

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

May 1, 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, Steve Bradford, previous Commander of the American Legion Post; Gita Patel, incoming Town Accountant; Kathleen Buckley, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director; and Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief.

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

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE UPDATE:

Steve Bradford presented an update of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade which will take place on Monday May 29, 2023. Earlier that week the cemeteries as well as the monument at Blair Square will be decorated. The parade route will include a stop in Blair Square. S. Bradford stated that the Holliston High School Band will not be performing in the parade this year to much disappointment. T. Hein took the opportunity to read a prepared statement imploring those involved in the decision making to pull the Holliston High School Band to take a hard look at the decision and the message it sends to the community. S. Bradford stated that Walter McGrath another Legion member will reach out to the Holliston High School to see if there may be a resolution.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Event Permit request for the Memorial Day Parade and activities to be held on Monday May 29, 2023 with the parade to begin formation at 10:30 at the VFW on Woodland Street with the parade start time at 11:00am. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ACCOUNTANT:

The Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Kathleen Buckley introduced Gita Patel, the incoming Town Accountant. Each of the Select Board took the opportunity to ask G. Patel a question. When asked what attracted her to the Town of Holliston, G. Patel responded the Towns AAA rating which speaks to the financial stability of the Town.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Gita Patel as the Town Accountant for a start date to be determined by HR and the candidate. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

BOARD BUSINESS: (1 & 10)

T. Hein read from M. Gulla "letter of interest" for the additional On-Call Deputy Fire Chief position, which spoke to his commitment to leadership and cohesiveness between Fire and

EMS within the Holliston Fire Department.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Michael Gulla as an On-Call Deputy Fire Chief for the Holliston Fire Department effective immediately, with annual reappointments as of June 30 as per standard practice. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

Michelle Weiner-Taylor joined the meeting via zoom to present a donation of \$3,000 to create a Park & Rec Camp Scholarship in the memory of her son Joshua Taylor. M. Weiner-Taylor expressed her gratitude for all the support from the community after Joshua's recent passing. Others will also be able to donate to the Memorial Camp Scholarship.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a gift/donation from the Taylor Family in the amount of \$3,000 to create a Camp Scholarship in memory of Josh Taylor, the account to be credited is to be determined, also to approve establishing a gift account for the Park & Recreation for the Josh Taylor Memorial Camp Scholarship. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

B. Sparrell is in the process of drafting his presentation for the May 2023 Annual Town Meeting, which will include a slide pertaining to ARPA Funding. T. Ahern is currently working with the Finance Committee Chair and the Town Treasurer/Collector to finalize recommendations and supplemental data. All the information will be available on the Town's website. T. Ahern will schedule a "read-thru" with Town Counsel and the Town Moderator.

There will be designated parking at the High School for Seniors. If babysitting is available it will be confirmed at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein stated that on Wednesday May 3, 2023 the annual Safe Routes to School Walk, Bike, Roll to School Day will be held. Those participating will meet in Blair Square at 7:00am, 7:40am and 8:30am.

J. Cronin has had email correspondence with the owner of Mindful Recovery, in his ongoing effort to connect with local business in Town.

J. Cronin joined the Holliston Garden Club on Saturday April 29, 2023 in Blair Square for a tree dedication.

B. Sparrell will hold a Select Chat on Friday May 5, 2023 at 9:30am at the Senior Center. All are welcome.

Envisioning Future Holliston will hold several upcoming forums as follows; Holliston High School on Tuesday May 2, 2023; Town Hall on Wednesday May 3, 2023; and Senior Center on Thursday May 4, 2023.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$602,635.55. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the information pertaining to the Envisioning Future Holliston upcoming forums are on the Town website. There is also information for “Meeting in a Box” which is designed to for residents to facilitate small meetings to gather input to then be returned and shared with Barry Dunn, (the consultant).

The DPW sponsored “Touch A Truck” will be held on Saturday May 6, 2023 at the Holliston High School.

Lombardo & Associates will be scheduling dates over the upcoming summer to participate in public meetings for the Downtown Sewer Project.

The Town Clerks Office currently has two vacancies. Laura Kelley, a retired Town Clerk from another community will be assisting temporarily.

There is a recent vacancy on the Golf Course Advisory Committee. Any interested parties should forward a letter of interest to T. Ahern.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Ahern presented printouts outlining the supplemental funding for the 9 Green Street Project, mobilization to begin in May 2023 with construction in June 2023.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the contract for Onyx Construction of Mass. to construct the 9 Green Street Parking Lot Project with an amount not to exceed \$411,751. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation from the Garden Club in the amount of \$300 for a sugar maple tree to be planted at Blair Square. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation from Shady Corner Farm for finished compost to be used at the Community Farm green house, and for sale at the Seedling Sale in the amount of \$360. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve an Event Permit for Reece’s 6th Birthday Party on Exchange Street, closing Exchange Street from Winthrop Street to Water Street on Saturday May 6, 2023 from 12:00 noon to 7:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve an Event Permit for “Dad’s 35 Birthday Party on Exchange Street, closing the Exchange Street from Winthrop Street to Water Street on Sunday May 28, 2023 from 12:00 noon to 9:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation in memory of Linda Flannery from Suzanne McDonnell to the Senior Center in the amount of \$200. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation in memory of Linda Flannery from Joan Prendergast and Moises Lorenzo to the Senior Center in the amount of \$100. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

At 8:06pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__07-10-23

