

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

September 21, 2020

Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: T. Ahern, Town Administrator; Sam Tyler, Paul LeBeau, Len Engel, Scott Mckecknie, Christina Lingam, members of the Governance Committee, and Chief Cassidy.

At 7:00pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

VOTE ON POLICE ASSOCIATION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:

The Holliston Police Collective Bargaining Agreement had expired on June 30, 2020 however due to the pandemic a new agreement has been delayed. The new agreement will be valid until June 30, 2021 at which time the town will look to a three year term. The Board thanked the Town Administrator T. Ahern and Police Chief M. Stone for all their work.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Police Association Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented, effective through June 30, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

At 7:03pm. S. Tyler read the statement regarding remote open meeting law and proceeded with a roll call for the Governance Committee. S. Tyler stated that he had met with the Principal Assessor, Town Accountant and the Treasurer/Collector to learn more about the Town's budget process. He also met with the Finance Committee, and plans to meet with the School Committee. The Governance Committee is planning to put together a Matrix Budget Table using 15 towns, looking at various bylaws and charters around financial and fiscal procedures. S. Tyler feels that such a bylaw may be a benefit to the Town, suggesting it could be used as a roadmap for the budgeting process. J. Cronin asked that one of the goals be to make our town government better for its residents, and thanked the Committee for all its efforts thus far. In conclusion J. Cronin asked if a timeline outlining the goals for each year (3 year period) could be made available. S. Tyler is hoping to have a presentation ready for Special Town Meeting if time allows.

At 7:41pm the Governance Committee adjourned by roll call and left the meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy reported that there are currently 11 active cases, 9 of which are in a congregant living community and 2 are in a single family resident. There is no sign of a widespread infection.

When asked the Chief stated that the current guideline, except for education, for gatherings is 25 for indoor and 50 for outdoor.

The Chief presented 2 requests to be funded by the CARES Act. One for \$34,630.22 from the Sustainability Coordinator for additional waste and recycling for the time period from late March till now. This is in response to more residents being in their homes for longer periods of time which increases their trash and recycling output.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the request to fund through the CARES Act \$34,630.22 for the additional expense of recycling and trash collection. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

A second request relates to waste containers located at 260 Woodland Street and the increase in usage at that site. This is in the amount of \$4,412.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$4,412 to be funded through the CARES Act for additional use of the waste containers located at 260 Woodland Street. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Chief Cassidy opened up discussion regarding the venue for Special Town Meeting. He began by informing the Board that if a school is used it will need to be on a day in which the school is closed the following day for cleaning purposes. This makes the October 26, 2020 problematic. He can look into several houses of worship in town. He also suggested taking the Town Clerks activities into consideration with the National Election approaching. The Chief will do some inquiring and get back to the Board as soon as next week.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,734,351.46. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein had an informative meeting with Covanta (transfer station) regarding the impact of the truck traffic throughout the Town.

J. Cronin attended at zoom meeting with MassDOT last week. Representative Dykema was also in attendance. MassDOT will do a site visit in Town in the near future. J. Cronin stated that the goal is to find a balance with the businesses and non-businesses within Town regarding the traffic flow.

Rich Rosenberry a member of the Waste Management Committee wanted to voice his support to expand the role of the committee, which was discussed at a recent Select Board Meeting. T. Hein suggested adding language to the Committees Charge to reflect additional goals and responsibilities.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Next week the Select Board will meet on Tuesday September 29, 2020 due to the fact that Yom Kippur is on Monday September 28, 2020.

T. Ahern is working on a report of all the comments that have been compiled as a result of the Lowland Park Forum. He will present it to Board shortly.

Department Head contracts/goals have been drawn up. These will be 1 year contracts, however T. Ahern will look at the possibility of returning to the 3 year contracts.

The Stipend Sub-committee will hold its first meeting on Thursday September 24, 2020. T. Ahern plans to be in attendance.

T. Ahern concluded by stating that the Building Inspector Chris Canney will be leaving the Town of Holliston. C. Canney is currently working remotely and continues to conduct business after hours. The position has been posted and the deadline is October 1, 2020.

DPW ARTICLE UPDATE:

B. Sparrell had reached out to members of the Finance Committee, Sean Reese the DPW Director as well as the Town Administrator regarding the DPW Articles to be presented at Special Town Meeting. There are two separate studies being presented, Article 8 and 9. A Sidewalk study and a Water System study. B. Sparrell stated that the scope of the Sidewalk study remains the same as what was presented in March 2020. He would like the study to identify areas of the Town that would benefit from the use of sidewalks and to create and develop a plan to improve and maintain the sidewalks currently within the Town. In reviewing the Water Main Improvement Plan, there is a need to identify what needs to be replaced throughout the system, as well as addressing the quality of the water.

Carol Khouri a Holliston resident phoned in to ask several questions.

She raised a concern over the number of private wells, and who authorizes such wells. T. Ahern will research and report back.

C. Khouri also asked if the Special Town Meeting was necessary due to the concerns around Covid. J. Cronin assured her that the Meeting will be held in a very safe and efficient manner with attention to public health.

C. Khouri inquired if there was an update for the Lowland Street Open Forum. T. Ahern stated that he hopes to have an update available within the next week and then plans to meet with MassDOT within the coming month.

In conclusion B. Sparrell suggested bundling the two articles, 8 and 9 into one, looking at \$55,000 for the cost of the study.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

T. Ahern presented the most recent draft for Special Town Meeting. Articles 1-6 are staples of Town Meeting and there are no changes to be made at this time. J. Cronin suggested looking to consolidate/bundle prior to Town Meeting. The Board discussed articles 7-14, as well as the possibility of several additional articles. The draft will be reviewed again within the next several weeks moving towards a final draft.

Vin Murphy, a Finance Committee member joined the meeting remotely to ask about Free Cash Certification. The State Division of Local Services is responsible for certifying the Town's Free Cash. The Board is hoping to get clarification from Senator Spilka and Rep. Dykema in the next couple of weeks as to when that might be.

BOARD BUSINESS:

T. Ahern stated that a bid from New England School Services was accepted to replace the Town Hall Doors in the amount of \$52,100. T. Hein made a motion to approved the bid from New England School Services in the amount of \$52,100 to replace the Town Hall Doors. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Sustainability Coordinator Matt Zettek presented a proposal to the Board for the Food Waste Initiative, which looks to use grant money to pilot a food recycling program with the Town of Ashland through Black Earth. The goal is to encourage additional households to join the program with a goal of 500 total between the two towns. Thus resulting in a discount for all subscribers. B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the pilot for the Food Waste initiative through Black Earth in an effort to increase the number of households. T. Hein second, with a comment, hoping to extend this pilot in the future. Vote 3-0.

Joan Levinsohn phoned in to thank everyone who brought this initiative forward. She offered to help with the publicity.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Alison Quinan to a 3 year term on the Youth Advisory Committee. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Tina Hein to the Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a donation from the Superette patrons to the Senior Center Food Program. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a donation from Wayne Griffin for Blair Square Parking lighting. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2020 and August 25, 2020 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein has been contacted by the Trails Committee looking to the Select Board for enforcement of the boundaries along the Rail Trail. The Committee will put together a list of abutters and give it to the Board.

At 9:40pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Driscoll

Approved _____