

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

August 10, 2020

Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; James Keast, Facilities Manager (remote), Beth Greenblatt, representative of Beacon Integrated Solutions (remote).

At 7:02pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy reported that there has been 1 new case which brings the total number of cases to 63, of which 5 are currently active. He pointed out that none of the cases have been linked to the Town Meeting held on July 20, 2020. The Chief stated that there is a need to update a core-fiber switch (which manages the network speed within the Town) that is currently 13 years old. This may be necessary due to the increase in remote activity within the Town and the expected increase once schools are back in session. The expected cost is \$17,000 and would be funded by the Cares Act. There was also a request from the Town Clerk for \$4,000 for a ballot box to be placed onto a cement pad at the side entrance of the Town Hall. This also will be funded by the Cares Act. J. Cronin asked the Town Administrator to look into having a monitoring device placed above the ballot box for security measures. B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the purchase of a ballot box up to \$4,000 to be placed in a secure location on the side of the Town Hall to be funded under the Cares Act. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

The Chief also reported that the Town has spent approximately \$289,000 of the \$1.3 million provided by the Cares Act, and that there has been very good communication within and among the Town departments regarding the funding available. The Chief reported that the HFD has received a grant of \$10,112 for the acquisition of PPE, (masks, goggles, splash guards, gowns etc.). In conclusion J. Cronin asked that the Chief and the Town Administrator prepare and report expenses and future purchases to the Select Board and the FinCom on a regular basis.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,025,765.25. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0. B. Sparrell made a motion to approve a warrant in the amount of \$5,000. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein stated that she was happy to see that the investment accounts in which the Town is invested in most recently appear to have recovered since the beginning of the pandemic.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The Town Administrator informed the public that early voting for the upcoming State Primary will be held in upper town hall starting on Saturday August 22nd, 2020 - Friday August 28th, 2020 during normal business hours Monday through Friday and 9:00am – 1:00pm on Saturday.

T. Ahern stated that the quotes from the Healthcare Consultants (RFQ's) have been received and are very competitive. At this point he and M. Bousquet will review each and then recommend a vender to the Board.

T. Ahern wanted to thank HPD Lieutenant Leurini along with the State Police for a successfully coordinated truck traffic enforcement day on Friday August 7th, 2020.

J. Keast the Facilities Manger was present to inform the Board that he is using a software obtained by 'Dude Solutions' to assemble an asset inventory of all Town owned property and equipment. This will be an efficient way to track where and how much money is being spent for maintenance and acquisitions. This data will be helpful in creating quarterly updates and can be accessed by multiple users.

T. Ahern reported that new signage has been posted at Pinecrest Golf Course to prevent parking on the grass in an effort to avoid any damage to the sprinkler system there.

STATE PRIMARY WARRANT:

B. Sparrell read the 2020 State Primary Warrant. T. Hein made a motion to approve the 2020 State Primary Warrant as read by the Select Board Clerk. Second by B. Sparrell. Vote 3-0.

MARSHALL STREET SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE:

Beth Greenblatt from Beacon Integrated Solutions joined the meeting remotely to update the Board on the Marshall Street Solar Project. Moving the project forward Eversource will conduct a number of studies to determine that Solar Ray can be properly connected at the site. This should be completed by October 2020. The next step is to obtain all the permitting paperwork. Local permits from the Conversation Commission as well as the Planning Board are needed, along with a DEP completed application for the site. Once this is done the hope is to have a fully entitled project by December 2020. Construction of the site could take 5-6 months. The project could be completed in the 3rd quarter of the year 2021. J. Cronin asked about public safety at the site. Would it be possible to have a sidewalk installed within the scope of the project. B. Greenblatt informed J. Cronin that this type of request would fall under the jurisdiction of Eversource. In conclusion J. Cronin stated that the Board would check in with her in the next several months.

SHARED STREETS & SPACES GRANT PROPOSALS:

T. Hein presented the proposals for the shared streets and spaces grants which she had shared at the last Select Board meeting. She noted that the Blair Square project now had an additional crosswalk and that the one-way has been reversed. The cross walk at Washington and Prospect/Pleasant Streets as well as Washington and Linden Street remain the same as presented last week. Due to the fact that these are Pilot projects the duration of these 3 projects are to be determined by the Town. The DPW has recommended that the pilot remain through at least several snow storms. T. Hein made a motion to approve the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant proposals for Blair Square and the crosswalks at Washington and Prospect/Pleasant Street, Washington and Linden Street as outlined. Second by B. Sparrell. Vote 3-0. T. Ahern will submit the grant proposals.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Ahern brought to the Boards attention that there was interest from a resident in joining the Governance Committee. There are currently 5 members. This opened up discussion on whether to make the Governance Committee a 7 member committee. The Select Board concluded that the current membership was able to effectively achieve the goals as outlined by the committee's charge.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2020 and June 22, 2020 as written. Second by J. Cronin. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell abstained.

T. Ahern presented the Board with a gift of \$10,118 from CRG Real Estate developers to be used to purchase flashing lights to be installed at the crossing where the Rail Trail crosses over Church Street. This was originally discussed at a Planning Board meeting in March 2020 in which CRG wished to make a donation to the Town in a form of a gift. The developer is currently working on a project at 555 Hopping Brook, however it was determined that this gift in question had no relationship or bearing on that project. It will cost the Town \$90,000 (provided by a state grant) to complete the Rail Trail between Exchange and Church Street. This gift can be used to offset that amount. B. Sparrell made a motion to accept the gift of \$10,118 from CRG to be used to purchase lights to be installed at the Church Street/Rail Trail Crossing. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern read an updated draft of the Stipend Committee charge. J. Cronin asked if it could include a notation in which the possibility of some type of tax relief was given and or some other benefit per say. T. Ahern will present the final draft for a vote at the next Select Boards meeting.

T. Hein stated that she had been contacted by Friends of Holliston and they have purchased outdoor exercise equipment and are inquiring where to install it on the Rail Trail.

She had thought that the vacant lot at 260 Lowland Street might be a good spot. The Board felt it would be helpful to get resident feedback and more specific information regarding the equipment and determine a spot at another meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Cronin reminded the public that there will be a public forum on August 25th, 2020 at 7:00pm regarding the truck traffic around and in Lowland Industrial Park. Based on the fact that this is expected to be a well attended meeting T. Ahern has made a request to Chief Cassidy regarding a targeted blackboard list, and has also put together an abutters list. T. Ahern also added that he would compile a list of questions/concerns from the public prior to the meeting in an effort to address as much as possible that evening.

J. Cronin noted that the proposed project at 555 Hopping Brook has not come before the Select Board as of yet. The Town of Medway is challenging the variance by the ZBA regarding the proposed height of the building. T. Hein made an inquiry as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery directly across from the Hopping Brook Industrial Park entrance. As this could be a concern if the traffic at that entrance needs to have lights installed for increased volume.

At 9:10 pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_____

