

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON**

### **SELECT BOARD**

December 5, 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; Beth Greenblatt, Beacon Solutions; Rennie Friedman, Anna Noucas, SolSystems; Lisa Mead, Town Counsel, Sean Reese, DPW Superintendent and Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief.

At 7:01pm B. Sparrell called the meeting to order.

#### **UPDATE ON TOWN SOLAR PROJECT:**

Beth Greenblatt, consultant from Beacon Integrated Solutions began the Solar Project update by stating that there have been no changes to report since the last update given. At this point there are no expected delays. B. Greenblatt noted that there has been little communication from the ISO/ASO Study and Eversource and there have been no concerns as a result of Phase I of the study. Phase II is currently underway with the expected results in January 2023. B. Greenblatt provided several graphics including an Economic Update, Project Schedule, Legal Provisions and a diagram of the solar array as it sits on the site. B. Greenblatt pointed out that Eversource determines the timeline, however the hope is with no further delays mobilization will begin in April 2023 along with the first payment, (25%) from SolSystems.

Lisa Mead, Town Counsel stated that there was a high level review of the lease requirements, net metering agreement, pilot agreement and administrative agreement. L. Mead stated that the Town of Holliston is well protected and there is an efficient method by which to receive payments from the utilities. Both Rennie Friedman and Anna Noucas of SolSystems voiced enthusiasm for the project moving forward.

T. Hein asked what the risks may be to the proposed schedule slipping. B. Greenblatt stated that once the ASO Study is completed Eversource will need to perform a witness test to begin operations and also there is a slight risk that equipment supply shortages could occur.

J. Cronin asked for a more detailed diagram of the site itself and what it will look like from the viewpoint of the surrounding neighbors. R. Friedman stated that although it is set back from Marshall Street portions of it will be visible from the street. J. Cronin suggested reviewing the plan for landscaping at the site.

J. Cronin asked L. Mead what the Town's options would be after the 25 year lease was concluded. L. Mead responded by noting the Town has several options available. The Town has the option to purchase after 10 and 15 years. If after the 25 year lease is up and the Town does not opt to purchase SolSystems has 90 days to remove the equipment.

Nicole Smith, 176 Hollis Street, suggested having all information/documentation pertaining to the project be located in one place on the Town website. T. Ahern will place all information under the Town Project Link on the Town's website.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the 25 year lease net metering credit purchase administrative and pilot agreements as presented this evening between the Town of Holliston and SCS Marshall 01225 to Holliston LLC SolSystem Project Company for a solar voltaic and battery energy storage project to be installed on the cap land fill on Marshall Street adjacent to the Recycling Center and to be operated by SolSystems or affiliates and further to authorize the Chair to sign the above described documents on behalf of the Select Board.

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J. Cronin noted that these terms are different than presented to the Board some years ago, due to market influences, delay in the project as per the State ISO/ASO process which resulted in loss of value to the Town, having had the benefit of reviewing with L. Mead and B. Greenblatt we are able to recover and build up these circumstances, I still think it is a great deal for the Town. I remain deeply disappointed with the State, this is one of the worst examples of bureaucracy, however not as a result of anyone on the project present. J. Cronin second the above motion by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

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Each Select Board member thanked all present for their continued work on the project. B. Greenblatt specifically thanked T. Ahern for moving the project forward since inheriting the project when he became the Town Administrator.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

Sean Reese, DPW Director joined the meeting and read from a prepared statement regarding the newly renovated Well #5 on Central Street. S. Reese recognized and thanked all involved in the successful completion of the renovation of the Water Treatment Plant including the Select Board, Town Administrator, Treasurer, Town Accountant, Finance Committee, IT Director, Water Department Staff, Ali Parand and all the contractors and tradespeople involved. He also thanked the residents of Holliston and noted that there is still a checklist to be completed however the plant has been operational and on line since November 9, 2022. The water users in the Central, Norfolk and Goulding Street area of Town have already been experiencing an upgrade in water quality.

T. Hein asked if there will be ongoing work by MassDOT for the Washington Street, Route 16 project. S. Reese stated that the road construction is complete. The crosswalks as well as loam and seeding will be completed in the spring of 2023.

J. Cronin took the opportunity to ask if there has been any additional conversation with the MassDOT regarding the intersection of Summer Street and Washington Street, as there are continued safety concerns. S. Reese noted that he will follow up with MassDOT and report back to the Select Board.

T. Hein also suggested looking at the reduction in speed limits on the new and improved roadways.

### **ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:**

T. Ahern presented two recommendations from the ARPA Steering Group. One as a result of Article 22 at the October 2022 Fall Town Meeting, in which \$200,000 was approved for SKADA improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Linden Street, leaving a balance of \$250,000. The SKADA project is needed at the facility regardless if there is a proposed downtown sewer connection. The second request also pertains to the Wastewater Treatment site. Due to an increase in testing pits, (2 additional) by the DEP the additional cost incurred is \$55,000. T. Hein made a motion to approve ARPA funding at the recommendation of the ARPA Steering Group in the amounts of \$250,000 for SKADA improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Linden Street as well as \$55,000 for additional environmental testing at that site, ARPA is the American Rescue Plan Act Federal Funding. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

### **WARRANTS:**

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,852,511.62. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

T. Hein stated that the Pantry Shelf had sent out a letter appealing to the community for donations. It was noted that donations are down this year and any donation would be greatly appreciated.

J. Cronin stated that HCAT recently aired a segment with Facilities Manager James Keast regarding various Town Projects. J. Cronin also noted that Holliston just celebrated its 298 birthday and suggested having the planned 300<sup>th</sup> celebration be on a future Select Board agenda.

Bill Rainsford, 170 Karen Circle refereed back to the earlier update on the Marshall Street Solar Project and noted that an aerial view including Winston Road, off of Marshall Street would be helpful to get a clearer picture of the proposed site.

### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Nicole Smith to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2025. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the MassDevelopment Taxi & Livery Partnership Program Grant Agreement up to \$21,500 to the Council on Aging for the use of providing transportation for elders in the community. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Holiday List for the calendar year 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting for the months of January through June 2023, this includes the May Town Meeting on Monday May 8, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0. B. Sparrell suggested meeting every other week after May Town Meeting until weekly meetings are needed again prior to Fall 2023 Town Meeting.\_

T. Hein made a motion to approve a donation from the Washington Street Players in the amount of \$7,000 to assist with the cost of improvements made to the Upper Town Hall. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$400 from the Holliston Superette for the Council on Aging Nutrition Program. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the donation from Chipman Electric in the amount of \$1,165 for work being done on the Community Farm Greenhouse heater. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2022 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the request for the placing of the Menorah in front of the Town Hall by the Chabad Center beginning on December 15, through December 28, 2022, with an official lighting ceremony on December 20, 2022 at 6:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept the State Aid Program Project Request Chapter 90 Reimbursement Application for engineering services in the amount of \$75,150 provided by Kimley Horn. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS: NONE**

At 8:14pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_\_\_01-17-23

