

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

June 13, 2022
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

Present: Ben Sparrell, Chair; John Cronin, Vice Chair; T. Hein, Clerk, arrived at 7:30pm.

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Attorney Elizabeth Lydon, Town Counsel; and Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief.

At 7:00pm B. Sparrell called the meeting to order.

UPDATE ON CANNABIS INDUSTRY FROM TOWN COUNSEL:

Attorney Elizabeth Lydon from Mead, Talerman, and Costa joined the meeting to discuss with the Select Board the draft copy of the proposed Rules & Regulations for the cannabis businesses within Holliston and to update them regarding pending legislation. The Town voted allowance of delivery, Article 8 on the May 2022 Town Meeting Warrant. At this point there have been no businesses to request an HCA regarding delivery. The proposed Rules & Regulations would include all types of cannabis establishments, marijuana cultivators, manufacturer, testing facilities, delivery and other marijuana establishments. Rules & Regulations were not officially adopted after cannabis was approved and voted into Town. The intent is to use a similar licensing process as with liquor establishments within Town, with an annual renewal in January. This will include language for misconduct and violations and associated fees. Attorney Lydon noted that currently before legislation is a change regarding the fees paid to Towns as part of the HCA. This change suggests calculating fees based on the impact of the specific business on the Town rather than based on a percentage of the sales of said business.

7:30pm T. Hein joined the meeting.

The Select Board took the opportunity to ask Attorney Lydon several questions. After which Attorney Lydon stated that she will keep the Select Board updated of any changes made through the legislation.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Town of Holliston Select Board Rules & Regulations for Marijuana Cultivators, Manufactures, Testing Facilities and Other Marijuana Establishments as presented by Town Counsel with allowance for necessary but non substantive changes to be effective January 1, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

The Select Board thanked Attorney Lydon for her time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin congratulated T. Hein on her recent graduation from the Metrowest Leadership Academy.

J. Cronin noted two DPW updates: The Mudville Streets and Sidewalk Project should be

completed by the end of this summer (2022). The Water Treatment Plant on Central Street should be ready to test (flow) in September 2022.

J. Cronin noted several Council on Aging updates: Seniors are encouraged to complete the Envisioning Future Holliston Survey #2 and the UMASS Aging in Place survey in an effort to obtain that demographic within Town. The Senior Center Director Lisa Borchetta is looking at the possibility of Holliston qualifying with the State as a Dementia Friendly Community. And lastly the importance of a safe sidewalk infrastructure for the seniors within Town.

B. Sparrell stated that currently there have been 185 responses to Envisioning Future Holliston Survey #2. The survey is available online and there are copies at the Town Hall, Library and Senior Center.

T. Ahern stated that Public Comment can now be sent into the Select Boards Office prior to the meetings via email and then will be read into the record by the Town Administrator or Clerk.

COVID-19 / ARPA UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy noted that the next ARPA report is due April 30, 2023. There have been two changes regarding the guidelines. The changes involve equity and community engagement as well as metrics and evaluation.

The Chief presented three recommendations from the last ARPA Steering Group meeting.

T. Hein made a motion to authorize \$35,350 to be funded by ARPA for CAMA Cloud with mobile Assessing module for FY23 per the Board of Assessors request. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to extend the unused portions of the Public Health Response Project including cleaning and sanitizing, PPE, case management and antigen testing through June 30, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to increase the appropriation for the Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Study for the Downtown Wastewater Treatment plant by \$5,000 above the original \$150,000 for the purpose of completing the hydro geological technical evaluation needed to determine the capacity of the drainage fields. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein asked if there has been any movement on the interest for an outdoor garden at the Elementary School. Chief Cassidy responded that the request had been forwarded to the School Committee.

MEMORANDUM FOR EMT COMPENSATION MODEL (TRIAL):

Chief Cassidy brought forward a proposal in response to the MRI Study for a three month trial of the EMT Compensation Model starting on July 1, 2022. The proposal includes the following: Per Diem Ambulance Staffing – pay hourly for the time personnel is awaiting calls at the Fire Station. This time can be used for other tasks in house as well.

