

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

September 14, 2020

Town Hall

7:01 P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: T. Ahern, Town Administrator

At 7:01pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of 1,513,085.73. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein congratulated three residents for completing “the Boston Marathon” on the Rail Trail. Max Athy, Joanne O’Connell and Nate McMahan. All three ran in the name of a charity.

J. Cronin reminded all that the schools are getting prepared to open this Wednesday September 16, 2020. He asked that everyone keep safety in the forefront to ensure the safety of all those going back.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The bids for the Town Hall doors are due this Wednesday September 16, 2020 and T. Ahern is hopeful that there will be several bids to review.

The Governance Committee is scheduled to meet with the Finance Committee this week.

T. Ahern recently attended a Metrowest Veterans meeting and is pleased to report that the needs of Holliston Veterans are being met.

The Stipend sub-committee will hold its first meeting on September 24, 2020. It is currently in the process of getting organized.

The CPC has a public hearing scheduled for September 23, 2020.

The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2020. T. Ahern will ask Chief Cassidy to look into the various possible venues in town.

The Building Inspector Chris Canney has given his notice and the job position has been posted. Interviews will begin on October 1, 2020. C. Canney will be available until a new Inspector is on board.

FRONT STREET:

The Town was awarded a \$12,000 grant for the Shared Streets and Spaces Pilot Project for the Front Street. The additional project regarding the cross walks at Washington/Prospect/Linden streets were not awarded, however the engineering done by Kettelson & Associates has been retained by the Town. Due to the fact that Front Street traffic will be one-way as designated in the project it will be beneficial to receive resident feedback if this is to become a permanent change at the conclusion of the pilot. This could be achieved by creating a public portal in which comments can be made, as well as a survey and a public meeting to gather information.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Front Street Shared Streets and Spaces Pilot Project which will temporarily convert Front Street to a one-way street as presented effective until April 1, 2021. T. Hein second with the clarification that this will be a one-way southwesterly direction. Vote 3-0.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

T. Ahern presented the Board with the current Warrant for Special Town Meeting. The first 6 articles duplicate those of the 2019 Special Town Meeting. He read through the remaining articles looking for the Boards feedback. In conclusion T. Ahern stated that he will work on revising certain language and will have a draft to present at the next meeting for further discussion. J. Cronin asked that T. Ahern speak with Chief Cassidy to obtain a report on the plans regarding a venue for Special Town Meeting, currently scheduled for October 26, 2020.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Kathleen Anguish has been nominated to a full time member position on the Council on Aging. Bob Malone a council member was present (remotely) to explain that K. Anguish is currently an associate member and is recommending she fill the open full time seat.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint Kathleen Anguish as a full time member on the Council on Aging. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a gift of \$100 from Mohawk Path residents to the Fire Department. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a gift of \$500 from the Legion Post 47 as part of the 9/11 ceremony to the Fire Department. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a gift of \$500 from the Legion Post 47 as part of the 9/11 ceremony to the Police Department. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

At 8:10pm J. Cronin called for a brief recess awaiting for the arrival of Chief Cassidy.

At 8:15pm J. Cronin called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Ahern read the memo from the BOH indicating they will look to cancel the Flu Clinic.

T. Hein opened up discussion around the possibility of an open forum regarding the two industrial (traffic related) concerns facing the Town, Lowland and Hopping Brook Industrial Parks. J. Cronin has a scheduled meeting tomorrow, Tuesday September 15, 2020 with MASSDOT as well as Representative Dykema in which traffic issues will most likely dominate the conversation. He will report back after and at that point continue the discussion with the Board.

At 8:20pm Chief Cassidy joined the meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy stated that the Town currently has 75 total cases, 5 of which are active. It is 6 months today that the Town declared a state of emergency and the Chief thanked everyone for their diligence in making Holliston as safe as possible under these extraordinary times. He encouraged all to continue to wear masks, wash hands and keep social distance. The Board thanked Chief Cassidy for his continued guidance and all his hard work.

At 8:30pm T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_____

