

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

August 29, 2022
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Lieutenant Chad Thompson, Holliston Police Department; Christopher Mustard, Holliston Police Department candidate, Jackie Winer, Director Youth & Family; and Karen Adelman-Foster, representative Senator Spilka's Office.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jackie Winer, Director of Youth & Family Services joined the meeting to announce that Holliston has been awarded a \$625,000 Drug-Free Communities grant, payable over a period of 5 years, \$125,000 annually, after which the Town may apply for additional funding. J. Winer expressed her gratitude for all the hard work by the Holliston Drug Coalition. Each Select Board member thanked J. Winer and all involved in Holliston Drug Coalition as well.

Karen Adelman-Foster, congratulated all on behalf of State Senator President Karen Spilka. K. Adelman-Foster proceeded to summarize several other points of interest for the Town. The \$11 billion State Transportation Bond Bill includes funding for infrastructure, regional transportation and EV stations to name a few. The \$5 billion General Government Bond Bill which will include funding for health care, affordable housing and environmental causes. There are two appropriations specifically for the Town of Holliston. \$1 million for design and construction of sidewalks and \$300,000 for the redevelopment of Blair Square. K. Adelman-Foster explained that these funds have been authorized, however this does not guarantee they will be used to fund the projects. The next step is to advocate for them once the projects become "shovel ready". The Select Board expressed their gratitude to the Senators Office for their continued support.

APPOINTMENT OF PATROL OFFICER / CHRISTOPHER MUSTARD:

Lieutenant Chad Thompson introduced Christopher Mustard as the candidate for appointment to the Holliston Police Department. C. Mustard stated that after 15 years in the private sector (private security) he wanted to change direction and work on the public side, (law enforcement).

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Christopher Mustard as a Patrol Officer with the Holliston Police Department with a start date to be determined by the Chief of Police. J. Cronin second.

Vote 3-0.

ARPA STEERING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chief Cassidy presented 4 recommendations made by the ARPA Steering Group from the most recent meeting on August 18, 2022.

1. Authorize the second round of funding for the Council on Aging, "Aging in Place" with the assistance of Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$75,000. 2. Authorization for the Board of Health in the amount of \$20,000 for Covid-19 Case Management for the remainder of the Fiscal year. 3. Funding in the amount of \$120,000 to bridge the gap between the CPC (Community Preservation Commission) appropriated amount and the final cost of the Blair Square renovation project. 4. The Food Pantry made a request for funding for a new freezer to replace an older damaged one in the amount of \$7,590.

T. Hein asked for clarity on the \$120,000 gap funding for the Blair Square Project as in the past there had been discussion regarding fund raising. Chief Cassidy stated that it's his understanding that fund raising will be done and if so any monies raised will then result in the reallocation of the ARPA monies.

T. Ahern gave a brief overview of the ARPA monies allocated and funded and pointed out that there has already been a change in allocation once. The majority of capacity left falls under infrastructure and or capital.

T. Hein made motion to approve the use of ARPA funds as follows: \$75,000 for the second installment for the Council on Aging Home Repair Program, partnering with Habitat for Humanity; \$20,000 for the Board of Health to continue Covid-19 case management for the rest of the fiscal year; \$7590 for the Holliston Food Panty to cover the cost of a 2 door freezer in support of the charitable mission; and up to \$120,000 to insure that the Blair Square redesigned project as approved by the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting continues as designed with any newly available funding being used to reduce the ARPA funding first, then can reduce the CPC funding to complete the project. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin stated that the Council on Aging "Aging in Place" program is one of the most creative and meaningful programs he has seen. Chief Cassidy added that it is wonderful example of municipal government at work.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,523,423.85. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Continued

J. Cronin reminded residents that early voting is being held at the Town Hall from August 22, 2022 until September 2, 2022. Voting will be held at the Holliston High School on Tuesday September 6, 2022.

J. Cronin met with Barbara Gardner regarding an interest in the Town of Holliston applying to "Tree City USA". The program is designed to embrace tree planning and planting. More discussion will be held in the future.

B. Sparrell stated that Envisioning Future Holliston subcommittee is compiling the data received from the second survey. There were 1,105 responses.

PREP FOR THE OCTOBER 17, 2022 TOWN MEETING:

T. Ahern has met with the Town Accountant, Treasure Collector and Principal Assessor in preparation for Free Cash Certification. T. Ahern is also waiting on the Cherry Sheet from the State Senators Office. Other items to be addressed at the October 2022 Town Meeting may include the reserve funds, capital budget, supplemental budget (if needed), several personnel bylaws changes, Envisioning Future Holliston report, several DPW articles, Houghton Pond dam, solar projects and a TIF (tax incremental financing). There are currently 19 draft articles.

B. Sparrell suggested scheduling a public forum once the 2022 Fall Town Meeting Warrant closes to go over the articles. J. Cronin suggested inviting other Boards that have sponsored articles to attend as well. The Board will choose a date within the first 2 weeks of October.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) has started working with the Economic Development Committee with an end date of March 1, 2023.

In preparation for the October 2022 Fall Town Meeting HCAT would like to run a segment to highlight such items as the DPW Feasibility Study, Sidewalks, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Town Dams.

James Keast, Facilities Manager has put together an RFP (request for proposal) for privately owned land for possible DPW Facility sites. The results of which will not be available by the October 2022 Fall Town Meeting.

The next scheduled Select Board Meeting will be on Wednesday September 7, 2022.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to waive the Liquor License fees for the Lions Club monthly meetings held at the Senior Center. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2022 and July 18, 2022 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2022 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0-1. B. Sparrell abstained.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$150 to the Senior Center gift account from Jeffrey Hayden in the memory of Charles Cole. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Jaclyn Winer to the Youth Advisory Committee with a term to expire June 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint John Drohan to the Youth Advisory Committee with a term to expire June 2025. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to retroactively approve the Event Permit for the Waushakum Live Steamers Annual Meeting, previously approved by the Holliston Police Department which was held on August 26-28, 2022. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Holliston Bike & Listen Tour to be held on Sunday September 18, 2022 from 3:00pm-4:30pm along Norfolk Street. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the IBC, International Basava Center Walkathon/Bikeathon on Saturday September 24, 2022 on the Upper Charles Rail Trail. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the 2022 Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life to be held on October 1, 2022, which will begin at 7:00am. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the annual Fall Fair & Yard Sale to be held at the Holliston Senior Center from 9:00am-3:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein asked for clarification around funding for the Town's 300th Anniversary. Town Meeting allocated \$30,000 for the 300th Anniversary, with an additional earmark of \$10,000 in the State's FY23 Budget.

T. Ahern stated all requests for funding from committees and groups will need approval from the Select Board.

B. Sparrell reminded residents that early voting is currently taking place at Town Hall. On Tuesday September 6, 2022 voting will be held at the Holliston High School.

At 8:20pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__09-27-22