On-call Ambulance Staffing – personnel commits to a 12 hour shift, however choosing not to remain at the Fire Station, and will be paid the shift stipend for being on-call and also be paid hourly for any calls to which they respond during the shift.

Off Duty Ambulance Staffing – Personnel who respond to a call while off duty will be paid hourly with a minimum of 1.5 hours.

Training- No changes are proposed to the compensation for the 2 hour training.

These will reflect the pay rates that were approved at the May 2022 Town Meeting.

B. Sparrell appreciated the creative efforts made by Chief Cassidy.

J. Cronin inquired if ARPA funding was eligible and could be used for compensation. Chief Cassidy noted that more data would be needed to determine that.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the proposed beta test period for changes to the compensation model for EMT Ambulance Personnel as presented by the Fire Chief for a 90 day period, starting July 1, 2022. J. Cronin second with the provision that the Chief explore the possibility of offsetting cost through ARPA funding. Vote 3-0.

WARRANT:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$600,409.94. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

5 Year Capital Improvement Plan FY2023-FY2027:

T. Ahern recently met with the Subcommittee regarding the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan. There have not been any changes from the previous presentation. There is little enthusiasm for incorporating the Water Pipeline Replacement project into the General Fund, however there is some interest in supporting the Water Enterprise Fund within the General Fund.

There are links to the various projects within Town outlining the various stages. The projects include 9 Green Street, DPW Public Works, Dams, Stormwater Engineering Studies, Sidewalk 10 year improvements, High School SOI, Wastewater Moderation Study and the Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Study.

T. Ahern provided some cost estimates for the backlog on the sidewalk project and anticipates looking for funding at the upcoming October 2022 Fall Town Meeting. He continued to discuss some other items within the Stantec Studies and noted that the next street scheduled for construction is Norfolk, then Goulding and then Central Street. After a brief discussion the Select Board asked that Central Street be placed before Goulding on the schedule.

J. Cronin suggested a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to review the Capital Improvement Plan details, which are provided within the various reports. B. Sparrell stated that he will reach out to the Finance Committee Chair to schedule a joint meeting.

Other Items of Interest:

T. Ahern noted that the Assistant Town Administrator K. Buckley has completed job descriptions for the newly created DPW Grounds Division and has forwarded them to the employee Union. The positions will be posted on July 1, 2022.

There have been two residents who have expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the

Finance Committee. The Select Board will hold a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on June 28, 2022. At that time the two candidates will be presented several predetermined questions after which a vote will be taken.

BOARD BUSINESS:

The Select Board discussed the meeting schedule for the months of June, July and August 2022. A decision was made to cancel two upcoming meetings and also look to schedule a tri-board meeting, including the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee in early August.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Summer Meeting Schedule as presented with the planned cancelation of the June 21, 2022 and July 5, 2022 meetings. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the event permit for Team Kermit/Pan Mass Challenge Day Zero cyclists on August 5, 2022. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

Since the completion of the Mudville Improvement project there have been issues with larger vehicles such as Trash/Recycling Trucks and emergency vehicles navigating the intersections with the new granite curbing. The Town would like to institute No Parking within 50 feet of all Mudville intersections. T. Ahern noted the Streets include those listed in the Chapter 90 reimbursement; Exchange, School, Pleasant, Spring, Mechanic and Union Streets.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Fire Chief to prohibit parking within 50 feet of all intersections in the Mudville section of Town to include Exchange, School, Pleasant, Spring, Mechanic and Union Streets effective July 1, 2022, to be updated in the Traffic Rules and Orders. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Madison Grace and Sebastien Joseph as On-call EMT's, Alan Greendale Jr. as an On-call Firefighter and Caleb Hagarty as an On-call Firefighter/EMT to the Holliston Fire Department effective immediately. J. Cronin second with Thanks. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2022 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Chapter 90 reimbursement in the amount of \$152,435 for the Mudville project which encompassed Exchange, School, Pleasant, Spring, Mechanic and Union Streets. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein requested an update on the States Local Bottleneck Program in an upcoming meeting.

At 9:16pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_8-1-22

