

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON**

### **SELECT BOARD**

November 7, 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; Pio Lombardo, Gary Rubenstein, representing Lombardo Associates and James Keast, Facilities Manager.

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

#### **UPDATE #2 – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FEASIBILITY STUDY- LOMBARDO ASSOC:**

Pio Lombardo and Gary Rubenstein, both representing Lombardo Associates joined the meeting with a presentation updating the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Feasibility Study. The presentation consisted of three components, Products and Findings, Near Term Proposed Efforts and Long Term Vision. P. Lombardo stated that documents pertaining to the Hydrogeologic Disposal Capacity have been sent to the Department of Environmental Protection and it appears that the facility at the Woodland/Linden Street site would have sufficient capacity for the Holliston Downtown sewage needs. Several slides relating to the proposed sewer system and the sewer feasibility analysis were presented as well. G. Rubenstein explained the mechanics of the options, septic tanks effluent vs. grinder pumps. It is both P. Lombardo and G. Rubenstein opinion that the treatment plant can handle either option. A “blanket easement” could give the Town access to the pipes and the tanks of approximately 127 properties downtown.

J. Cronin asked what might an annual maintenance budget cost once a system was up and running. P. Lombardo stated that such a budget would need to be affordable and would be calculated similar to a sewer bill. J. Cronin also made an inquiry as to how long it would take to complete such a project. P. Lombardo replied that it would most likely take 5 – 7 years, 2 – 3 years for construction alone. P. Lombardo suggested involving other members of the community in an effort to guide the project forward, including the 127 properties.

T. Ahern noted that some of the funding for the proposed project could be offset by State, Federal and ARPA funds. J. Cronin added that the ARPA funding has a definite deadline and those funds would need to be allocated by December 2024. The project would need to be shovel ready.

B. Sparrell suggested getting stakeholders involved in the process as soon as possible.

After further discussion with the Board P. Lombardo committed to work on an accelerated timeline in an attempt to make the most of the ARPA funding available.

The Select Board thanked both P. Lombardo and G. Rubenstein for their extensive presentation.

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:**

T. Ahern explained that the Assistant Town Administrator drafted a Holliston Code of Conduct Policy using the MMA/MIIA model along with feedback from Boards and Committees. Also a Social Media Policy, which was employee driven with members of Boards and Committees following similar guidelines.

B. Sparrell noted under section B, Code of Conduct, “treat all members of the Boards and Committee to which you belong”, should read “treat all members of any Boards and Committees.” (not exclusive to the one you belong). He also noted that regarding Social Media it is difficult to police.

J. Cronin suggested changing language referring to specific Social Media platforms, as it currently lists 4. Instead “Social Media Platforms including the 4 named, but not exclusive to”. As future platforms may be created.

T. Hein noted concern under the Code of Conduct, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, “refrain from giving direction or orders to the Town Administrator”. Would this create confusion around individual Board Members conversing with the Town Administrator. T. Ahern stated that directives/orders are coming from a Board as a whole and therefore would not create a conflict. J. Cronin recommended change language as follows; “when such information is not otherwise in the public interest refrain from giving orders, or directions to the Town Administrator for action as an individual Board or Committee member.”

T. Hein made a motion to accept the proposed changes from Boards and Committees and adopt the Code of Conduct Policy for the Town of Holliston with the changes discussed this evening and allowance for any nonsubstance changes suggested by Town Council as to form. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

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T. Hein made a motion to adopt the Social Media Policy as presented with allowance for any nonsubstance changes suggested by Labor Council as to form. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.  
The Select Board thanked the Assistant Town Administrator K. Buckley for her work.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

T. Hein read the memo for the curbside leaf pickup which will be during the week of November 28, 2022 – December 2, 2022.

T. Hein read the memo for the No On-street Parking Ban which is currently in effect until March 2023.

J. Cronin stated that on Friday November 11, 2022, Veterans Day, there will be a gathering at 10:30am at the Veterans Monument in Blair Square, proceeded by a parade to end at the Town Hall.

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

T. Ahern stated that many residents are in need of obtaining new, updated decals for the Recycling Center. They can be obtained at the Treasurer/Collectors Office and are free of

charge.

The Humanitarian Awards will be held in the Upper Town Hall at 6:30pm on Monday November 14, 2022 prior to the Select Boards weekly meeting.

T. Ahern presented a slide of the newly revamped Envision Future Holliston Committee which includes the 7 members as well as alternate members. The newly formed committee will meet on Wednesday November 16, 2022. They will review the draft of the RFP, looking to contract a consultant.

The Tax Rate Hearing will be held at the next Select Board meeting on November 14, 2022.

T. Ahern sent letters to the 19 farming businesses in Town seeking feedback as to what the role of the Agricultural Commission should be. He is hoping to have responses by November 17, 2022.

The timeline on the Blair Square renovation will begin in January 2023 as opposed to November 2022. T. Hein asked how the construction will affect the Rail Trail. T. Ahern noted that the Trail will be detoured, but not shut down.

The update on the 9 Green Street Project is available online, which includes the construction schedule, provided by PARE Corp.

The Factory Pond Dam project, which has been contracted to a separate division of PARE Corp will most likely be underway during the summer months of 2024 due to permitting and the fact that Woodland Street will be temporarily closed, while schools are not in session.

#### **WARRANTS:**

T. Hein approved the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,860,726.18. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Kathleen Buckley as West Suburban Health Group, (WSHG) representative, effective January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 and Cheryl Houle as WSHG alternate representative, effective January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Tim Smith as an associate member to the Golf Course Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to execute and sign the Trail Easement, dated July 27, 2022, as prepared by GLM, Article 24 of the October 17, 2022 Fall Town Meeting. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

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

T. Hein made a motion to approve the request by the Holliston Lions Club for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting at Blair Square if available with the Town Hall as an alternative location should construction at Blair Square create a conflict, at a time to be determined. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern explained that the Town has been asked to sign a document authorizing 3 legal firms to represent the Town in potential litigation regarding chemicals in groundwater. At this point the DEP has not found any issue with the water in Holliston.

T. Hein made a motion to execute the legal agreement between the Town of Holliston and Baron and Budd PC, Sandman Law LLC and Cossich Sumich Parsiola and Taylor LLC to represent the Town should damages arrive from contamination of water or water wells from PFOA, PFOS, AFFF and other contaminants. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve Amendment #2 to Lombardo Associates contract for the Feasibility Study on the WasteWater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$11,790 for a change order related to additional hours needed to address MASS DEP Permitting and other billable hours. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

T. Hein asked that the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration preparation be put on an upcoming Select Board Agenda. T. Ahern stated that \$10,000 which was allocated from the State needs to be expended by August 2023. The other \$30,000 has been set aside by the Town and has no time limit.

At 9:17pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_\_\_12/05/22

