

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON**  
**SELECT BOARD**

November 2, 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, Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief, and James Keast, Facilities Manager.

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

**COVID-19 UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy stated that there are 152 total cases, 31 of which are active. These cases are spread throughout 21 separate addresses. There is no evidence that any of the cases are spread throughout the schools. The Schools will continue to update any changes in protocol.

Chief Cassidy expressed his thanks to the residents for heeding the safety measures around Halloween.

The Chief stated that Governor Baker just announced new guidelines which will take place on Friday November 6, 2020 at 12:01am. Masks must be worn at all times, regardless of social distancing. Indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people, outdoor gatherings to 25. Citizens are asked to stay at home from 10:00pm to 5:00am. A town wide public notification went out to update the community.

At this time the Holliston Police have not had any reports of large gatherings brought to their attention, however going forward and if deemed appropriate they will notify the Board of Health and fines can be imposed.

The Chief noted that safety measures for the in person voting on November 3, 2020 were in place. Residents should feel confident voting at the High School.

The Board asked if the quorum for Special Town Meeting should be reduced due to the current safety concerns. The Chief made a recommendation that the Board look into the option provided by the State to lower the quorum for Special Town Meeting.

The Chief did not have any requests for the CARES Act funding. He did state that the next filling report deadline is November 13, 2020 and he will have a meeting with the Schools prior to then.

**WARRANTS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$601,336.35.

T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

B. Sparrell reminded residents that leaf pickup will be the week of November 30, 2020. Also that the on street parking ban is now in effect. The details of both can be found on the Town website.

He encouraged residents to get out and vote and to please be respectful of others throughout the process.

T. Hein read the update from the Town Clerk. All ballots received by November 3, 2020 will be processed by the end of the evening, however ballots will be received and counted up until November 6, 2020 if postmarked by November 3, 2020.

J. Cronin thanked the Town Clerk and her staff and all the volunteers for their tremendous efforts over these past few months.

Beth Hoffer, 184 Winthrop Street phoned into the meeting. She expressed her concern and frustration over the updated timeline for the new Water Treatment Plant. She spoke with the Board at a meeting on March 9, 2020 and was told that the project would be completed November 2021, however the most recent post on the website has 2022 as the completion year. Also the cost of the project has increased. B. Hoffer has sent correspondence to the Board regarding the quality of her water and feels this matter needs immediate attention.

T. Ahern explained that the costs have increased since the original proposal was discussed and that the timeline has increased based on the estimated length of construction which will most likely take 15-18 months. J. Cronin asked that T. Ahern contact S. Reese the DPW Director and look into remediation action regarding the issue pertaining to 184 Winthrop Street.

**FACILITIES MANAGER UPDATE:**

J. Keast the Facilities Manager presented an update on the progress he has made since he started his employment in March 2020. One of the tools now available to him and the Town is a software provided by Dudes Solutions, which gives the ability to have a Capital Plan in place and can forecast out until 2040. He will work with the Capital Sub-committee based on the information obtained. J. Keast continued to give an overview of projects that have been completed and those that are underway and others on the Town's radar. Going forward he will meet with the Park and Recreation Department to develop a plan for managing the Town parks and fields. J. Cronin commended J. Keast for the outstanding job he has done and noted that there has already been monetary benefits to the Town as a result of his efforts.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND WARRANT DISCUSSION:**

T. Ahern stated that the Warrant for Special Town Meeting closed on Friday October 30, 2020. He presented a slide highlighting the articles which have been previously approved by the Board and opened discussion around the remaining articles listed.

The Governance Committee will not have an article at Special Town Meeting. Several articles (Youth & Family substance abuse Grant and Reduction of Tax Rate) can be incorporated into Article #1, FY 2021 Budget Adjustments. The CPC had their last hearing on October 28, 2020 and will finalize their Article #6. Article #17 Road Acceptance (which includes Indian Ridge South) is still being looked at by Town Counsel. Further review and finalizing all remaining articles will be on next week's Board Meeting Agenda.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

J. Cronin updated the Board and residents on a recent site visit with MassDOT. There is a Heavy Vehicle Exclusion on Lowland Street from 7:00pm – 7:00am. It was pointed out that this is an enforceable restriction. As part of the visit the Town Manager of Medway was present to support all restrictions available on South Street in both towns. The Board thanked Representative Dykema for joining those in attendance. The work with MassDOT is still ongoing.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020 and October 19, 2020 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the appointment of Dona Walsh to 1 term as Animal Control Officer. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to disband the Town Administrator Screening Committee with thanks to all who served. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

B. Sparrell looked for feedback from the other Board members regarding the Quarterly update he has been working on. Both T. Hein and J. Cronin have sent their input to T. Ahern who will now forward it to B. Sparrell.

T. Hein asked that residents that live along the Rail Trail please be aware and not to use any of that space for disposing of debris or yard waste. Discussions on solutions to trash issues at Blair Square are still underway.

J. Cronin urged all residents who had not yet voted to do so tomorrow, Tuesday November 3, 2020 at the High School from 7:00am-8:00pm.

At 9:21 T. Hein made a motion to enter into Executive Session, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, not to return to Open Session. B. Sparrell second.

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

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_\_\_\_

