

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

June 16 2020

Town Hall

12:48 PM

703 Washington Street

Present: Mark Ahronian, Chairman; John Cronin, Vice Chairman; Tina Hein, Clerk

Also Present: Chief Cassidy, Emergency Management; Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk; Kate Feodoroff, Town Counsel.

At 12:48 M. Ahronian called the meeting to order.

An emergency meeting was held to discuss the upcoming Town Election scheduled to be held on June 23, 2020 with poll hours from 12:00PM – 4:00PM. Previously the Board voted to change the poll hours from 7:00AM – 8:00PM to 12:00PM – 4:00PM. T. Hein read the following Article II Town Elections, Section 2 Date and Time: “the election shall be held, pursuant to a warrant, on the Tuesday following the third Friday in May, at which time the polls will open at 7:00AM and remain open continuously until 8:00PM.”

Kate Feodoroff stated that due to the fact Holliston’s bylaws are time specific judicial intervention would be needed in order to change the time the polls will be open to the public. She also stated that due to the fact the elections are seven days from today an injunction may not be reached in time. There was then discussion about postponing the elections until July 7, 2020 with the possible change in poll hours. Liz Greendale expressed her concern about staffing the polls during a time when residents may be likely to be on vacation. She also expressed her concern about properly staffing the polls next week on the 23rd if the time is to be changed back to 7:00AM – 8:00PM. Chief Cassidy stated that the risk from COVID19 would still remain high in July. L. Greendale did report that 80% of residents that normally vote in the local elections have already requested ballots so there will be less attending the polls to vote. J. Cronin asked what the consequences would be if the hours remained as posted at next weeks election without seeking a court injunction. K. Feodoroff explained that the cost to the Town most likely would not be of a monetary value, however the risk would be that the election results may not be certified. It was decided after more discussion that the Board would vote to extend the hours to uphold the town’s bylaws back to the original 7:00AM – 8:00PM. With the understanding that measures be taken to ensure the safety of the poll workers and the residents. Screening of the pole workers temperatures upon arrival, and that facemasks are worn and social distancing is maintained by all.

J. Cronin moved to adjust the polling hours of the Town Election on June 23, 2020 to 7:00AM - 8:00PM. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

At 1:39PM M. Arhonian moved to adjourn. Second by J. Cronin. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted:
Margaret Driscoll
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Approved *8/10/20*