

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

April 5, 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; Matthew Stone, Police Chief; Michael Pompili, representative McMahon Traffic Engineers; Linda Marshall, outgoing Senior Center Director and Dan Alfred, Finance Committee member.

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDY UPDATE:

J. Cronin gave a brief synopsis of Article 15 which approved the hiring and funding of McMahon Engineering to do a traffic study at the December 2020 Town Meeting. This study included 7 streets including Woodland, South, Bullard, High, Locust, Fiske and Lowland. He then introduced Michael Pompilli, Senior Project Engineer of McMahon Engineering.

M. Pompilli gave a short presentation regarding Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusions (HCVE) and how this relates to traffic studies. A Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion is defined by MASS DOT as being a 2.5 ton or greater carrying capacity vehicle (truck), and have an alternate route available. This also considers the pavement condition, zoning and noise generated in residential areas during the hours of 7:00pm-7:00am. The study was conducted on February 25, 2021 over a 24 hour period on the 7 roadways.

The results are as follows based on 85th percentile speed:

Woodland Street 5.8% @ 40mph	Fiske Street 10% @ 40mph	Lowland Street 12% @ 40mph
Bullard Street 13% @ 40mph	High Street 7% @ 35mph	Locust Street 10% @ 35mph
South Street 14% @ 40mph		

Other concerns noted in the study such as narrow roadways, tend to lead the trucks to travel in the center of the road. Site issues, such as poles also were noted and may possibly impair visibility. The pavement on most roads were found to be generally ok, however rutting and cracking along the edges has occurred.

M. Pompilli will finalize the report then forward to T. Ahern who will then submit it to MASSDOT. At this point it is expected to take several months to be reviewed.

Chief Stone responded to questions regarding enforcement if and when the HCVE's are approved. He stated that the priority of the Police Department will be to educate the public. He pointed out that traffic safety is a priority of the Department. Officer Charles Grace has been appointed as the safety officer and that there will be an additional officer added to motorcycle patrols which will increase coverage.

J. Cronin stated that looking at the results of the study validate what the Board has been hearing from the public regarding the truck traffic throughout Town.

David Bastille, Rockland Street: Asked will the Town work with Medway regarding a HCVE on South Street. T. Ahern responded that authorities in the Town of Medway have and will participate in issues involving South/Clark Streets.

Suzanne Adelman, South Street: Asked if a "No Left Turn" sign can be placed at the end of South Street. Chief Stone stated that at this time without a HCVE in place on South Street such a sign would not be enforceable.

Karen Langton, Woodland Street: Thanked the Board for presenting the study and taking residents questions. She is concerned about the details around enforcing the HCVE's. Chief Stone reiterated that the first priority will be to educate the public, and by doing so will change the behavior.

Carl Adelman, South Street: Asked if he could forward documentation regarding damage caused by trucks on South Street. He also has a concern around the culvert that is in front of his property. He was asked to pass any information onto T. Ahern who can then pass it onto M. Pompilli as part of the report.

Susan Woodrow, Union Street: Wanted to know what the difference was between a Scenic Road and a National Historical Roadway in regard to South Street. The Board noted that more research would be needed to make a determination.

B. Sparrell made a motion to submit the Traffic Report as presented by McMahon to MASSDOT on the following streets, Woodland, South, Bullard, Fiske, Lowland, High and Locust. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began his weekly update by stating that there are 20 recovered cases, 19 additional cases and 1 additional fatality. There are currently 20 active cases throughout 13 households. The positivity rate is 2.06% and Holliston remains Yellow for the 10 consecutive week. There continues to be a surge in hospitalization. The Chief reported that 39.47% of residents have been partially vaccinated, 21.1% fully vaccinated, 90% 65-74 years of age and 98% 75 and older. He concluded by encouraging residents to preregister for the vaccination if they have not yet done so.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy provided a slide showing the updated CARES Act spending balance of \$782,969. At this time he did not have any additional requests and he is still awaiting guidance on any additional Federal Funding.

L. Marshall, outgoing Senior Center Director stated that the volunteers at the Senior Center have done an amazing job helping those in need obtain vaccination appointments. Some seniors are still waiting to find appointments closer home. Lisa Borchetta started her new role as Senior Center Director this morning (Monday April 5, 2021) and L. Marshall will work closely with her for the next several weeks to help with the transition.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$2,222,874.85. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein reported that on April 1, 2021 TAC (Traffic Advisory Committee) voted 4 motions which will need further approval from the Select Board. 1. HCVE on South Street. 2. Bullard Street 25mph signs. 3. Green sign board designations on Washington Street. 4. Deaf Child sign on Union Street. All of these will be funded by a Town Meeting Article and will be discussed further in an upcoming Select Board meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that L. Borchetta will be introduced as the new Senior Center Director at this upcoming Department Head meeting on Wednesday April 7, 2021. She will be working towards safely reopening the Senior Center.

