

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

September 19, 2022
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Keith Buday, Assistant School Superintendent of Finance & Operations; Michael Cassidy, Holliston Fire Chief; Matthew Stone, Holliston Police Chief; Daniel Alford, Michelle Zimmer, Jay Robinson, Finance Committee Members; James Keast, Facilities Manager and Christopher Pierce, resident.

At 7:00pm B. Sparrell read the Open Meeting Law memo for remote participation. Then called the meeting order by a Roll Call vote: J. Cronin, AYE; T. Hein, AYE; B. Sparrell, AYE.

PREPARATION FOR OCTOBER 17, 2022 FALL TOWN MEETING:

Keith Buday, Assistant School Superintendent of Finance & Operations reviewed the request from the Schools pertaining to technology based items under Article 5 Capital Budget. J. Cronin asked K. Buday for an update on the various facility related requests made by the Schools in past Town Meetings. K. Buday stated that there have been some delays in certain projects due to ongoing issues with vendors. He also noted that in past votes monies have been allocated, however still not spent. Some projects have been deferred until needed.

T. Ahern stated that supply issues have caused some changes in the requests around vehicle purchases as well.

T. Ahern sent a memo to the Departments Heads, School Committee, Select Board, Finance Committee and the Chairs of the Boards and Committees proposing establishing a Programmatic Stabilization Fund at the October 17, 2022 Fall Town Meeting to address the upcoming proposed Public Safety cost changes in the future. This fund would include the proposed rate increases for the EMS as outlined in the MRI Study. Also the proposed rate increases for the dispatchers for the Police and Fire Departments. T. Ahern noted that a \$205,000 increase in the Ambulance Budget and a \$26,000 increase for dispatcher rates will cover the costs from January 1, 2023 through the end of FY23, June 30, 2023. The fund would be established with Free Cash with the intent to develop a mechanism to replenish funds in the future with new revenue generation provided by the ALS Emergency Medical Service model. Chief Cassidy has seen success within the first two months of the beta testing at the Fire Station, as a result of the MRI Study.

Any Personnel by-law changes, specific to language changes are currently being reviewed by Town Counsel.

Town Counsel is also reviewing a Governance Committee sponsored by-law pertaining to the

Town Moderator.

The Water Department and DPW have several articles each. Water related Articles include water meter replacement, water main replacements on Central, Bullard and Fiske Streets and Storm Water year 5 project. With costs escalating T. Ahern stated that Inflation Reduction Act will hopefully reduce some of increases. The DPW articles include DPW Facility Design and Engineering, Sidewalks with ADA compliance and Houghton Pond Design and Engineering. J. Cronin along with Michelle Zeamer, Dan Alford and Jay Robinson of the Finance Committee met as a working group to discuss the three DPW Studies, 1. ADA compliance sidewalks. 2. DPW Facility and 3. Accelerated water pipes with sidewalk work. J. Cronin explained that after several productive meetings the decision was made to defer action until spring of 2023 regarding the accelerated water pipe replacement/sidewalk project on Norfolk Street. One of the factors discussed was the SOI regarding the High School and the fact that the Town may be incurring large debt in the near future if a new High School is approved. Also it was the group consensus based on the cost of the two sidewalk projects that the ADA compliance project can be completed more cost effectively. T. Hein noted her disagreement with the decision in not going forward with the accelerated sidewalk project and agrees that discussion among the elected officials regarding debt should continue in a collaborative manner.

All four involved in the working group agreed that the meetings were very productive and a great start to what they hope will be ongoing conversations.

T. Ahern noted that a Request for Proposal for privately owned sites to be considered for the proposed new DPW Facility deadline is October 7, 2022. This information will not be available prior to the October 17, 2022 Town Meeting. Warrant Article 18 is for the design and engineering of a new facility regardless of the location, this will continue to move the project forward.

Warrant Article 21, Library Feasibility Study will exam the condition of the library to determine the best path forward, renovations or the possibility of a new building. Both J. Cronin and T. Hein would like clarification from the Library Trustees regarding this request as they pointed out there have been several studies done in the past, 2013 and 2018.

