

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

June 26, 2023
6:30PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator, Kevin Daigle, David DeStefano, Cameron Rockett, Candidates for the vacant seat for Finance Committee; Dr. Ken Szajda, Finance Committee Chair; Michelle Zeamer, James Robinson, Vincent Murphy, Julie Winston, Finance Committee members; Jackie Winer, Director of Youth & Family Services, Zoe Moreau, Drug Free Community Coordinator; Gabe Parton Lee, Counsel Representing Wyld; Liz Lydon, Town Counsel; and Christine Cosby, Eversource representative.

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE/SELECT BOARD MEETING:

At 6:30pm Dr. Ken Szajda read the Open Meeting Law to allow remote participation for a joint Select Board, Finance Committee Meeting. Roll Call taken: Michelle Zeamer, Yes; James Robinson, Yes; Vincent Murphy Yes; Ken Szajda, Yes; Julie Winston, Yes.

J. Cronin began the interview process by explaining that he will be asking each of the three candidates the same questions; Why do you want to join the Finance Committee? Are you prepared for the time commitment? What are your strengths and weakness? He then called Kevin Daigle, 35 Dalton Road to join the meeting. K. Daigle provided a brief overview of his personal and professional background and stated that he has always been interested in Public Service and is looking for a way to serve the Town. K. Daigle stated that he appreciates the time involved to participate as a Finance Committee member for the Town.

At 6:39pm Mark Whittaker joined the meeting and as a matter of Roll Call attendance responded Yes.

Each Finance Committee member had the opportunity to ask K. Daigle a question, which included his perception of the role of the Finance Committee, and what was his view on the Towns OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) strategy.

David DeStefano, 1797 Washington Street was the second candidate to join the meeting. After giving a brief personal and professional background he noted he is looking to get involved in the Town as he is finding his career is winding down. After J. Cronin asked his questions several of the Finance Committee members did also. D. DeStefano stated that he feels that finding the correct balance, what will benefit all the residents and future of the Town is an important role of the Finance Committee.

Cameron Rockett, 21 Hampshire Street, was the final candidate to join the meeting. After giving a brief personal and professional background C. Rockett answered the three questions asked by

J. Cronin. C. Rockett stated that he is very interested in Local Politics and hopes that getting involved within Holliston he will be able to serve the community. Several Finance Committee members also asked C. Rockett questions regarding his interest and commitment.

On behalf of the Select Board J. Cronin thanked all three candidates and expressed his appreciation for their willingness to serve the Town of Holliston.

J. Winston made a motion to nominate/appoint Kevin Daigle to the Finance Committee effective immediately with a term ending on June 30, 2024. T. Hein second; Roll Call: J. Winston, Yes; V. Murphy, Yes; M. Whittaker, Yes; J. Robinson, No; Michelle Zeamer, No; K. Szajda, Yes; J. Cronin, Yes; T. Hein, Yes; B. Sparrell, Yes.

At 7:20pm V. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting, M. Whittaker second; Roll Call: V. Murphy, Yes; J. Winston, Yes; M. Whittaker, Yes; J. Robinson, Yes; M. Zeamer, Yes; K. Szajda.

INTRODUCTION OF ZOE MOREAU / DRUG FREE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR:

Jackie Winer, Director of Youth & Family Services introduced Zoe Moreau the new Drug Free Community Coordinator, whose position is funded with the recently received Drug Free Community Grant. Z. Moreau took the opportunity to outline her background in Public Health, Public Policy and Youth Engagement. Each Select Board Member asked Z. Moreau questions regarding her goals and initiatives within her new role. Z. Moreau plans to work towards increasing the involvement with youth throughout the Town, building youth teams and finding creative ways to start conversation, with the end goal of forming bonds amongst the groups/teams.

The Select Board members thanked Z. Moreau for her time and welcomed her to Holliston.

HCA – TRANSFER FROM GOOD FEELS TO WYLD:

Town Counsel Attorney Liz Lydon presented a request to transfer the Host Community Agreement from Good Feels to Wyld, 72 Jeffrey Ave, Unit 2, Holliston, which has been updated to match the recently negotiated agreement under the new legislation to the Select Board. Gabe Parton Lee, representing Wyld presented a presentation with various slides illustrating its mission, vision, sustainability initiatives and product offerings. G. Parton Lee stated that the company is targeting a sophisticated adult customer.

B. Sparrell asked if there are plans to change the current operations model. G. Parton Lee stated that due to the fact that this facility will need to be converted to accommodate the processing of confections as opposed to beverages there will be cost involved. B. Sparrell also asked if there is an odor issue as a byproduct of the manufacturing to which G. Parton Lee responded that there is not, as no raw plant is used during the process. The intent is to hire a staff of 30-40.

T. Hein asked for clarification regarding any future changes to which it was noted that a Special Permit from the Planning Board would be needed as part of the process.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the transfer of the Host Community Agreement (HCA) from Good Feels to Wyld located at 72 Jeffrey Ave, Unit 2 Holliston Mass as presented. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

EVERSOURCE PUBLIC HEARING:

At 7:50pm B. Sparrell made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Eversource Energy as described in the legal advertisement to install a conduit on Old Cart Path. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Christine Crosby, representing Eversource joined the meeting via zoom and explained that the 109 foot conduit would be installed in the area of January Lane off of Old Cart Path for laying wires. B. Sparrell read a memo from DPW Deputy Director/Highway Superintendent Robert Walker outlining the specifics of the installation, must compact the trench in 12 inch lifts and replace with the same thickness of the asphalt that is currently there.

