

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

September 12, 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.

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

PREPARATION FOR OCT. 17, 2022 FALL TOWN MEETING:

T. Ahern presented a slide with 26 draft articles for the October 17, 2022 Town Meeting. T. Ahern explained that the Capital Budget as it stands is subject to change slightly. More details will be presented at the September 19, 2022 Select Board Meeting after the Warrant closes at 4:00pm. The next review of the Articles will include recommendations as well. T. Ahern went through each article briefly. T. Ahern stated that next week, while Chief Cassidy will be in attendance discussion regarding the MRI Study results, which may alter the EMT pay rates which would then affect the Supplemental Budget. This too will relate to the Personnel By-laws Article for the Dispatch & Uniform.

J. Cronin made an inquiry as to how the balances relate to the Financial Policies established in 2021. At this time T. Ahern does not have the final numbers from June 30th, 2022. T. Ahern noted that currently there is zero debt within the Levy and after this year there is one final item in which borrowing will end in 2029.

Further discussion of the Warrant continued around the DPW sponsored articles. For the past 4 years information has been collected regarding the Stormwater Plan the next step is to look towards implementation. There are two possible solutions for Houghton Pond, an estimated \$55,000 should cover the cost of a study of the hydraulics, sediment, and an additional survey. The Select Board stated that a vote on Article 17, DPW Facility – Design/Engineering is not a vote for a specific site. This article will continue the work on a design for a proposed DPW facility. There is a Request for Proposal DPW Land Acquisition/Purchase for privately owned land, bid closing on Friday October 7, 2022. After which, further discussion including a Public Forum after the October 17 Town Meeting will take place.

The Board of Assessors sponsored articles would authorize the possibility of 2 solar projects PILOT's (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) should they go forward, this is not a vote to authorize the projects themselves.

The proposed Citizens Petition Article is related to an article that passed this past May 2022 Town Meeting under Mass General Law that requires a Public Hearing to be held by the Planning Board, this requires the Select Board as the recipient of the Citizens Petition to direct

it to the Planning Board to make a recommendation for the Town Meeting Warrant.

T. Hein made a motion to send the Citizens Petition under Mass General Law 40A, section 5 to the Planning Board for review. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

The start time of the October 17, 2022 will be at 7:00pm, which was voted on at the last Select Board meeting on September 7, 2022. T. Hein will look into the possibility of child care during the Town Meeting similar to what was provided at the May Town Meeting.

COVID-19 / ARPA UPDATE:

T. Ahern presented a graphic with the latest update of the allocations and expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Act. A quarterly review will continue for the life of the grant. B. Sparrell noted the importance of continuing to allow for monies to be allocated for continued virus related expenses, such as PPE.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,789,715.43. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein stated that the Bike and Listen Tour will take place on Sunday September 18, 2022 from 3:00pm-4:30pm. Beginning at Blair Square, up Norfolk Street with stops at Patoma and Stoddard Park. Representatives from the Park & Recreation Department will be stationed at the Parks. Auxiliary Police will act as the lead and anchor riders.

J. Cronin asked that Police Chief Stone be invited to an upcoming Select Board meeting to provide updates on the Commercial Vehicle enforcement.

B. Sparrell stated that the Envisioning Future Holliston will be holding a Public Forum on Wednesday September 14, 2022 to discuss the results of the second survey.

Bill Rainsford, 170 Karen Circle phoned into the meeting asking for clarity regarding Article 17, DPW Facility – Design/Engineering (Cont.). B. Rainsford is concerned that the use of the wording “Preliminary” when referring to the design and engineering will get lost in translation and that the design will lock the Town into a specific site. B. Sparrell stated that a site will not be selected as a result of the vote taken on Article 17, this will simply allow the Town to keep moving forward in the process.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern asked for guidance from the Select Board in selection of the remaining seat on the Traffic Advisory Committee. There are two individuals interested in the 5th seat.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize T. Hein and T. Ahern to screen the two interested candidates and make a recommendation to fill the remaining seat of the Traffic Advisory Committee. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Mass DOT project on route 16/Washington Street continues. There have been issues with drainage which has altered the timeline. J. Cronin asked that while the project is ongoing to make an inquiry of Mass DOT regarding additional signage at the intersection of Washington and Summer Streets. T. Hein also noted that there has been a resident concerned about a pothole in front of 1038 Washington Street, could that also be addressed.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2022 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein noted that the Safe Streets for All Grant closes on September 15, 2022. The Town will not be applying as the Town of Holliston is included within the regional request.

T. Ahern stated that the Town will begin the process of reviewing the Trash and Recycling Program with E.L. Harvey for possible changes within the contract.

B. Sparrell asked that the Sustainability Coordinator be invited to a future Select Board meeting with an update.

At 8:24pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__10-11-22

