

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

November 28, 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; Steve Bradford, Past Commander of American Legion Post 47.

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

DISCUSSION OF VETERAN PARKING SPACE:

Steve Bradford joined the meeting to advocate for a designated parking space for Veterans. S. Bradford stated that this would be a great way to recognize and pay tribute to our Veterans. He presented an example of the signage which could be used to indicate the reserved spaces. S. Bradford noted that the new parking area planned at 9 Green Street would be a preferred location. J. Cronin pointed out that it may be difficult to have more than one designated space at 9 Green Street due to the fact it is not a large lot and the plan is to have various types of spaces. T. Hein asked if a space on Front Street, near the new Veterans Memorial could be considered. J. Cronin suggested that a space be designated at 1750 Washington Street where the Veterans Agent is located. It was suggested that a space on Washington Street in front of the Town Hall be considered as well. The Board noted the possibility of more than one designated space within Town.

The Select Board noted that there will be research needed with the Holliston Police Department regarding enforcement.

T. Hein made a motion to direct the Town Administrator to review the potential for locations for a Veterans parking space in Holliston, included, but not limited to the Town Hall area on Washington Street, or to be constructed at the 9 Green Street lot and further to ask that a draft policy be developed in conjunction with the Police Chief with regards to enforcement of a potential Veterans Parking Spot. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin asked S. Bradford to please return to the Select Board if there are other ideas/visions that might be considered.

REVIEW FEEDBACK FROM HOLLISTON FARM OWNERS:

T. Ahern sent a letter on November 4, 2022 to local farming businesses soliciting feedback regarding the future of the Agricultural Commission (AgCom). From the responses he received it was determined that although those businesses do not directly interact with the AgCom they continue to see a need for the Commission, especially regarding the right/protection of the

Right to Farm and the Interest of Farming. There was also a consensus to see Farm Day continue. T. Ahern suggested the possibility of having Farm Day be organized and managed by a member of Town staff, leaving the AgCom to work with conflict resolution and Town By-laws. The Select Board supports the idea of a staff member navigating the Farm Day. It was also suggested that the Economic Development Committee have some involvement in the Farming Businesses within the community.

T. Hein made a motion to request the Town Administrator to identify an employee or point person to coordinate and plan Farm Day starting in 2023 and to recruit new members to the Agricultural Commission with clear direction related to the mission of the AgCom as laid out in the Town By-laws and State Statute. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

COVID -19 / ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

T. Ahern stated the next ARPA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 29, 2022. The agenda includes the review of the request for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, related to Article 22 of October Town Meeting 2022. The amount voted was \$200,000, leaving \$250,000 to complete the project.

At the request of the DEP there are two additional borings needed for testing at the site, which increases the cost of the testing by \$55,000.

Once these have been reviewed by the ARPA Steering Group they will be presented to the Select Board for a vote. J. Cronin asked that an item pertaining to the request by the Historical Society for a septic project be open for discussion at the ARPA meeting as well.

T. Ahern noted that Chief Cassidy informed him that the Town's request for FEMA reimbursement for Covid related expenses was still in process.

WARRANT:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount \$2,420,882.78. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin, on behalf of himself and B. Sparrell thanked the Holliston Lions Club for the Tree Lighting event which took place in Blair Square on Saturday November 26, 2022, and thanks to Steve Apesos for organizing the event.

B. Sparrell will be hosting his monthly "Select Chat" at the Senior Center on Friday December 2, 2022. This is open to all in the Community, not just Seniors.

T. Ahern answered 4 questions which were read into the record during the meeting of November 21, 2022 as follows:

Do all Firefighters go through State Training?: Yes, if not already certified as Firefighter 1 or 2 said certification must be obtained within 1 year.

Is there a probation period?: Yes, the probation period is now 180 days.

Are the new hires replacing retirees or additional staff?: These are filling current vacancies and know upcoming vacancies.

What are the total numbers of Firefighter and EMS currently on staff?: Firefighter totals are 54 and EMS is 29. T. Ahern pointed out the new rates became effective in October 2022.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that due to an issue with staffing at E.L. Harvey any leaves that were scheduled to be picked up today, Monday November 28, 2022, will be picked up tomorrow on Tuesday November 29, 2022. There will be no change in the schedule for the remainder of the week.

BOARD SCHEDULE REVIEW FOR END OF CALENDAR YEAR:

B. Sparrell asked the Select Board members for input on any items to be addressed prior to the end of the calendar year. S. Reese will attend an upcoming December meeting with an update regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

T. Ahern will verify which evening the Menorah in front of the Town Hall be lit and will attend the ceremony.

The May 2023 Town Warrant will be opened during the month of December 2022. On December 5, 2022 representatives from Sol Systems will be in attendance with the possibility of signing of documentation for the solar project on Marshall Street. On December 12, 2022 there will be an update of the Public Safety initiatives for Fire and EMS, as well as the opportunity to meet the final candidate for the new Treasurer/Collector. The meeting on December 19, 2022 will used to address any other items needed. There is no meeting scheduled for the week of December 26, 2022.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the minutes of October 24, 2022 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the request from Chapter 90 State Funding in the amount of \$32,000 for the purpose of a hiring consulting service, Beta Engineering, to develop a "pavement management" program. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin and John Drohan, Chair of the Economic Development Committee recently spoke with Wayne Griffin of Griffin Electric in the first of what is planned outreach to the various businesses within Holliston in an effort to connect and build a rapport.

At 7:56 J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__01-17-23

