

## TOWN OF HOLLISTON

### SELECT BOARD

December 11, 2023  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Sarah Baroud, 21 Lowland Street; Michael Cassidy, Holliston Fire Chief; Dr. Liz Theiler, 17 Norland Street; and Peter Eagan, 24 Fieldstone Drive.

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

#### **REQUESTED STREET NAME CHANGE:**

T. Ahern presented a request by several residents for a change of name for a section of Lowland Street, from the corner of Woodland Street and Lowland Street to where the Rail Trail intersects Lowland Street. This would affect two properties.

Dr. Ken Szajda, Fiske Street asked if changing the name of that section of Lowland Street would result in lessening the traffic issues. He felt it may add more confusion for drivers in general. Sarah Baroud, 21 Lowland Street stated that being one of the two residents requesting the change they feel it will differentiate from the characteristics of the Industrial Park and over time it will affect the personal use of the roadway for pedestrians and bicyclists.

John Mahan, 230 Fiske Street asked if the request for the name change is directly related to the Citizen Petition at the 2023 Fall Town Meeting regarding a possible road closure, such as a pipe gate. T. Hein replied that there is no direct correlation between the two. J. Mahan inquired as to the funding of the new street signs should the name change. T. Ahern stated that the Town would install the new signage and also make the necessary changes with the DOT, Post Office and municipal offices. Google Maps would also be updated. B. Sparrell again noted that the street name change is a separate entity then the previously proposed barrier on that end of Lowland Street.

T. Ahern received an email from Ed Loftus, 117 Holly Lane stating he understands the residents' concerns regarding traffic issues on Lowland Street, however he does not see that changing the name of that section will affect any real change, and does this open the door for other such requests throughout Town.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the name change for the section of Lowland Street from the intersection of Woodland Street to Lowland Street where the Upper Charles Rail Trail intersects Lowland Street to be named Fawn Road at which time the MASS DOT, US Postal Service, State 911 and Town entities have been notified by the Town of the name change. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kristine Westland, 103 Norfolk Street reported that since the Traffic Report regarding Franklin,

Norfolk and Central Street discussion at the November 6, 2023 Select Board Meeting there have been three accidents on Norfolk Street.

Nancy Chandler, 134 Norfolk Street stated that it is “scary to live on Norfolk Street” there have been so many close calls with speeding traffic on the street.

T. Hein stated that she had reached out to Police Chief Stone regarding the most recent accident over the past weekend. The operator of the vehicle has been summoned to court and will be brought up on criminal charges. N. Chandler noted the quick and response from the Holliston Police Department as well.

T. Ahern stated that the Select Board will revisit the PARE Traffic Study for Franklin, Norfolk and Central Street in a future meeting.

B. Sparrell read an email from Police Chief Stone thanking all those who participated in “Cram a Cruiser” event at the Miller School.

B. Sparrell read the memo for the “No On Street Winter Parking Ban” which is in effect through March 31, 2024.

B. Sparrell stated that the Recycling Center on Marshall Street will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00am-3:00pm during the month of December 2023 and January 2024, however it will be closed on December 24, 2023.

T. Hein thanked Rabbi Kievman for organizing the Menorah Lighting at the Town Hall, and wished all a Happy Hanukah.

J. Cronin stated that last Thursday, December 7, 2023 he and T. Ahern attended a zoom meeting with Congressman McGovern’s Office along with Representative James Arena DeRosa regarding the funding of the Woodland Street Bridge Dam Project. The outcome reflected no additional federal funding for the project, however there may be additional funding available for the proposed Downtown Sewer Project.

J. Cronin also noted that T. Ahern and Dr. Kustka had a preliminary discussion related to Social Justice and the recent incident involving Hate Speech here in Town. He will report back as discussions progress.

#### **UPDATE ON AMBULANCE LICENSE RENEWAL:**

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy stated that he was notified on December 5, 2023 by the Office of Emergency Medical Services that the Holliston Ambulance License is valid through December 31, 2025. Chief Cassidy noted that this is the first milestone since the new Assistant Fire Chief, Brian Kelley joined the Department in August of 2023. Chief Cassidy added that the FY25 Budget will incur increases in an effort to compensate and attract medical professionals needed to move the Town towards the ALS model.

Dr. Liz Theiler, 17 Norland Street thanked Chief Cassidy and the Select Board for all their work in moving the Town towards the ALS model.

#### **WARRANTS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$2,869,970.64.

T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

T. Ahern noted that the following items will be on the Select Board Meetings agenda for next week December 18, 2023: Flag Policy Discussion, Meeting with the Board of Health regarding the proposed Downtown Sewer Project, further discussion on additional financing of the Woodland Street Bridge Project.

T. Ahern thanked the DPW for the installation of the sidewalk connecting the Rail Trail to Woodland Street via Lowland Street, as well as the installation of the recommended McMahon signage for the Lowland Industrial Park.

Holliston will cosign a joint application with the town of Sherborn for a proposed TIP project regarding traffic lights at the Route 16, Whitney Street intersection. This is a design application only it will not link the construction of the two projects. The Sherborn proposed project on Route 16 and Route 27.

The deadline for the Tree City USA application is by the end of 2023. T. Ahern thanked all those who have participated specifically Sharon Thornton.

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Tyler Greenberg to the Holliston Fire Department with a start date to be determined by the Fire Chief with an annual appointment on June 30, 2024. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Peter Eagan, 24 Fieldstone Drive, appointee for the Council on Aging introduced himself and gave a brief background on his professional career and various volunteering he has done over the years.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Peter Eagan to the Council on Aging with a term ending on June 30, 2026. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to award the contract for the High School baseball backstop to RAD Sports Company, located at 171 VFW Drive in Rockland Mass. with an amount not to exceed \$133,560 and an alternate amount of \$43,655. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to award the contract for the Pinecrest Golf Course Management Maintenance to New England Golf beginning January 1, 2024 per the review and recommendation of the Golf Course Advisory Committee. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Deborah Moore, Golf Course Advisory Committee member stated that this particular contract is the best contract she has seen over the all the years she has been on the committee.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the contract for the engineering service for the Water Mains on Norfolk Street to AP Associates in the amount of \$181,700. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2023. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

**OTHER BUISNESS:**

T. Hein asked that the Select Board consider not meeting the week between December 25 – 29,

2023. All were in agreement, no vote was needed.

At 7:59pm B. Sparrell made a motion adjourn and move into Executive Session for Reason #3,  
Strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining not to return to Open Session. T. Hein second.

Roll Call: B. Sparrell, Yes; T. Hein, Yes; J. Cronin, Yes.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_02-12-24

