

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

April 12, 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, Joan Shaughnessy, Stipend Committee Chair and George Connors, representative NatureWalk developers.

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

STIPEND COMMITTEE UPDATE/REPORT:

Joan Shaughnessy, Stipend Committee Chair presented updated recommendations on behalf of the Stipend Committee. Holliston currently gives stipends to the Board of Assessors and the Select Board. The Committee looked at 18 towns similar to Holliston. It found that 55% of those towns offered stipends. Holliston is consistent with 27% of its peer group. As a result of the findings there was no statistical or qualitative reasoning found as to why particular towns offer stipends as well as the amounts that are offered. It appears that some stipends are offered simply because it has been an ongoing practice. J. Shaughnessy also wanted to clarify an earlier statement made at a previous Select Board Meeting. The Stipend Committee noted that the Board of Assessors justified their stipend due to the fact that they had an annual 1 week training conference offsite and therefore the stipend was a form of compensation. However that is no longer the case. The training is now done as an online course. In conclusion the Stipend Committee recommends ceasing the practice of offering stipends to any elected or appointed board/committee members in Holliston. However maintain the current stipend offered to those who ran for their current term with stipends in place, once the current term expires, no future stipends will be offered to future members.

The Select Board thanked J. Shaughnessy and the entire Stipend Committee for their thorough report.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy presented his weekly update. There are 14 additional cases bringing the total of active cases to 34 throughout 24 addresses. Holliston remains Yellow for the 11 consecutive week, and the positivity rate is lower than the States average for a second week. Next week will start Phase III and those 16 years and older will be eligible to receive the vaccine. At this time 46% of Holliston residents have been partially vaccinated and 25% have been fully vaccinated. Again thanks to all those assisting members of the community in obtaining appointments. Starting Wednesday April 14, 2021 – Friday April 16, 2021 Holliston will take part in a Regional

Collaborative at the Doubletree in Westborough. Individuals should search the Northborough Doubletree to schedule an appointment.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

The Chief had three requests for the approval of the Select Board.

The Facilities Manager would like to install bottle filling stations at the Town Hall and Police Station to maintain social distancing at both locations.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the installation of "bottle filling stations" at the request of the Facilities Manager for the Town Hall and the Police Station in the amount of \$10,970 to be funded by the CARES Act. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

The Police Department would like to extend Crossing Guard hours between now and the end of the school year.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve additional Crossing Guard hours starting now through the end of the school year in the amount of \$1,435 for 2 individuals to be funded by the CARES Act. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

As part of the Regional Collaborative taking place at the Doubletree in Westborough each town has been asked to fund a portion of the cost of the clinic by funding temporary clerical help.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve \$16,000 as Hollistons contribution to assist with clerical help at the Regional Collaborative for the next 16 weeks, till the end of July 2021 to be funded by the CARES Act. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

7:34pm HEARING NOTICE SUMMITPOINTE DRIVE ROAD ACCEPTANCE:

B. Sparrell read the notice for the Public Hearing for the Road Acceptance.

B. Sparrell made a motion to open the Hearing for the Road Acceptance of Summitpointe Drive. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern stated that this Road Acceptance could potentially be an article on the Warrant for the upcoming 2021 May Town Meeting.

Residents on the street have ongoing concerns with drainage and erosion. George Connors a representative from the developer NatureWalk was present and stated that the concerns brought forth by the residents would be addressed. Funding has been set aside and will be available. G. Connors will be doing a site walk with the developers design engineer on Tuesday April 13, 2021. K. Sherman, Town Planner joined the meeting to state that the cistern pipe which is used for firefighting is in need of a fresh coat of paint.

Matt Coletti, Summitpointe Drive: Asked that the Hearing continue into next weeks Select Board meeting as the notice given to the residents was less than a week, only 5 days. He would like more time to understand the full scope of matter.

Andy Pisano, Summitpointe Drive: Asked for more clarity on behalf of the developer regarding plans for remediation for the drainage issues. He feels the underlying problem is with the design of the roadway.

Matt Brooks, Summitpointe Drive: Stated that the problem with irrigation runoff at his property has caused erosion and continues even after attempts to correct it. He would like to see what mitigation is planned by the developer.

After some discussion among the Board it was decided to continue the hearing until next week to give the residents more time.

B. Sparrell made a motion to continue the Hearing for Summitpointe Drive Road Acceptance till next week April 20, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,860,849.54. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hein noted that on Saturday April 17, 2021 Boy Scout Pack 47 will be holding an Electronic Recycling event at the High School from 9:00am – 12:00noon.

J. Cronin stated that Holliston Veterans will be selling bricks as a fundraising effort for the monument proposed at Blair Square.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern has been approached by residents who would like to display a Pride Flag during the month of June at the Town Hall. T. Hein asked if this could be a permanent decision when put to a vote so as not to have to revote annually. The discussion will continue over the next several weeks.

T. Ahern expressed appreciation to J. Winer, director of Youth and Families for her assistance in helping staff to secure appointments for vaccines.

FY22 BUDGET V. REVENUE DISCUSSION:

T. Ahern had no changes in revenue to report and is still awaiting any information as it relates to State Aid in the future. He did however have 3 changes to FY22 proposed budgets.

DPW Highway: The Highway Department is currently renting a street sweeper due to the fact that they are in need of a new one. The request for a new sweeper has been removed from the list for May Town Meeting and therefore will reduce the budget amount. It will be addressed again prior to the October 2021 Meeting.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the revised FY22 proposed DPW Highway Budget in the amount of \$1,472,392. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: A new contract for maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant will save \$7,000 annually.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the revised FY22 proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget in the amount of \$97,700. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Liability Insurance: T. Ahern explained that due to an increase in liability claims MIIA has increased their cost by \$30,493.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the revised proposed FY22 Liability Insurance Budget in the amount of \$320,291. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

Chief Cassidy returned to the meeting to outline the alternatives for the May 10, 2021 Town Meeting. Two options were discussed. One being the use of the auditorium with over flow in the cafeteria, the other using the field house. After some discussion, of which T. Hein made an inquiry about an out of doors option it was decided to use the auditorium with over flow in the cafeteria as it has the best acoustics and less setup is required. There will be adequate time to clean the space if the meeting goes into an expected additional evening. Due to the fact the Board feels that this is a highly motivating Meeting Warrant it was decided not to adjust the quorum.

T. Ahern presented the current draft of the Town Meeting Warrant, which include 37 articles. The possible use of a consent agenda may help to move the meeting along in a timely manner. The first draft has been reviewed by Town Counsel. T. Ahern stated that within the next several weeks it will be necessary to open and then close the warrant to make changes voted. The final warrant must be approved no later than 7 days prior to Town Meeting date May 10, 2021.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize T. Ahern to execute the contract with Robert B. Our Co. Inc. for the construction for the treatment plant at the site of well #5 in the amount of \$8,175,285. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

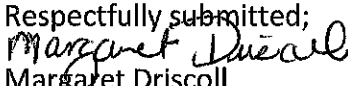
B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize T. Ahern to submit a Chapter 90 Request Form for road reconstruction on Exchange, School, Spring, Pleasant, Mechanic and Union Streets. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint Evan Rseska to the Agricultural Commission, term to expire June 2023. T. Hein second with thanks. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Ahern noted a correction. HighMark Provisions who have a Host Agreement with the Town on Summer Street had been misprinted in the Holliston Reporter as being a retail operation, however they are not, they are a cultivation operation only.

At 9:20pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved 5-3-21