

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

December 7, 2020

Town Hall

6:30 P.M.

703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Kathryn Peirce, Principal Assessor (remotely).

At 6:30PM J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy stated that there are 258 cases, 206 recovered, 6 covid related deaths (4 of which were recently added to the data, however occurred over the spring/summer/fall). There are 46 active cases involving 37 individual addresses. The positivity rate is currently 4.16%. The Chief continued to state that Social Media is still being used to reach residents, however it is important not to overload it with information so that it becomes ignored.

The Chief went on to thank all the residents who attended last Saturdays Special Town Meeting. There were 82 voters in attendance.

As the Holiday Season continues the Chief asked that residents pay attention to the numbers, (data) and note that the spread appears to be the result of informal gatherings.

J. Cronin asked the Chief if he had any preliminary information regarding the vaccine. The Chief responded by stating that there is expected to be 300,000 vaccines available in the Commonwealth by the end of December. Each state is responsible for putting together a list to prioritize who should receive the available vaccines which then need to be approved, at which time the Governor will make that announcement. He expects that it will take up to a year to roll out all the vaccines needed.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

The Chief reported that after a conference call last week with FEMA and MEMA it was brought to his attention that some items tracked as being FEMA eligible are in fact not. This was a possibility which they were aware of. He will therefore review the entries and update the Board within the next two weeks. The Chief brought to the Board two requests for funding.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve \$147,583.46 of CARES Act funds to be transferred to the Treasurer Collector for unemployment claims for March 2020 – October 2020. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve \$3,983.00 of the CARES Act funds to be transferred to the Fire Department for the purchase of new filters and the cleaning of the HVAC system at the Fire Station. T. Hien second. Vote 3-0.

The Chief concluded by stating that the Board of Health has received a \$3,000 grant from the Mass Health Officers Association which needs to be spent by December 31, 2020.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$1,672,208.37. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell thanked all who worked towards making sure the Town Meeting which was held this past Saturday December 5, 2020 a success.

T. Hein will attend the Safe Routes to School Task Force meeting next week.

J. Cronin stated that Holliston just turned 296 this past week and noted that its only four short years till the Tricentennial in 2024.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern will open discussion again at next weeks meeting regarding the trash pickup at Blair Square.

Looking to January 2021 to schedule a meeting to update the public on the Solar Project at Marshall Street. As well as holding a Public Hearing for the Front Street one way pilot through April 1, 2021.

T. Ahern announced that Linda Marshall the Senior Center Director will be retiring on March 31, 2021. Bob Malone, Council on Aging member joined the meeting remotely and confirmed that L. Marshall will be leaving at the end of March 2021. T. Ahern will begin the process of posting for that position soon.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a gift of \$250 from the Holliston Reporter to the Fire Department. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a grant in the amount of \$5,022.50 from the Center for Technology and Civic Life to the Town Clerk. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

CONTINUATION OF TAX HEARING:

At 7:30 PM Kathryn Peirce joined the meeting to announce that as of 4:30pm today (Monday December 7, 2020) values had been certified, however she was still waiting on New Growth numbers. At this point she requested that the hearing be continued tomorrow Tuesday December 8, 2020 and if needed Wednesday December 9, 2020.

At 7:35PM the Board resumed **BOARD BUSINESS:**

The Board opened up discussion regarding the Meeting Schedule for 2021. J. Cronin requested that the Solar Project Hearing be scheduled within the first weeks of January. T. Hein stated that the Public Forum on Front Street be scheduled in January as well.

T. Ahern plans to have all performance evaluations completed by mid January.

The May Town Meeting will be scheduled for May 10, 2021 at 7:30pm unless another date is chosen in the future.

At 7:46 PM B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn and move into Executive Session, not to return to Open Session for reason #2, negotiation of nonunion personnel. T. Hein second. ROLL CALL: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved _____