At 7:53 B. Sparrell moved to close the Public Hearing with the intent to take a vote. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the request from Eversource for the installation of the conduit for the new road known as January Lane as presented. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Islin Weaver, 69 Woodland Street stated that she has had an issue with the trash not being picked up at her resident. She called E.L. Harvey several times, however the issue was not resolved. T. Ahern will have the Select Boards Office follow up on her behalf.

L. Theiler, 17 Norland Street asked how many additional trucks are expected to travel to and from the Lowland Industrial Park as a result of the newly approved HCA transfer to Wyld at 72 Jeffery Ave. T. Ahern stated that all that information will be assessed during the Planning Board review.

Keefe Bailey, 17 Lowland Street voiced his concern over the “overhead barriers” discussed earlier as a deterrent to large commercial vehicles entering Lowland Industrial Park off of Woodland Street. He stated that large trucks will still need to then turn around and reroute, which at that point is too late and will cause more issues. Google Maps needs to be part of the solution as well. Create “boundary’s not barriers”, the goal is not to inconvenience all drivers, however by closing the road it may only add several minutes onto ones commute.

Paul Langton, 100 Woodland Street stated that the Town currently has set a precedent with all the other Industrial Parks having one egress, all off of Route 16. There is a simple solution, shut down Lowland Street and install a “pipe gate”, put this park in line with all others in Town.

Karen Langton, 100 Woodland Street pointed out that the Heavy Commercial Exclusion is based on weight and therefore the exclusion should stand regardless of height. All trucks using Woodland Street are breaking the law. She emphasized that where she resides is a neighborhood and she and her neighbors should not have to contend with the ongoing, never

ending issues that continue year after year. The simple solution – shut down Lowland Street at the Rail Trail with a “pipe gate” and replace the current signage (Woodland Street Detour at Lowland) which is confusing.

B. Sparrell stated that trash and recycling will be picked up on Monday July 3, 2023 as normally scheduled, as of Tuesday trash and recycling will be delayed a day. (Wednesday-Saturday).

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the application process for the Assistant Fire Chief/EMS Director has closed. There are two applicants which have been screened by MRI Consulting. The next step will be to schedule interviews. There will be several other Fire Chiefs from various Towns sitting on the panel.

The 300th Celebrate Holliston Committee will be looking to request the balance of \$5,000 from the funding which has an end date of August 2023. In a future agenda there will be a vote needed to move those funds into a 501C3 under Celebrate Holliston.

SELECT BOARD GOALS & LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS FY24:

B. Sparrell listed several goals:

Continue creating a handbook for those individuals joining Boards and Committees.

Take the finished Envisioning Future Holliston data results and create a handbook to share its mission statement.

Assist with the Holliston Fire/EMS Department with the ongoing transition to a Advanced Life Support (ALS) model.

Update the current Finance Committee excel document that he helped create and look to streamline the budget process.

T. Hein listed several goals:

Support the initiatives and priorities of Youth & Family Services.

Address traffic management within the community, and coordinate with Safe Streets.

Identify opportunities to expand the trails within the Town and continue to improve accessibility as well.

Promote economic development in the Downtown area of Holliston, consider traffic management pertaining to the proposed Downtown Sewer Project, and obtain more knowledge.

Remain open to future initiatives/projects that may arise over the next fiscal year.

J. Cronin listed several goals:

Finish what we start – many projects coming near completion in FY24.

Support the future Economic Development Coordinator position.

Start the preparation needed to adopt a Town Manager role for Holliston.

Support Celebrate Holliston with the 300th Celebration plans.

T. Ahern presented the FY24 Liaison Assignments for each Select Board member. After a brief discussion it was noted that J. Cronin would remain on as the OPEB Liaison, and not T. Hein as presented.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the FY24 Liaison Assignments as presented as amended, J. Cronin will continue to be the OPEB Liaison. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$808,290.30. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

BOARD BUSINESS:

After some discussion it was decided to schedule a date for a Public Hearing related to a barrier on Lowland Street at the Rail Trail crossing until further data would be obtained. T. Ahern noted the advertisement for such hearing will be as specific as possible.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Wilston Johnston to the CPC, Community Preservation Commission effective immediately with at term to end June 30, 2025. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Wilston Johnston, 10 Pine Oak Street joined the meeting and stated that as a new resident he was looking forward to working on the committee.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve an Event Permit for the Car Show/Cruise Nights on Wednesday evenings in June and July 2023 from 4:00pm-7:00pm. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the FY2023 Year-end Budget Transfers as presented. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2023 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Cronin wished all a Happy Summer and stated that the next meeting will be on July 10, 2023. J. Cronin added that Doreen Martel will be taking over Chris and Evette Cain of the Holliston Reporter. Many thanks to the Cain's for all their hard work and welcomes Ms. Martel in her new role.

At 8:53pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__08-07-23