

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

February 1, 2021
7:02PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

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

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Karen Sherman, Town Planner; Mark Kaferlein, Building Inspector; Christopher Keenan, Kelly Bush, Robert Marvil, candidates for open Police Officer position; Linda Marshall, Senior Center Director.

At 7:02pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order by reading the notice for the remote open meeting law then proceeded with a roll call.

FY22 BUDGET & REVENUE REVIEW:

K. Sherman, the Town Planner presented the FY22 Zoning Board Budget. The Planning Board Budget is reviewed by the Finance Committee. K. Sherman introduced a slide outlining the proposed budget, totaling \$10,925. The ZBA has been busy with 40B projects continuing to grow within the Town.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Zoning Board FY22 Budget in the amount of \$10,925. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

M. Kaferlein, the Building Inspector presented the FY22 Building Department Budget. He also introduced a slide outlining the proposed budget totaling \$155,010. He stated that the line item for GIS is there to insure the maintenance of the system which is used by several departments but driven by the Building Department. Based on the current number of permits generated so far this year it appears that activity has increased during the pandemic due to the fact that more people are at home and looking to have work done at their residents.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Building Department FY22 budget in the amount of \$155,010. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

T. Ahern presented a slide with a brief revenue review. The Governor released a budget updating the status of the State Aid, with additional updates expected throughout the year. J. Cronin asked that T. Ahern draft a memorandum from all the Town Boards, Schools and Finance Committee and forward it to the Towns State Representatives.

POLICE CANDIDATES:

The Board interviewed 3 candidates for the open Police Officer position. Christopher Keenan a recent graduate of the Lowell Police Academy and recipient of the Sean Collier Scholarship. Kelly Bush currently a Sherborn Police Officer and Robert Marvil a Detective in Pennsylvania looking to relocate to Massachusetts. Each Board member took the opportunity to ask each

candidate several questions. Some of which spoke to their views on community, integrity, the impact of the pandemic, behavioral health and the Police Reform Act. After some discussion the Board ranked the candidates in order as to whom to offer the position to. It was unanimous to offer the vacant position to Kelly Bush. Robert Marvil the next available position and then Christopher Keenan should another position become available in FY22.

B. Sparrell made a motion to recommend K. Bush be hired for the current Police Officer position available, Robert Marvil should a second position become available and Christopher Keenan should a third position become available. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began his update by stating that it was one year ago today that the first case of Covid 19 was diagnosed in Massachusetts. He presented slides and happily noted that the numbers are starting to trend downward. There have been 22 new cases since last week, 150 cases have been removed. There are currently 69 active cases throughout 54 addresses. The percentage of positivity is now 4.31% which places Holliston back in Yellow. Messaging continues in full force, continually reminding the public that safety measures are still necessary. The Chief also presented a slide outlining the 3 phases for the rollout of the vaccine. The State will be launching a phone bank to help assist with making appointments.

L. Marshall the Senior Center Director joined the meeting and stated that phone volume has greatly increase over the past several weeks with many seniors unable to navigate the process. Transportation is a challenge for many seniors as well as the actual intake process, being able to actually obtain the appointment for the vaccines.

On Friday January 29, 2021 J. Cronin along with the Board of Health staff and Chief Cassidy had a meeting to brainstorm around some solutions. C. Meo, the Technology Director has been working with L. Marshall to develop a path to make the process easier. One plan is to set up a robo call to all seniors in Town. L. Marshall will be returning to the Select Boards meeting next week to present the COA FY22 Budget and will have an update on any progress.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES:

Chief Cassidy presented one request for 4 air purifiers for the Police Department to be funded by the CARES Act in the amount of \$948.10.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the request for 4 air purifiers for the Police Department in the amount of \$948.10 to be funded by the CARES Act. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

The Chief will present the Board with a detailed report on the status of the expenses to date and the remaining balance of the CARES Act funding.

WARRANTS:

The Town Hall was closed today Monday February 1, 2021 as a result of the snow storm and therefore there is not a warrant to be approved. T. Ahern noted that he will need two Board members signatures most likely as early as tomorrow Tuesday February 2, 2021. Both T. Hein and B. Sparrell stated that they would be available to sign the warrant.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell reminded the public that trash pickup will be delayed a day starting tomorrow Tuesday February 2, 2021 due to the snow storm. He also noted that the Blair Square Public Forum will be held on Wednesday February 3, 2021. Residents can look to the Town website for more details.

T. Hein congratulated Assistant Principal Jessica Beattie on being awarded Mass Assistant Principal of the year.

J. Cronin thanked T. Ahern, Chief Cassidy and various members of the Schools (Keith Buday, Dr. Kustka, Staci Raffi and Anne Louise Hanstad) for their attendance and contributions last Thursday January 28, 2021 regarding the CARES Act Funding.

J. Cronin also wanted to remind residents to please remove items other than cars (ie basketball hoops) from roadways during this time of year in an effort to ensure that the snow plows are able to clear the streets throughout town.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The winter parking ban is in effect. T. Ahern recounted J. Cronin's message that items other than automobiles need to be kept off the roadways to prevent damage.

A trash receptacle is now located in Blair Square near the dog waste container. Please take note to use them as intended.

Looking forward to further discussion regarding the proposed Farmers Market in Blair Square in the near future.

The Select Board will be holding a meeting this Thursday February 4, 2021 to review several department FY22 budgets as well as some other board business.

The Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on the 555 Hopping Brook Project on Thursday February 4, 2021.

HCAT will be airing a show hosted by Mary Greendale and Paul LeBeau on Town Government on Wednesday February 3, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Several projects which had been approved at the December 2020 Town Meeting are getting underway. Many quotes have been received and more are expected. The Dudes Solutions software program is now live and J. Keast the Facilities Manager will present a update shortly. The Town has been officially awarded the Local Rapid Recovery Response plan. A consultant will be available to the Town within the next several weeks.

The project to replace/repair the doors at Town Hall has yet to begin. T. Ahern will discuss with J. Keast to determine the best action to be taken to expedite it.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2021 and January 19, 2021 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

T. Ahern recommended that the Board approve McMahon Transportation Engineers for the traffic study to obtain data for the possibility of the HCVE on both South and Woodland Streets.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept the bid from McMahon Transportation Engineers for a traffic study on both South and Woodland Streets. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a gift of \$400 for the Fire Department from a Washington Street resident. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell stated that Kevin Connelly the Chair of the Blair Square Committee will be attending next weeks Board meeting with an update. The goal is to have a warrant on the May Town Meeting.

T. Hein announced that the Holliston Schools will be closed tomorrow Tuesday February 2, 2021 due to snow.

T. Ahern announced that the Town Hall will open at noon tomorrow Tuesday February 2, 2021 to allow the plows to clear the roadways and the parking lot.

At 9:22pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0. Roll Call: B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret M. Driscoll
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Approved 2/22/21