

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

January 23, 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; Elizabeth Lydon, Town Counsel; Philip Silverman, Mayflower Medicinal Counsel; James Keast, Facilities Manager; and Matt Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator.

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

RESCHEDULE 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

Due to a conflict the Town Moderator is not available for the originally scheduled May 8, 2023 Annual Town Meeting. After some discussion with all necessary parties it has been determined that May 15, 2023 will be the best date to accommodate all.

Tim Garry, 164 Prentice Street, in attendance via zoom, asked how he may give a presentation during Annual Town Meeting. T. Ahern explained that he may contact the Town Administrators Office by emailing the Office Manager D. Muzzy.

T. Hein noted as allowed by Mass General Law, Chapter 39, sec. 9 and moved to approve a change in date for the May 2023 town Meeting from Monday May 8, 2023 to Monday May 15, 2023 to be posted and held at 7:00pm Eastern Standard Time at the Holliston High School Auditorium. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0. T. Ahern will post the change and the Warrant will remain open an additional week.

MAYFLOWER MEDICINAL – UPDATE HOST AGREEMENT:

Attorney Elizabeth Lydon representing the Town of Holliston and Attorney Philip Silverman representing Mayflower Medicinal joined the meeting and presented the updated HCA, following a 5 year agreement and new cannabis legislation. L. Lydon explained this updates the existing agreement, combines the 2016 HCA for marijuana cultivation and manufacturing of product with 2019 adult use marijuana cultivation and product manufacturing operations and medical HCA and also proposed to add a 3rd party marijuana transportation, not to consumers but rather transport to and from 3rd parties. She also updated the current legislation that went into effect. L. Lydon noted the changes are associated with the impact fee, which must be based on documented impacts and not sales. Both B. Sparrell and J. Cronin asked for clarification regarding the transportation and asked that language be reflected in the updated Host Community Agreement.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Successor Host Community Agreement as amended this

evening (January 23, 2023) for Mayflower Medicinal located at 89 October Hill Road as presented by Town Counsel. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

TOWN COUNSEL UPDATE LEG. CHANGES TO MGL c. 17c:

Attorney L. Lydon updated the Select Board on new legislation which went into effect in an effort to reduce traffic fatalities, provide safer roadways for all vulnerable users. The Department of Transportation will develop a standardized form to be used by municipalities when looking to reduce speeds on State owned roads within Town.

J. Cronin asked if this would impact the restrictions already in place for Heavy Commercial Vehicles on roadways within Town. L. Lydon stated that they fall under separate areas of regulation. The Select Board collectively asked that T. Ahern contact the Town's Public Safety officials and obtain recommendations regarding speed limits on Washington Street (route 16).

REVIEW & APPROVAL ARPA STEERING GROUP:

T. Ahern presented 4 recommendations from the ARPA Steering Group, including improvements for the Holliston Police Department, Public Safety Dispatch Incentive, Holliston Historical Society and Envisioning Future Holliston.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the ARPA Steering Group Recommendations for the 4 items as follows: \$10,550 for the Holliston Police Departments interactive training equipment, up to \$150,000 for the incentive pay for Holliston Public Safety Dispatchers related to calendar year 2023 as part of the transition to the Holbrook RECC, approval to roll the unexpected balance of the Holliston Historical Society previously approved and completed request with an additional \$25,000 to replace the septic system on the property, and finally \$33,200 to supplement the October 2022 Town Meeting article for a Town Wide Strategic Plan to be developed by the selected consultant Barry Dunn. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern will review and update the ARPA spending after the May 2023. He will also present a version of the Strategic Plan (Envisioning Future Holliston) as early as possible.

FY24 BUDGET REVIEWS:

Sustainability : Matthew Zettek, the Sustainability Coordinator was in attendance and presented an update of the Sustainability Department. Revenue to the Town includes Energy Manager Adder, metal and textile recycling, various grants, as well as permit fees generated from the Solar and Clean Hear challenge. Savings for the Town include electric aggregation program, food waste composting and recycling center hauling charges. Each Board member took the opportunity to ask questions. The FY24 Sustainability Budget is proposed at \$51,500.

