

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

August 14, 2023
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator and James Keast, Facilities Manager.

At 7:00pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

UPDATE STREETLIGHT CONVERSION:

James Keast, Facilities Manager joined the meeting to give an update on the Town-wide Streetlight Conversion to LED lighting. He presented several graphics, one indicating what areas of Town have been completely converted, those still in the process and those that have additional issues which need to be addressed. The goal is to be 100% complete within the next several months. The overall project final cost is slightly under \$50,000, with a savings of \$270,000 kilowatt hours. Any excess monies allotted for the project will be turned back to the Town. J. Keast asked residents to advise the Town if they happen to see any old fixtures, (as seen in a graphic) in their neighborhoods, or if there are any issues with the newly installed fixtures/lights by using a link on the Town's website.

ARPA REVIEW:

T. Ahern stated that the ARPA Steering Group held their quarterly meeting on August 10, 2023. As of June 30, 2023 the balance of ARPA funding available is \$571,468. T. Ahern noted that Funding for Full Day Kindergarten has been incorporated into the FY24 Budget and therefore the \$383,248 will now be rolled back into ARPA Funding. The following requests for funding have been recommended. School Capital in the amounts of \$75,000 for Computer Lab and Music Studio, \$250,000 for repairs to the High School Wall. Water Fill Stations for the Central Fire Station and the Library in the amount of \$11,000. Soil testing for the 9 Green Street Project related to the oil tank previously onsite in the amount of \$20,000, and \$600,000 for the proposed Downtown Sewer district utilizing the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Linden Street to increase capacity. All of which leaves a balance of \$1,284 in ARPA Funding.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the recommendations by the ARPA Steering Group made on August 10, 2023, first to liquidate the balance of Full Day Kindergarten authorization and approve the Schools Capital request of \$75,000 for the Computer Lab and Music Studio, \$250,000 for the High School wall, purchase and install touchless water bottle fill stations at the Central Fire Station and Library for a total cost of \$11,000, remove and dispose of soil from 9 Green Street Parking Lot project for an estimated cost of \$20,000 and authorize \$600,000

for continued development of the Downtown Sewer Project leveraging \$400,000 from the State ARPA funding to prepare a new inlet to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and to increase the plant capacity for future downtown addition. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.
T. Ahern state that the next ARPA Steering Group meeting will most likely be postponed until January 2024.

PRELIMINARY FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEW:

T. Ahern stated that the October 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant will close on Friday September 15, 2023 at 12:00noon. At this point the Town is looking to receive feedback on the Town Wide Strategic Plan with the intent of having a Presentation at Town Meeting, which will include a Cost Benefit Analysis. The Historical Commission is in the process of gathering information, which will include design standards, building inventory and related cost. The implementation of a Tree Bylaw will be revisited, as well as a Climate Action Plan as part of a Strategic Plan. The Town will look to create a policy for EV Charging Stations and look into the Greenbelt Trail Development. The ongoing Opioid Settlement may also be discussed. J. Cronin suggested inviting the Park and Recreation Department and the Community Preservation Committee to join an upcoming Select Board meeting to discuss October Capital funding.

WARRANTS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the FY23 Warrant in the amount of \$593,455.33. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the FY24 Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$878,675.01. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin read into the record a letter from a resident who resides at 123 Cedar Street. He has two concerns. There is a culvert located near his property which is causing water damage on his property. He also is very concerned about the speed of vehicles on Cedar Street. He would like to propose a 3 way stop sign at the Turner Road and Cedar Street intersection. T. Ahern stated that the letter has been forwarded to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Holliston Farm Day will be held on Sunday September 10, 2023. There will also be a 9/11 remembrance ceremony held on Sunday September 10, 2023 in Upper Town Hall.

The Holliston Historical Society will be sponsoring a Harvest Fair on Sunday September 17, 2023.

Celebrate Holliston will be held on Saturday September 23, 2023, with a rain date of September 30, 2023.

J. Cronin stated that the Select Board will be planning several ribbon cutting ceremonies for the newly completed projects.

On Monday August 28th, 2023 the Select Board will hold a joint meeting with the Finance Committee at 6:30pm to interview candidates for the recent vacancy on the Finance Committee, prior to the 7:00pm Select Board meeting. Also on the agenda that evening will be EV policy discussion, one-way entry for a parking lot off of Washington Street, exit off of Green Street at the intersection with the traffic light.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to accept the donation to the Holliston Police Department in the amount of \$1,907 for the purchase of an external defibrillator from the Framingham Union Aid Association. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve an Event Permit for a Beer Garden at Arcadian Farms on August 17, 2023 from 3:00pm – 7:00pm J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve an Event Permit for Glenn Brown Birthday Gathering on August 26, 2023 on Summit Point Drive from 3:00pm – 9:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve an Event Permit for Frankies Birthday Party on August 19, 2023 on Exchange Street from 12:00noon – 8:00pm, and to approve an Event Permit for the Mudville Block Party on September 30, 2023 from 12:00noon – 9:00pm. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein pointed out that all the Event Permits voted on have been approved by Holliston Police Chief Stone.

T. Hein made a motion to approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the MassDOT for the Safe Routes to Scholl program with funding for the project to be covered by the State for the Towns role to include legal work such as land acquisition for the multiuse path on Linden Street. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Notice to Proceed for Norfolk Street and Franklin Street area traffic study by Pare Engineering, for which Pare was known to be the lowest quote at \$12,250. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2023 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein stated that now that the start of the school year is approaching she asked that the schools look for a way to notify Town residents with students going back to school with an update of the completed projects which include the newly renovated and added crosswalks with flashing lights within the 2 mile radius of all 4 schools. T. Ahern will contact the Assistant Superintendent Keith Buday to discuss. T. Ahern also suggested adding the information in the

Hometown Newsletter.

T. Ahern stated that the Open Space Committee has created an Instagram Page.

At 7:46pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__September 18, 2023