



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

Present: Mark Ahronian, Chairman; John Cronin, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator; Mary Bousquet, Treasurer/Collector; Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant; Liz Greendale, Town Clerk; Jay Talerman, Town Counsel via Telephone; and Andrea Minihan, Administrative Assistant

Absent: T. Hein

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order at 8:00a.m.

Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Article 1: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Adjustments: Discussion centered on the need for Article one (1).

As part of the FY2020 budget and ultimate Town Meeting approval \$75,000 was placed into the benefits budget for department head salary adjustments. This article would reallocate these funds allocated with signed Employment Agreement into the specific department head line item within each budget.

The question is why can't town pay the salaries from this line item similar to vacation pay or sick leave pay upon retirement and therefor there is no need for the Article.

S. Emerick said she asked the Department of Revenue and was referred to their legal department and is awaiting a return call.

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J. Cronin said he viewed it as a correction there will come a time when the account will have to be made whole. The 15 or so accounts will need money at the year-end a certain amount may not be spent.

The Finance Committee is concerned about FY21.

J. Talerman reviewed the history and the documents provided. According to the E-Mail chain the Chairman of the Finance Committee agreed to use the \$75,000 for department salaries. That was the intent and that's what happened.

J. Cronin asked L. Greendale to check the meeting minutes from Town Meeting and the Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke to it if he recalls correctly.

J. Talerman said he was comfortable using the appropriation to the Employee Benefit budget in the amount of \$75,000 for these salary adjustments.

J. Talerman said the fewer line items in the budget the better.

J. Cronin said that would be a structural use of accounts considering it would be a one (1) time use of the funds.

J. Talerman said there is a base salary the other funds would be a supplement.

M. Ahronian said if you use the base salary and take it as far as you can will provide more time to see what the Department of Revenue says but for now it is best to remove the Article.

J. Talerman said the key factor is the May 2, 2019 E-Mail from the Chairman of the Finance Committee to the Treasurer/Collector where it discusses where we are going to place the \$75,000 and it was decided the Employee Benefits budget but the intent was clearly to use the appropriation for Department Head salary adjustments. It was a good honest discussion.

It goes to intent the Finance Committee recommended the \$75,000 for this purpose. It was noted that all three (3) attorneys were consulted and agreed the Article could be removed from the Warrant. We view the line item as available.

S. Emerick voiced reservations.

J. Cronin made a motion to use the existing salary lines for now. To remove Article One (1) from the Warrant and try to stay within the appropriation. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

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Article 20: Dam Inspections, Repairs and Ownership: J. Cronin said the reference to one (1) million in additional funding should be removed. J. Ritter said additional funding might be possible.

Article 18: Initial Redesign of Pinecrest Clubhouse: J. Cronin made a motion to remove the Article. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin said the DPW Articles are important and should remain in the Warrant for further public discussion

J. Cronin made a motion to approve, sign and post the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Adjourn: At 8:51a.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

Respectfully submitted

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator