

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

October 26, 2020

Town Hall

6:30P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: T. Ahern, Town Administrator; Matthew Stone, Police Chief; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Mark Kaferlein, incoming Building Inspector, Jack & Marty Garvey, owners of 360 Motor Sports. Michael Malinoski, representative for 555 Hopping Brook.

At 6:30pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order. Then took a vote to go into Executive Session for a non-union contract discussion.

B. Sparrell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a non-union contract. T. Hein second.

Roll Call	AYE	NYE
B. Sparrell	X	
T. Hein	X	
J. Cronin	X	

At 7:00pm J. Cronin reopened the meeting.

J. Cronin was pleased to announce that the Board and Police Chief Stone had agreed to a new 3 year contract. The Board and the Chief then signed the contract. J. Cronin thanked the Chief for all his hard work. Chief Stone stated that he will continue to work to keep Holliston a safe community.

BUILDING INSPECTOR INTRODUCTION:

Mark Kaferlein, the new Building Inspector joined the meeting. Along with operating his own business over the past 14 years he also has worked in the Town of Douglass as a part-time building inspector. He also is a member of the Zoning Board in Uxbridge where he and his family reside. J. Cronin pointed out that service is a very important part of the Building Inspectors job and welcomed M. Kaferlein to Town. T. Ahern stated that C. Canney will work with M. Kaferlein to help him with the transition when he starts on November 9, 2020.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy was present with an update. There are currently 134 confirmed case, 21 of which are active. The Chief anticipates that the Town will remain in the Red into next week.

He expressed his concern over gatherings with Halloween and the holidays approaching. The Chief encouraged safety measures and asked that people make the best decisions. He will continue to distribute CDC guidelines via the Blackboard. J. Cronin also voiced his concern and urged residents to heed the seriousness of the situation and to please consider scaling back activities.

Peggy Payne a resident joined the meeting remotely to thank the Chief and the Board for all their efforts during the pandemic. She asked who would be responsible for making the decision to move schools from hybrid to all remote. The Chief replied that the decision would be made by the School Administration along with the School Committee.

CARES ACT UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy presented the Board with 3 requests. The first requested by the Police Department for \$1,345 for additional hours for school crossing guards due to the extended time for school arrivals and departures.

T. Hein made a motion to approve \$1,345 for the Police Department to authorize additional hours for crossing guards due to the extended time for school arrivals and departures through the CARES Act. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Technology Director requested \$1,250 for 10 headsets with microphones as well as 2 laptops to be used in conjunction with zoom meetings.

T. Hein made a motion to approve \$1,250 to purchase 10 headsets with microphones along with 2 laptops for the Technology Department funded through the CARES Act. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Youth & Family Services is requesting \$25,000 for a second installment of the short term rental & mortgage assistance to be funded by the CARES Act. As well as the remaining \$2,753 balance from the first installment.

B. Sparrell made the motion to approve \$25,000 for a second installment to be funded by the CARES Act for short term rental & mortgage assistance, with amended guidelines (min. 1 month, \$2,000 max) starting immediately through December 31, 2020 as well as the balance from the first installment of \$2,753. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANT:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,460,977.67. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

T. Ahern stated that contracts for all department heads have been completed.

He added that the Facilities Manager has an update and will present it at next weeks meeting.

T. Ahern has forwarded previously approved Warrant articles to the Finance Committee.

The Governance Committee will vote this week to determine if they will look to have an article

on the Warrant.

T. Ahern shared some thoughts around Article 5 Operating Budget / Tax Rate Impact. He has had discussion with the Accountant, Treasurer and the Principal Assessor regarding the timeline looking to set the tax rate and get bills to print. He will get more specifics and come back to the Board.

The Board opened discussion around Article 9 Water System Modernization Plan. B. Sparrell indicated that language has been added to the article regarding values, water supply study and water main replacement.

T. Hein made a motion to approved Article 9 Water System Modernization Plan as written, totaling \$75,000. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Board looked at Article 10 Water Main Replacement on Winter Street. The article does not include adding sidewalks, however Board members feel they are needed. Due to the fact that the water main on Winter Street is in need of replacement now the Board decided to approve the article without the addition of sidewalks at this time.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve Article 10 Water Main Replacement on Winter Street as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Article 15 Traffic Engineering Study in the amount of \$40,000 was approved, the Board noted that pursuing Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion specifically on Woodland Street is a priority at this time.

T. Hein made a motion to approve Article 15 Traffic Engineering Study in the amount of \$40,000 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

HEARING 360 MOTOR SPORTS:

Jack and Martin Garvey joined the meeting to continue the hearing from last weeks meeting. They informed the Board that they now have the certificate of occupancy for 72 Jeffrey Ave. where their hours of business will be 8:30am-9:00pm. They do not anticipate drive by traffic as they do not rely on walk-in business. The majority of their sales are done on-line, and continued to say that they do not use large car carriers. They pick up and deliver the vehicles themselves. T. Hein stated that the residents in the Lowland Park Industrial Park area have been concerned over traffic issues and to please keep that in mind when conducting their business.