The Solar Project on Marshall Street is in a holding pattern waiting for Eversource to be able to move forward. The Town Planner, Conservation Agent and Building Inspector have all been kept up to date on the project.

Paving will begin on several streets starting Monday April 12, 2021. Some of which are Marshall, Hanlon, Cheryl and Cedar. The full list will be posted on the town website.

A public hearing on a Road Acceptance of Summitpointe Drive will be held as part of next weeks (Monday April 12, 2021) Select Board agenda.

OPEN APPOINTED SEATS ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES:

T. Ahern stated that there are several appointed positions open, available. They are as follow: Economic Development Committee, Community Preservation Commission, Community Farm, Agricultural Commission, Historical Commission, Open Space, Cultural, and Sustainability Waste & Recycling. Those interested should send their qualifications to T. Ahern.

FY22 BUDGET vs. REVENUE – UPDATE:

T. Ahern stated that he did not have any changes to the revenue he had presented previously. This opened discussion as to how the Capital Expenditure Fund of \$1,850,000 was derived. T. Ahern confirmed that along with the Treasurer Collector and Town Accountant they came up with a version of the omnibus budget, which now will be reviewed and voted by the Finance Committee before being printed in the May Town Meeting Warrant. The discussion continued around the need for a long term Capital Expenditure model. B. Sparrell would like to see a clear explanation of how it works.

D. Alfred a Finance Committee Member joined the meeting to state that FinCom recommends a Capital Expenditure balance of \$2,300,000. The Finance Committee have

concerns that short term spending will prevent being able to pay for large capital projects or an unforeseen future crisis. The Board thanked D. Alfred for his comments and look forward to further conversation pertaining to the budget.

T. Ahern introduced an organizational chart with some proposed operational changes within the structure of Town Hall. The Town Clerk has an open clerk position which is now being proposed as an assistant to the Town Clerk and the Town Administrators Office. The intent is to give more support within Human Resources as well. The position of the principal Clerk in the Select Boards office will now be restructured as an Office Manager. This will result in a revised Select Board budget in the amount of \$453,615.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the revised proposed FY22 Select Board Budget in the amount of \$435,615 due to personnel changes. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern introduced a revised DPW Highway budget as a result of a recently approved contract.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the revised proposed FY22 DPW Highway Department Budget in the amount of \$1,462,392. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANTS:

T. Ahern presented a spreadsheet outlining articles from previous Town Meetings, what has been appropriated, when and how much has been spent and the balance as of march 31, 2021. He explained that some future articles may be able to be funded by monies which have not yet been used if the details of the proposed articles are similar in nature, otherwise the funds will be closed out and converted into Free Cash.

T. Ahern also reviewed the current status of the May Town Meeting Warrant. It is likely that the Select Board will open the Warrant to accept some changes to several article and then close the Warrant within the next 2 weeks. Due to the number of proposed articles it would appear that the May Town Meeting will be held over 2 nights.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2019. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 to the Senior Center by the Tune Timers Band in the memory of a founding member. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve and sign the contract for M.J.S. Construction for masonry work to be done at the Library in the amount of \$74,420. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to amend the date change for the Holliston High School Senior Car Parade to Saturday May 22, 2021 from Sunday May 23, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Hein reported that she had taken a site walk on Front Street with K. Sherman, Town Planner and T. Smith, Highway Superintendent and reviewed the possible parking and green space changes. She encourages residents to view the area and add input. The discussion will continue in the future regarding the possibility of making the one way on Front Street continue to Exchange Street.

T. Hein would like to continue discussion in the future regarding signage if and when HCVE's are approved on certain roadways in Town.

J. Cronin asked Chief Cassidy to prepare a report on the preparations that will be needed at the High School to ensure a safe May Town Meeting and present it to the Board within the next couple of weeks during his weekly Covid-19 update.

At 9:47pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session for reason #2, Collective Bargaining, not to return into open session. T. Hein second.

Roll Call: T. Hein AYE, J. Cronin AYE, B. Sparrell AYE.

Respectfully submitted;


Margaret Driscoll

Approved 4-26-21