Solid Waste : T. Ahern stated that the Town is currently in its 5th and final year of the contract with E.L. Harvey for its waste management. He presented a spreadsheet with the various components of the Solid Waste Management, which includes WIN formally known as Wheelabrator, and the Holliston Recycling Center. The FY24 Solid Waste Budget is \$1,474,188.

This is an increase of slightly over 7%. Due to the foreseen market changes in the industry the FY25 budget will most likely see an increase as well.

Street Lights : J. Keast explained that the FY24 Street Lights budget will include the transition to the LED lights throughout the Town. Once the order has been placed for the lights it will take 4-6 weeks until the lights are available to install. The plan is then install them in quadrants during night hours. The FY24 Street Light budget is \$99,820.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the FY24 Street Light Budget in the of \$99,820.00 Solid Waste Budget in the amount of \$1,474,188.00, and the Sustainability Budget in the amount of \$51,500.00.00. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$512,019.16. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin recently met with Holliston Police Chief Stone and there is a 26/27/28 Police Officer request within the FY24 HPD budget. J. Cronin along with D. Alford of the Finance Committee will plan to meet with the Park & Recreation within the next several weeks.

J. Cronin recently met with a Cub Scout troop to discussed Town government.

T. Hein read an email from Christine Hunt, whom recently moved to Holliston and made an inquiry as to if the Town was part of the MWRA System. T. Ahern responded by stating that the Town is currently part of the Metrowest Feasibility Study. The Town is looking at the feasibility of connecting the Downtown area to the wastewater treatment plant on Linden Street, which is a scaled back version of what was proposed over 20 years ago.

T. Hein read an email from Andy Reseka, a local business owner who wanted to know if ARPA funding could be used to assist small businesses in Town. He also inquired about the status of the Agricultural Commission. T. Ahern responded by noting that there would need to be a mechanism developed to review the financials of such small businesses. Also in response to the status of the AgCom T. Ahern stated that the Town Clerk will put together a final list of the AgCom Committee members after which an advertisement can be run to fill vacancies.

Tim Geary, 164 Prentice Street, asked how he may run for a seat on the Finance Committee. T. Ahern advised him to reach out to the Town Clerks' Office.

Joan Levinsohn and Rich Rosenberry, 66 JarrBrook, asked for clarification as to where any savings from the new lighting fixtures will be reflected. T. Ahern responded that savings as well as the funds generated from the Town solar project will be reflected in the General Fund. J. Levinsohn also asked if the new lights are "Dark Sky". J. Keast stated that yes, they are "Dark Sky".

Jake Battersby, formally of Holliston would like to assist with a proposal for a Town owned solar project.

Tim Geary, 164 Prentice Street added that he would like to work with Jake Battersby on a proposal for a solar cart-port at the golf course.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Stephen Bradford, Walter McGrath and William Withington to the American Legion Memorial Day Committee with a term to expire June 2023. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern stated that Weston & Sampson needs approval for funding to continue the process of evaluating possible sites for the proposed DPW facility. The Select Board asked several questions relating to a schedule regarding soil testing and when results of such testing would be available. After a brief discussion it was determined that some information, clarification was needed prior to a vote. The item will return on next weeks agenda.

T. Hein made a motion to approve access to a private contractor to engage in work on a septic system on private property, to the Town owned property known as the North Cemetery on Cedar Street. Said contractor will report to the Facilities Manager and will repair the existing damage wall as well. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the scope of a project by a High School Student on Town owned property located behind the Pinecrest Golf Course for the purpose of trail mapping and the installation of trail markers. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0. T. Hein made a request that once the project is completed could the student share a copy of the map with the Select Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein noted that the Sustainability Coordinator has made a substantial impact on the Town. She suggested the possibility of increasing his efforts in the future.

J. Cronin would like an update on the High School ISO/ASO review when possible.

B. Sparrell met with T. Ahern earlier on Monday January 23, 2023 regarding the Town Administrators evaluation. He will present it to the Select Board at next weeks January 30, 2023 meeting.

At 9:10pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_03/06/23