B. Sparrell made a motion to transfer the business license for 360 Motor Sports from 275 Hopping Brook to 72 Jeffrey Avenue. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to close the hearing for 360 Motor Sports which was originally opened on October 19, 2020.

INDIAN RIDGE ROAD SOUTH PARKING ISSUE:

Tracey Cohen a resident of Indian Ridge Road South joined the meeting remotely to discuss an ongoing parking issue on the street. She is very concerned for the safety of the residents on her street due to the amount of vehicles that are parked at all hours. She was looking at the possibility of placing signage on the road. T. Ahern read the article from the July 20, 2020 Town

Meeting in which the road was accepted by the Town. At this point it is in the hands of Town Counsel. In the meantime the Board recommended that T. Cohen contact the Traffic Advisory Committee to then later bring the matter to the Select Board once the street is officially accepted. The link to the TAC page on the Town website was provided to the resident.

FRONT STREET:

There have been 15 comments to date, mostly from abutters regarding the one-way pilot project on Front Street. After some discussion the Board decided to hold a public forum in late January 2021.

RAIL TRAIL:

Robert Weidknecht, the Committee Chair joined the meeting remotely to look to the Board for their input on encroachments by abutters to the Rail Trail. The Committee had sent out letters to 41 abutters in June of 2019. A major concern is that some abutters are using the trail as a dump site, and there are also several structures on the trail that will need to be removed. The Board asked that a second letter be sent out. The Board will look to enforce any decisions made to rectify any encroachments going forward.

555 HOPPING BROOK:

Michael Milanowski, a representative from the project currently under way at 555 Hopping Brook (First Colony Group) joined the meeting remotely. He presented an overview of the project with a slide presentation, which included anticipated traffic flow. A traffic light at the intersection of route 16 and Hopping Brook Road is currently in review with the MassDOT. The Board indicated that at this point any impact of a traffic light at that intersection is unknown as to how it will impact other areas of the Town. The Board also noted that part of the conversation with MassDOT must consider the environmental concerns with the pond and the cemetery at that location. Concerns over the site being a proposed fulfillment center was raised. M. Milanowski stated that this is not going to be a Amazon facility, however the operation will be 24 hours, 7 days a week. It was also noted that residents of the town of Medway are currently fighting the decision by the ZBA for the height variance that was granted. J. Cronin did state that the Town had to issue a "Cease and Desist Order" to stop the developer from clearing trees on the location. He added that this has caused frustration and some doubt over the process. M. Milanowski stated that there had been approval from the developers legal counsel to clear the land at that point and they stopped once the order had been given. The original goal was to have a completed project by the end of 2020, however that will not happen due to the ongoing pandemic.

At this point the meeting was opened up to the public:

Graham Koblenzer, 43 Arch Street had a question on the enforceability around traffic issues.

Francis Hartwich, 239 Concord Street had a question regarding future tenants at the location.

Vincent Murphy, 432 Norfolk Street expressed concern over the effectiveness of the proposed 8 foot fence as a good sound barrier.

Suzanne Adelman, 46 South Street inquired if there would be signage on South Street to address traffic and noise.

Elizabeth Dembitzer, 45 Franklin Street also had concerns around enforceability of truck traffic.

Michael Fowler, 124 South Street had concerns over truck and car traffic as well.

Joe Cooper, 89 Rockland Street asked if there would be signage at the intersection of Rockland and South Street.

Christopher Bajdek, 30 Jarr Brook expressed concern over the noise additional traffic would create within the Town.

Philip Cabot, 1395 Washington Street was also concerned about the noise issue, especially around trucks use of their "Jake Break".

There were also the following Medway residents that joined the meeting to add their concerns.

Gary Rotatori, Kevin O'Connor, Dori Kildof, Janet Sheehan, Steve Poria, Erin Hoye and Don Siminary.

M. Milanowski acknowledged each question and concern and thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with them in this public forum. J. Cronin again stated that the fact that a "Cease and Desist" order was needed to halt the cutting of trees at the site left many with a feeling of frustration around this project and asked that M. Milanowski relay that back to the developers. J. Cronin concluded by stating that information regarding this ongoing project will be posted on the Town website.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2020 and September 21, 2020 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation of \$160 from Bill & Sylvia Stickney to the Senior Center Nutrition Fund. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

After discussion with Chief Cassidy regarding a request for an event permit for a Block Party the Board voted to deny the request.

J. Cronin made a motion to deny an event permit, October 31, 2020 from 3:00pm-10:00pm for a Block Party. T. Hein second noting a lack of information from the applicant and Covid guidelines . Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell noted that the Fall Leaf Pickup and Parking Ban notices are posted on the town website.

B. Sparrell and T. Hein thanked Chris Meo and the Technology Department for all the effort taken to assure the success of all the zoom meetings now taking place.

At 11:45pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_____