

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

November 30, 2020

Town Hall

6:30 P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Mathew Stone, Police Chief; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Kathryn Peirce, Principal Assessor, (remotely); Mary Greendale, Board of Assessors, (remotely).

At 6:30pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order by reading the notice for the remote open meeting law then proceeded with a roll call.

WARRANT:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$725,102.59. B. Sparrell second. Roll Call: T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

EOPSS GRANT AWARDS & TRAFFIC UPDATE / CHIEF STONE:

Chief Stone was present with an update on the EOPSS Grant Awards and Traffic Safety. He stated that the Holliston Police Department is doing much to address the traffic safety issues within the Town. He has formed a Traffic Safety Unit and their mission is to make the roadways safer for pedestrians and vehicles traveling throughout town. The goal is to create a Safety Officer position. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research has awarded the Holliston Police Department \$28,827.77 to purchase equipment to be used for this purpose, such as commercial vehicle weight scales. Also mobile devices, terminals for department motorcycles that will enable officers to collect data to issue citations for traffic stops. Officer Charles Grace will be attending training on traffic safety in the near future. Another goal is to have the Traffic Safety Officer be a member on the Traffic Advisory Committee. The Chief noted that as of January 1, 2021 the Town will be enforcing 25 mph speed limits on various streets by implementing Mass General Law, Chapter 90, section 17C which was previously authorized by the Select Board on September 29, 2020. They will prepare various ways to inform the public of that change. The Board thanked the Chief and the Holliston Police Department for their continued work to maintain a safe community.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy reported that there are currently 226 cases, 35 which are active. The 35 cases are spread throughout 26 addresses. For the 4th week in a row Holliston remains in the Yellow. The positivity rate is at its highest yet 3.25%, which is a significant increase since this spring. The increases are within the 10-19 age group and 30-39 age group. All safety measures are set for

the Town Meeting on Saturday December 5, 2020. In conclusion the Chief asked that residents make sacrifices now, consider more isolation to help ensure a better future for the community.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy stated that at this time he did not have any requests to present to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell asked that all residents be vigilant and wear masks, keep distance and work towards a safe Holiday Season.

J. Cronin extended condolences to the Stickney family. Bill Stickney passed away last week. He was a longtime resident and will be greatly missed by all.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern reminded the public that the Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday December 5, 2020 at 1:00pm at the High School. The Board will meet at the Library at noon prior to the meeting.

The Board will look to schedule a public hearing for the Marshall Street solar project within the next several weeks/months.

T. Ahern and Chief Cassidy will have a meeting to close out the CARES Act funding prior to December 31, 2020 and report back to the Board.

T. Ahern is still looking into the trash issue at Blair Square. The Town Hall door project has yet to start. Final designs have been sent to the manufacturer and once completed will schedule a date to begin replacing the doors.

After some discussion the Board decided not to schedule a meeting on December 28, 2020 at this time. The last meeting of 2020 will be December 21, 2020 unless one is needed after the fact.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWAL DISCUSSION:

The Board opened discussion around the idea that T. Hein brought to their attention at the last meeting regarding some form of relief for businesses in Town that have annual license fees. T. Ahern presented a list to the Board. T. Hein pointed out that the four restaurants in Holliston have been hit the hardest during the pandemic, whereas the liquor stores have seemingly not been negatively impacted. It was decided that the annual renewal full liquor license fee of \$2,500 for restaurants be reduced by half.

T. Hein made a motion to reduce the annual full liquor license fee of \$2,500 by 50% to \$1,250 for this year for the four restaurants in Holliston. B. Sparrell second with the comment urging residents to support local businesses. Roll Call: T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2020 as written. B. Sparrell second. Roll Call: T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the request for the lighting of the Menorah by the Chabad Center outside the Town Hall. B. Sparrell second. Roll Call: T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING:

At 7:30pm J. Cronin read the memo to open the hearing for the Tax Classification.

B. Sparrell made a motion to open the Tax Classification Hearing to remain open until next weeks Board meeting on December 7, 2020. T. Hein second. Roll Call: J. Cronin AYE, T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE.

K. Peirce, Principal Assessor and M. Greendale, Board of Assessors Clerk joined the meeting remotely. K. Peirce stated that as of Friday November 27, 2020 the Assessors had received FY21 preliminary certification of property values. The values have been posted on-line. K. Peirce explained that the current values are based on a full year of sales, therefore the data used was from 2019 sales. The average sale in 2019 was \$499,500, which was an increase of 6% from 2018. Values at this time are coming in at 97% of market value. Residents can schedule appointments with the Board of Assessors through this Wednesday December 2, 2020 to discuss their values. She hopes to have final certification from the Department of Revenue within the next week. Both K. Pierce and M. Greendale encouraged residents to reach out to the Assessors Office regarding exemptions that are available for those that qualify for a reduction in taxes. In conclusion the hearing will remain open until next weeks Select Board meeting on Monday December 7, 2020 at which time K. Peirce will go over more specific details on such topics as split tax rates and the actual tax rate.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Cronin reminded all that the Special Town Meeting will be taking place at the High School on this coming Saturday December 5, 2020 at 1:00pm.

At 7:48pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Roll Call: J. Cronin AYE, T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved _____