The WasteWater Treatment Plant, Article 22, is in need of modernization (SKADA update) at its current location. ARPA monies will be used to fund the study.

There are two proposed Citizen Petitions. One pertaining to zoning and the other the Board of Health, Holliston Drug & Alcohol Awareness Coalition.

The Select Board Meeting on Monday October 3, 2022 will hold an open forum in which the Warrant will be reviewed and discussed.

T. Hein made a motion to close the October 17, 2022 Town Meeting Warrant as presented with additional alterations to be made at the next Select Boards meeting on Tuesday September 27, 2022 prior to posting the Warrant on or before September 30, 2022. J. Cronin second. Roll Call: T. Hein, AYE, J. Cronin, AYE, B. Sparrell, AYE.

T. Hein stated that childcare will again be provided in the High School Cafeteria with much

Appreciation. Thanks to John Drohan as well. Donations will be accepted.

WARRANTS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,037,414.98. T. Hein second. Roll Call: T. Hein, AYE, J. Cronin, AYE, B. Sparrell, AYE.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin stated that as of November 1, 2022 the Department of Environmental Protection is implementing a ban on mattress and box spring disposal. The Town will work with the Trash & Recycling vendor to look for solutions.

Chris Pierce, 117 Shaw Farm Road joined the meeting to ask two questions. 1. During the 70 plus days of the EMS trial has there been a decrease in response time. 2. How far apart is the pay scale between the EMS and Fire personnel. T. Ahern will provide answers at the next Select Boards meeting on Monday September 27, 2022.

Elizabeth Bourque-Theiler, 17 Norland Street phoned into the meeting to ask how the Town plans to fund the conversion from a BLS to ALS for the EMS staffing. T. Ahern explained that the previously discussed proposed Programmatic Stabilization Fund will be used to address the ALS licensure. When asked by L. Theiler how long the conversion should take, T. Ahern responded by stating the MRI Report noted 3-5 years to fully convert from BLS to ALS. L. Theiler strongly encouraged Town officials to consider shortening that timeline and stated in her opinion she feels this is a Town wide crisis involving the safety of the residents. L. Theiler thanked the Select Board for the opportunity to speak openly regarding the matter.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that there was a "30 day check in" for a Dangerous Dog Hearing which was held on August 16, 2022. The Animal Control Officer reported back that all stipulations put in place have been adhered to. J. Cronin asked if the dog owner had made restitution for the vet bill inquired. T. Ahern will follow through with both parties.

The bids for the LED Conversion for the Town owned streetlights came in under budget. Thanks to Chris Meo, James Keast and Matt Zettek for their efforts in obtaining the Green Community Grant.

At 9:18pm T. Hein left the meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2022 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to waive the fee for the One Day Beer and Wine license for the Cycle of Life to be held on October 1, 2022. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Block Party on Juniper Road, at Kim Place on October 2, 2022 from 11:00am-7:00pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Mystery Rally Fundraiser on October 9, 2022 from 2:00pm-4:00pm for 25-30 cars. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Farm Haunted Walk on October 22, 2022 at Rogers Road, sponsored by the Community Farm from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Great Pumpkin Walk on October 30, 2022 on the Upper Charles Rail Trail from 9:30am – 12:00pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Carl Damigella to the Housing authority with a term to expire in May 2023. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a One Day Beer and Wine License for Crafted on October 1, 2022 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm at Arcadian Farm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin read the proclamations for the two 2022 Citizens of the Year, Ken Szajda and Shelia Adams.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Common Victualler License for Celebrate Holliston on September 24, 2022 at Goodwill Park. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to waive the fee for the Common Victualler License for Celebration Holliston on September 24, 2022. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

J. Cronin made a motion to waive the fee for the One Day Beer and Wine License for the 25th annual Cystic Fibrosis Cycle of Life bike ride to be held at the Fatima Shrine on October 1, 2022 from 11:00am-4:00pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Select Board signed a deed for a portion of Indian Ridge Road, South. The other deed will be presented for signature at the next Select Board meeting. After which “no parking” signs can be installed on one side of the street.

At 9:28pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__10-24-22

