

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

August 24, 2020

Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Karen Sherman, Town Planner (remotely); Jackie Winer, Director of Youth & Family Services (remotely); Kevin Conley, Blair Square Committee; and Regan Harrold, Beals & Thomas (remotely).

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy reported that there are 5 new cases bringing the total number of cases to 69. He stated that none of the cases are clustered and rather they are disbursed throughout the Town. With schools starting shortly the question was asked what the expected protocol will be within the community. Contact tracing will be done by Board of Health and the Schools.

The Chief presented a flow chart to illustrate how the CARES Act requests should make their way from various departments to review by the Select Board. After review the Board asked that a box be added indicating that a board or committee had approved the request to then go forward for review. Once revised the Chief will post the flow chart on the Town website.

A request to acquire a camera/sound system that will be used for remote access for the Senior Center, cost not to exceed \$999.00 was submitted to the Board by the Chief to be paid out of the CARES Act funding.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the request to purchase a camera/sound system for the Senior Center, not to exceed \$999.00 and funded by the CARES Act. Second by T. Hein Vote 3-0.

The Chief also asked the Board to approve the purchase of a solar rechargeable camera to monitor the ballot box outside Town Hall in the amount of \$128.00 due to fact that the cost of the ballot box came in under the original \$4000.00 funded through the CARES Act.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the request to purchase a camera in the amount of \$128.00 to monitor the ballot box located outside of Town Hall. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

Jaclyn Winer the director of Youth & Family Services joined the meeting to present a draft of a proposal to identify residents in need of rent and or mortgage relief under the CARES Act. After some discussion it was decided that she and the Board will continue the discussion at the next meeting. B. Sparrell will reach out to J. Winer before then with questions.

Chief Cassidy stated that the Board of Health is still looking into how, when and where they can hold their flu clinic.

In conclusion the Chief stated that safety measures are in place for the upcoming primary elections at the High School.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$656,590.05.
Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell stated that he received a blackboard notification after the recent water main break. He encouraged town residents to sign up for such notifications or if they are currently on the list and have any updates to do so through the link on the Town website.

T. Hein thanked the Highway Department for the work done on Woodland Street getting ready for the students return to school.

J. Cronin thanked the DPW for the quick repair of the water main on Washington Street which was the result of a contractor error and not decaying pipes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

T. Ahern reminded the residents that in-person early voting for the primary election is currently taking place in Upper Town Hall during business hours.

T. Ahern stated that a video outlining the solar project proposed at Marshall Street will be going up on the Town website.

T. Ahern has spoken with the DPW Director regarding the water main break on Washington Street and he has been informed that he will follow up with the vendor/company that caused the break. T. Hein asked that when they have that conversation could the Director inquire about the status of other work that vendor has yet to complete.

MASS DOT will be installing flashing lights at the Summer/Washington Street intersection as well as repainting and moving signage there.

The Complete Streets Grant has been approved in the amount of \$37,915.00.

The Board of Assessors voted to release \$484,000.00 from the overlay.

Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2020. T. Ahern will open the warrant next week. The Board will discuss the possible locations as well as the possibility of lowering the quorum in the next several weeks. J. Cronin would like to get feedback from the Town Clerk regarding the activity around the Annual Town Meeting, Primary Election and the upcoming preparation for the upcoming National Election.

GRANT OF TRAIL EASEMENT:

The Town Planner, Karen Sherman joined the meeting remotely to update the Board on the project. This is a \$92,000 recreational Trails Program Grant. Phase 1 will begin on August 31st, 2020.

This includes grinding and grading of the existing pavement behind Casey's, as well as addressing drainage at the site. And a base layer of asphalt on the surface. A new cross walk will be installed at Railroad Street to then get access to the Trail on Church Street.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Trail Easement with the condition that J. Marsden will obtain the final signature to authorize the replacement of the Milford National Bank. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

BLAIR SQUARE COMMITTEE:

Kevin Connelly the Chair of the Blair Square Committee joined the meeting to update the Board on the current plan. The idea is to have a public space that can be used for various types of activities. Discussion revolved around the possibility of public restrooms within the space. The next step will be to look into obtaining construction documents and costs going forward. K. Connelly will look to the Town Planner for guidance. T. Hein would like to see feedback from the public be included in the final planning. P. Barberi, a committee member stated that he has a company that can facilitate investigating the possibility of septic within the space by conducting a soil test with no cost to the Town.

B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize P. Barberi to request a soil test for possible septic use at the proposed Blair Square project site, with no cost to the Town. Second T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

Regan Harrold, a representative from Beals & Thomas explained that the next step will be to complete a graphic design and present it in public forum. J. Cronin recommended that the committee look to the CPC for \$5,000 at Special Town Meeting in October 2020.

LOWLAND STREET UPDATE FOR PUBLIC FORUM:

J. Cronin stated that the Select Board will meet again tomorrow evening, Tuesday August 25th, 2020 at 7:00pm to have an open forum discussion regarding the issue of the truck traffic concerns at and around Lowland Street Industrial Park. This will be in an effort to gather information and establish how to proceed on the matter. J. Cronin thanked the Town Administrator for posting pertinent information on the Town website. '

CAPITAL POLICY CHANGES:

Due to the fact there continues to be ongoing conversations around the Capital Policy Language, it was determined that the Select Board would address the issue at the next scheduled meeting. B. Sparrell and T. Ahern will meet with the Finance Committee on Wednesday August 26th, 2020 for more clarification.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2020 and July 8, 2020 as written. Second by B. Sparrell. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to nominate Ben Sparrell to replace Mark Ahronian as the Select Board member of the Blair Square Committee. Second by J. Cronin. Vote 2-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Martha Ellis and Herb Brockert as alternate members of the Blair Square Committee. Second by B. Sparrell. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Rebecca Weissman to a 3 year term on the Conservation Commission, thanking her for her previous term. Second by B. Sparrell. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve a one day liquor license for a wedding on September 5, 2020 at the Historical Society from 3:30pm-9:30pm. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Joan Shaughnessy and Shelley Bochner to the Stipend Sub Committee. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0. The Board is still looking to fill 3 more seats.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to give authorization to the Sustainability Coordinator, Matt Zetteck to apply for the MACP Climate Resiliency Grant which has a deadline of August 31, 2020. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin called on Chief Cassidy to recognize 2 recent HFD members, Travis Gross and Jay Marcoaldi. They have successfully completed three phases of training in the certification process. Chief Cassidy along with the Select Board offered their congratulations.

At 9:17pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. Second by T. Hein. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_____