



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
JULY 20, 2020**

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Jay Talerman, Town Counsel; Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant

At 6:15 PM John Cronin called the meeting to order.

1. **Warrants:** Tina Hein made a motion to approve and sign the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-56) in the amount of \$186,394.79; and Warrant (21-03) in the amount of \$1,001,969.22. Second, Ben Sparrell. Voted 3-0.
2. **1/12 Budget for August:** Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant, updated the Select Board on the request from the Department of Revenue (DOR) to have a 1/12 budget approved for August in the event that Town Meeting failed to reach a quorum or did not vote to approve the FY21 omnibus budget.

John Cronin asked Jay Talerman to weigh in on the connection of the 1/12 budget to the FY21 budget to be voted later in the evening at Town Meeting – specifically, because the 1/12 budget includes FY20 approved costs, such as the Board of Assessors stipends, what were the implications if Town Meeting were not to approve the stipends for FY21; would there be an obligation to fund a portion of the stipends for July and/or August. Jay Talerman indicated that the 1/12 budget would be overridden by the Town Meeting approved budget for FY21.

Ben Sparrell asked about lines that had \$0 balances in the August 1/12 budget but had balances reflected in the July 1/12 budget, and vice versa. Sharon Emerick indicated that due to some items being paid in a lump sum in July, such as the County Retirement contribution, the 1/12 budget needed to be balanced for August to follow the guidance of DOR.

Ben Sparrell made a motion to approve the August 1/12 budget as presented by Sharon Emerick. Second, Tina Hein. Voted 3-0.

3. **Preparation for Annual Town Meeting:** John Cronin shared a final draft of his presentation to Town Meeting and stated that Chief Cassidy would be asked to address Town Meeting at the beginning of his remarks to update everyone on safety protocols related to COVID19.

Regarding Article 4, John Cronin asked for feedback on a concept to convene a "Stipend Subcommittee" that would seat only residents that are not elected officials and review and report back on the use of stipends in Holliston. Tina Hein made a motion to approve the concept of a subcommittee to review stipends in FY22 and beyond. Second, Ben Sparrell. Voted 3-0.

Travis Ahern mentioned the impact of Article 4 on Article 11, stating that the omnibus budget (Art. 11) contained funding of the Clerk's salary as reflected in Article 4, but did not include funding for the Board of Assessor's stipends. If Article 4 were to pass as written, a funding source could be identified so that the Assessor's budget would not need to absorb the cost.

John Cronin asked what was expected on Article 5. Travis Ahern stated that there was no Finance Committee recommendation on Article 5, and that the Finance Committee did not post for a meeting before Town Meeting so it was unclear what, if any, recommendation would be provided on the article.

Travis Ahern mentioned that Jay Talerman had added a chart to the motion sheet for Article 18, and Jay Talerman asked if that chart could be displayed on the screen for Town Meeting when appropriate.

4. **Board Business:**

Tina Hein finalized a letter to the Congressional Delegation on behalf of the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee, as suggested by Sen. Spilka and Rep. Dykema. All three groups had provided edits and a final draft was ready to be signed and sent out after Town Meeting. Travis Ahern indicated that he would collect the letter and send.

Ben Sparrell updated the Select Board on the mowing of the dump which is needed to advance the solar project; he has spoken with Sean Reese about all possibilities to get the area mowed despite the broken machinery within DPW.

John Cronin asked if any Select Board members feel strongly about holding the meeting Monday, 7/27/20, or if business could wait until the following week, 8/3/20, to hold the next meeting. It was decided that the next Select Board meeting would be 8/3/20.

Recess: 6:42 PM

Meeting Resumed: 7:41PM

Adjournment: 10:32PM

8/3/20

