

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

July 27, 2022  
3:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

**Present:** John Cronin, Vice Chair, remote; T. Hein, Clerk; Ben Sparrell, Chair, absent

**Also Present:** Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director; James Keast, Facilities Manager; Deborah Moore, Golf Course Advisory Committee, remote; Bill Harrison, President of New England Golf, remote and Sean Reese, Director DPW, remote.

At 3:00pm J. Cronin read the memo for the Remote Open Meeting Law. Attendance was taken by Roll Call: T. Hein, AYE; J. Cronin, AYE.

**MEETING TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THE USE OF TOWN WATER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE ASSET OF THE GOLF COURSE FRONT NINE GREENS DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS:**

J. Cronin began the meeting by noting that effective July 23, 2022 the Town enacted strict water restrictions due to the fact that we are now experiencing a significant draught.

B. Harrison and D. Moore both representing Pinecrest Golf Course joined the meeting to inquire if the Course could have the use of Town water to temporarily supply water to Holes 2-8, green and tees only. B. Harrison stated that the golf course which is an asset to the Town contributes approximately \$300,000 in revenue annually. He is concerned about the cost to the Town if action is not taken. Damage done to the course due to the drought could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair/replace.

J. Keast, Facilities Manager provided a presentation with various slides. The options to be considered included. 1. Status Quo – make no changes. 2. Connect to the water pumps on Highland Street temporarily to the golf course. 3. Truck in water from an outside source. A long term solution would be to drill an additional well which would not be completed for several months.

S. Reese, DPW Director phoned into the meeting and stated that the Town does not have the water supply due to the conditions of the wells throughout Town as a result of the ongoing draught to assist the golf course. S. Reese added that in his opinion, from his perspective it is not advisable.

K. Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator read a memo from Chief Cassidy which noted the need to safeguard the Town's water supply for fire safety. Chief Cassidy is not in favor of using Town water to assist in the golf course needs at this time.

K. Buckley also read a memo for B. Sparrell the Select Board Chair. B. Sparrell is opposed to using the Town's water supply and asked that the Pinecrest Golf Course look to their operating

funds as a way to fund a temporary solution. B. Sparrell also asked that there be an update given at the Select Board Meeting on Monday August 1, 2022.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Cronin stated that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection strongly suggests not adding water usage during this critical time. J. Cronin agrees that the golf course is an asset worth protecting, however there is a need to insure the residents continue to have use of water throughout Town.

T. Hein stated that although she understands the concerns brought forward by D. Moore and B. Harrison she feels strongly that the points made by Chief Cassidy and S. Reese demonstrate the need that water now must be conserved for all residents use.

After some brief discussion it was determined that the golf course should use exiting revenue to bring water in as a temporary solution and revisit the topic on Monday August 1, 2022 at the Select Board Meeting.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize the Golf Course Advisory Committee to use funds available from exiting revenue to bring water in from an outside source as a short-term solution due to the current drought. T. Hein second. Roll Call: J. Cronin, YES; T. Hein, YES.

At 3:45pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: J. Cronin YES; T. Hein, YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_8-29-22