

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

March 27, 2023
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Allen Orsi, Pare Corporation; Attorney Elizabeth Lydon Town Counsel; and James Keast, Facilities Manager.

At 7:02pm B. Sparrell called the meeting to order.

UPDATE ON WOODLAND STREET BRIDGE & DAM / PARE CORPORATION:

Allen Orsi, Senior Vice President of Pare Corporation presented an update on the status of the Woodland Street Bridge and Factory Pond Dam. The report included descriptions of the Short Term and Long Term solutions. One Short Term solution includes creating a one lane bridge with signals to alternate one-way traffic over the bridge. This would cost approximately \$200,000-\$300,000. The second option would be to use "slip lining" and temporarily set the culvert underneath the bridge. This would cost approximately \$150,000-\$200,000. The final option would be to leave the bridge closed and continue the current detours in place. The short term options would be subject to permitting through the Holliston Conservation Commission, MA Office of Dam Safety and Army Corps of Engineers. When reviewing the Permanent Long Term solutions, Pare Corporation recommends doing the repairs to the Woodland Street Bridge in conjunction with the work on the Dam. The timeline for the combined project would be 8-10 months of actual construction, this does not include the time allowed for permitting. The total timeline would be approximately 12-24 months. Discussion regarding the benefits of relocating the actual roadway during construction noted that it would require land owners approval as well as utility considerations and also add more cost to the project. Another concern voiced by the Select Board members revolved around the actual capacity of the temporary use of the roadway to enable larger commercial vehicles, as several do use the road for delivery's to the Schools and several businesses on Woodland Street. In response to a question regarding the various costs involved, the estimated cost for the combined project is \$5.5 million - \$5.6 million, approximately \$1.18 has been allocated through ARPA. T. Hein asked that a temporary sidewalk be constructed through the Rail Trail during construction.

T. Ahern noted that the Schools have not had to adjust start times and that the buses have been able to navigate the detours and stay on schedule.

The Select Board deferred making any decision. A. Orsi will return with more information pertaining to the capacity of the roadway using a temporary solution with alternating one-way traffic.

HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT – 4FRONT NEW ENGLAND CANNABIS:

Attorney Elizabeth Lydon joined the meeting with an updated Host Community Agreement for 4Front New England based on the newest legislation. The change reflects an updated payment schedule. Going forward the Town will update each facilities HCA.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the successor Host Community Agreement for 4Front New England located at 29 Everett Street Holliston as presented by Town Counsel. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

MAY 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – WARRANT DELIBERATION:

T. Ahern stated that the Warrant would be printed mid to late April 2023. If there are to be any ballot question for the upcoming election the deadline for the Town Clerk is the week of April 10, 2023.

Capital Working Group Update: B. Sparrell suggested adjusting the borrowing plan so that the Sidewalk Project be covered within the Tax Levy and the DPW Facility funded partially outside the Tax Levy, reversed as to how it is proposed currently. This will not change the bottom line. Vincent Murphy, 432 Norfolk Street, Finance Committee member, however speaking as taxpayer supports the suggested adjustment.

Capital Budget Review: T. Ahern noted that Weston and Sampson are currently researching the property known as Axton Cross for the proposed DPW Facility as well as evaluating the current Facilities. A report is expected in mid April 2023.

J. Keast discussed the upcoming roof projects needed at the Schools. He explained that it will be more fiscally sound currently to repair the shingled sections of the roof.

T. Ahern presented a graphic of several items which will be proposed within the Capital Budget for the October 2023 Town Meeting which include purchases of Town Vehicles, Library Windows and HVAC at 1750 Washington Street.

J. Cronin noted that State Programs related to “Climate Plan” have been developed to access State Funding for various projects such as solar panels on school roofs. J. Cronin suggested drafting a Local Climate Plan in the near future.

FY2024 Budget Recommendation: T. Ahern stated that the current version of the FY2024 Budget can be found on the Town Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein noted that the Board of Health has send a confidential letter to all local farmers requesting a registration of all farm animals for a Barn Book. The deadline for the response is July 1, 2023.

The Holliston Rail Trail has been selected to be part of the East Coast Greenway, this will be a future agenda item.

Youth & Family Services has posted a position for a Drug Free Coalition Coordinator.

J. Cronin stated that he is monitoring the Legislating Body in an effort to stay updated on the Remote Participation Law for meetings as the current law expires on Friday March 31, 2023.

J. Cronin had a conversation with the owner of Boston Honey Company, a local business in Town as part of the ongoing outreach to local business owners.

T. Hein noted the benefits of businesses located on or near the Rail Trail.

Dr. Elizabeth Tyler, 17 Norland Street thanked T. Ahern for providing the draft work plan for the proposed Assistant Fire Chief position. She would like clarification on the details of the description, such as at what point would the Assistant Chief assume leadership if and when the Fire Chief is absent. There are currently two Deputy Fire Chiefs. T. Ahern will continue to define the job description. The interview process is ongoing.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,985,188.98. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Envisioning Future Holliston kickoff meeting for the Long Range Strategic Economic Plan with Berry Dunn was held on March 1, 2023. A concept "Meeting in a Box" in which people can organize small meetings within their location and collect data to then return to the committee will be explored and made available sometime in April 2023.

The Holliston DPW, with thanks to DPW Deputy Director Robert Walker, will hold a "Touch the Truck" event in May, date to be determined.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the Holliston Youth Baseball/Softball Parade on Sunday May 7, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit for Holliston High Senior Car Parade on Sunday May 21, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve two Proclamations for the Melvin Jones Award to two anonymous recipients by the Holliston Lions Club on Wednesday April 19, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

At 9:09pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__05-30-23

