston candidates for the upcoming May 2022 election.

B. Sparrell stated that the next meeting for Envisioning Future Holliston will be held on

Wednesday May 4, 2022.

T. Hein noted that Wednesday May 4, 2022 is Walk, Bike, Roll to School in Holliston.

#### **COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

HCAAT's most recent segment of "Just Thinking" will feature Select Board Chair Tina Hein, Town Administrator Travis Ahern, School Committee Chair Cynthia Listewnik, and Superintendent Dr. Kustka.

HCAAT's "Ask the TA" is currently taking questions for the next shows topic.

The Mass Department of Transportation may grant up to \$300,000 as part of the Winter Recovery Assistance Program. Based on road mileage it can be used for repairs on roadways and sidewalks as a result of damage caused during the winter months.

The final work is being completed at the Town Hall pertaining to the new septic system.

#### **REVIEW PRELIMINARY DATA ON FACTORY POND AND HOUGHTON POND DAMS:**

T. Ahern presented a brief update on the status of Factory Pond and Houghton Pond Dams. There has been work done recently by Lenard Engineering to bring the dams up to compliance, however they continue to remain in poor condition. Pare Corporation has put together a Cost-Benefit Analysis relating to repair, rehabilitation or removal of the dams. These costs will be factored into the 5 year Capital Plan. The report will be presented in full at a Select Boards meeting sometime after May Town Meeting. The Select Board will schedule a Public Hearing as well at that time.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS CONT'D:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2022 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0

J. Cronin made a motion approve the repairs to the Public Clock in general proximity of the Holliston Public Library donated by the Holliston VFW, Leonard D. Chesmore Post 8507, value to be determined once the repairs are complete. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to submit the MBTA Community Information Form due May 2, 2022. Once completed this will keep the MBTA community compliant for the next round of funding for the Housing Choice Initiative, the Local Capital Projects Fund and Mass Works Infrastructure Program, but does not commit the Town to any specific actions at this time. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to apply for a Mass. Trails Grant for Blair Square. These funds if granted will be used to offset the Community Preservation Funding. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0. T. Ahern pointed out that this will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> grant application for this purpose, with thanks to Karen Sherman the Town Planner.

J. Cronin made a motion approve a One-day Alcohol Beverage Permit for a party on May 21, 2022 from 6:00pm-11:00pm in Upper Town Hall. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

T. Hein stated that the “One Stop for Growth” application deadline is now June 3, 2022.

T. Hein also made an inquiry into the activity regarding the rental of the Upper Town Hall for events. T. Ahern stated that there has been significant demand and the Select Boards office has been quite active booking events.

At 8:22pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_06-06-22

