

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

May 23, 2022
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; Donald Vonner, Verizon representative; Daniel Gonzalez and Jeremy Mason, representatives from J.D. Automotive.

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

COVID-19 UPDATE / ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

Covid-19 Update: Chief Cassidy joined the meeting and began his update by stating that Holliston as well as most of Massachusetts is currently Red. He explained the virus continues to be highly contagious, however the need for hospitalization remains lower. The number of infected individuals may vary due to the fact that positive home test results are not being reported as consistently as they are within the Schools. The Chief noted that additional test kits will be distributed to the Senior Center, Board of Health and the Food Pantry in the near future. In response to a question asked by B. Sparrell regarding “long term” effects of the virus the Chief indicated that there is ongoing research at this time.

ARPA Update: Chief Cassidy explained to the Board that the ARPA Steering Group was seeking to expand the concept, the explanation of what qualifies as “cleaning and sanitizing” in an effort to spend down the previously appropriated \$55,000 within that category.

B. Sparrell made a motion to expand the prior authorization for ARPA account 55010, Cleaning and Sanitizing to include, communication, social distancing and other mitigation strategies. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

T. Ahern stated that with the recent vote to approve \$45,000 for technical assistance for the Economic Development Committee he will update the RFP, (Request for Proposal) with the intent to acquire the assistance of an individual. If that is not possible then the Town can engage with the MAPC, (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) to access their directory of consultants. The plan is to have the RFP deadline in early June 2022.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,537,411.57. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chief Cassidy stated that on Monday May 16, 2022 there was a house fire on Rolling Meadow

Drive. Two on call Holliston Fire Fighters happened to be working in the neighborhood and were able to respond prior to the Fire Trucks arrival. The Chief pointed out that having firefighters imbedded within the community proves to be very advantageous. The Chief also thanked the Medway and Sherborn Fire Fighters for their support during the event. The third annual Holliston High School Car Parade was on Sunday May 22, 2022 and was again a great success.

B. Sparrell encouraged all to go out and cast their votes at the Town Elections tomorrow, Tuesday May 24, 2022. He also thanked all involved with Holliston "touch a truck" for a well organized, much enjoyed event.

T. Hein, who is up for reelection expressed her thanks to J. Cronin, B. Sparrell and T. Ahern for a year of quality and tremendous work. She also thanked all within the Town, officials and employees, who supported her over the past 3 years as a Select Board member. T. Hein wished all candidates the "best of luck".

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern went over several scheduling items for upcoming Select Board meetings. He will request that Bob Blair join the May 31, 2022 meeting to discuss the entertainment (music) permit for this years Farmers Market.

The Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) will have a follow up meeting regarding the most recent McMahon traffic study on Highland/Prentice/Hollis Streets.

A follow up meeting with the Dams Working Group will be scheduled in the near future.

The MRI (Municipal Resources Inc.) report for the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Report is on the May 31, 2022 agenda and will most likely generate follow up discussion.

On June 6, 2022 Lombardo Engineering will present the initial report for the downtown sewer project engaged through ARPA funding.

June 13, 2022 there will be an update from Town Counsel on the Cannabis Industry. This will help the Town evaluate the option to adopt annual licenses for the cannabis related businesses within the Town.

There will be a second update by Weston & Sampson on the DPW Feasibility Study soon.

T. Ahern concluded his comments by stating that the Town was awarded \$194,000 as part of a grant from Shared Streets & Spaces for the 9 Green Street project. This will help defray the \$300,000 approved for the project.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the event permit for the ALS TDI, Tri State Trek Charity Bicycle Ride on Friday June 24, 2022. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

T. Ahern noted that Town Counsel and Good Feels Inc agreed on the final draft of the Host Agreement and had brought it back to the Select Board for final approval.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the HCA as presented by Town Counsel for 72 Jeffry Ave known as Good Feels Inc. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the appointment of Jacquelyn Valsamis to the Conservation Commission with a term ending June 30, 2024 with thanks to Ms. Valsamis. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

VERIZON POLE HEARING – MILL STREET:

At 7:46pm B. Sparrell made a motion to open the Public Hearing for 3 Poles on Mill Street, (then proceeded to read the “notice of hearing”). T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.
Donald Vonner representing Verizon joined the meeting and answered several questions regarding the relocation of the 3 poles on Mill Street.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the 3 requests from Verizon New England for Mill Street as presented to relocate poles, wires, cables and fixtures. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

At 7:51pm B. Sparrell made a motion to close the Public Hearing. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell noted that the Holliston Memorial Parade will be held on Monday May 30, 2022.

J.D. AUTOMOTIVE D/B/A BOUDREAU’S AUTOMOTIVE:

At 8:01pm B. Sparrell made a motion to open the Public Hearing for a Class II Dealers License for buying and selling used vehicles to be conducted on the premise of 441R Washington Street Holliston Mass. under the name of J.D. Automotive d/b/a Boudreau’s Automotive. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

Daniel Gonzales and Jeremy Mason joined the meeting via zoom representing J.D Automotive. D. Gonzales stated that the hours of operation would be from 7:30am – 5:30am during the hours that the business is open for auto repairs and that 5 vehicles would be the maximum on site. T. Ahern stated that the Special Permitting process had already been completed on September 29, 2021.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Class II Motor Vehicle Dealers License for 441R Washington Street Holliston for J.D. Automotive d/b/a Boudreau’s Automotive, terms of which shall follow the Special Permit for said property. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

At 8:04pm B. Sparrell moved to close the Public Hearing for the Class II Dealers License. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

At 8:05pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved____6-27-22

