

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

February 22, 2021
7:00PM

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; Linda Marshall, Council on Aging (remotely); Sean Reese, DPW Director (remotely); Bobby Blair, Farmers Market.

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

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began his weekly update by stating that the numbers are again trending in the right direction. There are 13 new cases since last weeks update. There are currently 36 active cases throughout 29 addresses. The percentage of positivity is 2.27% and for the fourth consecutive week Holliston is Yellow.

The VaxFinder website experienced some challenges last week however the Chief reported that the State is working to have it up and running again. The State is moving away from distributing vaccines to local Boards of Health and supplying larger amounts of vaccines to the larger venues. Messaging will focus on continuing to follow safety protocol after completing both rounds of the vaccine. The Chief noted that the additional messaging boards have not been placed throughout Town as of yet due to the recent storms.

L. Marshall joined the meeting with an update. The volunteers and staff at the Senior Center have successfully assisted 85 residents, 75 and older with securing appointments, 30 individuals are still awaiting an appointment and 8 new requests from 65 and older have been logged. L. Marshall will request another robo call offering assistance to residents.

T. Hein stated that Town employees have been observed by residents performing outdoor work duties without face coverings. T. Ahern will address the matter at the next upcoming Department Head meeting.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy presented slides outlining the CARES Act Funding spending to date. At this time the Chief did not have any new requests. After some discussion regarding possible changes at the Federal level around aid the Chief informed the Board that he will present updates as they become available.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,302,465.95. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin stated that there will be a private event on Saturday February 27, 2021 in Upper Town Hall to honor Charles Nickerson, the Towns Oldest Veteran.

The Governance Committee will be meeting with various Committees in the next several weeks and will be holding a Public Hearing in March 2021 to discuss its recommended by-law amendments.

BLAIR SQUARE FARMERS MARKET / BOBBY BLAIR:

Robert (Bobby) Blair joined the meeting with a business plan for the proposed Farmers Market at Blair Square. The plan includes a Safety and Traffic provision with the input and assistance from Lieutenant G. Leurini. Auxiliary Officers will direct traffic and assist pedestrians at cross walks, as well as unloading and loading of vendors vehicles. R. Wiedknecht, Chair of the Trails Committee provided a graphic of a plot plan illustrating the tent locations for the various vendors.

The Market will be held weekly starting on Sunday June 20, 2021 until the 2nd Sunday in October 2021, from 9:00am-1:00pm. There will be space for 20-25 vendors depending on the size of the tents used. There will be 194 parking spaces available. The Friends of the Community Farm will be responsible for managing the monetary aspect of the market and will retain any profits.

B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to have Town Counsel review the business plan for the Farmers Market and obtain the necessary license to move forward. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

The Board thanked B. Blair for all his efforts in bringing a great community project to fruition.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Governance Committee will be presenting an update on March 8, 2021 at 8:00pm at 7:00pm. On March 8, 2021 Rep. Carolyn Dykema and Senator Karen Spilka will join the meeting with a legislative update.

The Economic Development Committee has 2 open seats, one expires on June 30, 2021 and the second on June 30, 2023.

The Select Board will be meeting on Thursday February 25, 2021 to discuss various FY22 Budgets.

The Planning Board will be holding an open hearing on Thursday February 25, 2021 at 7:00pm regarding the proposed project at 555 Hopping Brook.

FY22 BUDGET & REVENUE REVIEW:

T. Ahern stated that the West Suburban Health Group has approved their rates for FY22. M. Bousquet will put together a Benefits Budget to be presented at the Monday March 1, 2021

Meeting.

S. Reese presented the FY22 DPW Highway Budget. He noted several changes, one being the addition of temporary labor, this is in regard to upcoming summer employment. There is also an impact under purchase services. This is to accommodate tree work throughout town.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the DPW Highway FY22 Budget in the amount of \$1,482,607. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

The FY22 DPW Water Budget which had been previously voted on January 25, 2021 was re-presented with several line item changes. It was pointed out that the bottom line did not change, the budget total remains the same. No vote required.

S. Reese presented the FY22 Motor Vehicle Fuels Budget.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the FY22 Motor Vehicle Fuels Budget in the amount of \$105,000. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a grant in the amount of \$113,742 for training from the International Association of Police Chiefs for Police Drug Impaired driving enforcement to the Holliston Police Department. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a grant to the Auxiliary Police from the MA Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of parkas. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept the bid from Kronenberger & Sons in the amount of \$92,000 for the Town Hall Window project. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept the bid from CJP & Sons in the amount of \$1,624,450.50 to replace the Water Main on Winter Street. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for February 1, 2021 and February 4, 2021 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to amend the Host Community Agreement with Mederi (44 Boynton Rd) to include manufacturing. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Aric Emond as an Auxiliary Police Officer with a term ending on June 30, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Shannon Gratton to the Community Farm Advisory Committee with a term ending on June 30, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Kristen Haddad to the Youth Advisory Committee with a term ending June 30, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

At 8:36pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn to go into Executive Session not to return to open session for reasons, Value of Property and Nonunion personnel. T. Hein second. Roll Call: T. Hein AYE, B. Sparrell AYE, J. Cronin AYE.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved 3-8-21