

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON**  
**SELECT BOARD**

April 26, 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; Matt Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator; Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent.

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

**COVID – 19 UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy presented his weekly update. There are 17 additional cases to report, the current total is now 782. There are 70 active cases throughout 51 addresses. The positivity rate is 2.59% and Holliston remains Yellow. The Chief noted that the Town's nursing consultant has been on vacation and he expects that the number of active cases will decrease shortly once she has updated her data. Currently 59% of residents are partially vaccinated and 35.5% have been totally vaccinated.

**CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:**

The Chief provided slides showing the latest expenses and CARES Act balance. He did not have any requests for funding to present to the Board at this time. The Chief attended a webinar sponsored by Mass Municipal Association (MMA) in which the main focus was on preparing for aid from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). Chief Cassidy noted that it is important for the Town to work on a plan to determine what the anticipated needs will be once these funds become available. ARPA funding can help "Build a Bridge" to stir the recovery of the local economy. The Chief suggested establishing a format in which Town Departments can begin planning on what needs can be addressed similar to when the CARES Act was introduced. T. Ahern took the opportunity to remind residents that vaccines are still available most Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between 9:00am-2:00pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough as part of the Regional Collaborative and appointments can be easily made using the link provided on the Towns' website.

**WARRANTS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$2,191,011.51. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Cronin stated that the cemetery in East Holliston is in poor condition. He asked that T. Ahern

look at the various cemeteries in Town and determine what maintenance is needed as they are historic sites within the Town, and should be maintained.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

T. Ahern has received letters of interest from several residents interested in open appointed seats on various committees. Anyone interested should forward their letter of interest to his attention and can access information on the remaining open seats through link provided by the Holliston Reporter.

The paving for parking spaces on Front Street began today, (Monday 26, 2021). The parking will be on the diagonal similar to what is behind Casey's, and there will be an unpaved area which will be used as Green Space. The Select Board may look to extend the one-way through to Exchange Street in the future.

T. Ahern will be composing a memo for the Select Board to forward to the Town Clerk which will amend the Town's traffic rules and orders which then will be forwarded to MASSDOT in support of the HVCE on Woodland Street. Once it is approved by the MASSDOT the Town will be able to make the HVCE on Woodland Street permanent.

#### **EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS (EAPs) FOR DAMS:**

T. Ahern explained that the Town is required to have Emergency Action Plans and inspections for the 4 Dams located within the Town. An extension was granted this year for the Houghton Dam which is required every 2 years. The Factory Dam inspection is required every 5 years, the next one is October 2022. Lake Winthrop Dam is also every 5 years, the next one is September 2022. Weston Pond Dam is every 10 years, next one due in 2027. It was noted that the funding for this was voted in May 2017 Town Meeting and October 2019 Special Town Meeting. Both Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent and Matt Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator joined the meeting. R. Clapp noted that action needed to be taken prior to the end of FY21 to get the dams into compliance and that emergency action plans for Lake Winthrop and Factory dams should be in place by the end of August 2021.

B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Lenard Engineering for Dam follow up and inspection services for 4 Dams, (Houghton Pond, Lake Winthrop, Factory Pond and Weston Pond) for an amount not to exceed \$11,500. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to execute a contract with Lenard Engineering for Emergency Action Plans for Factory Pond Dam and Lake Winthrop not to exceed \$16,000. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

#### **FY22 BUDGET vs. REVENUE:**

T. Ahern noted that there are no major changes within the proposed FY22 Budget.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT DISCUSSION:**

T. Ahern stated that the May 10, 2021 Town Meeting Warrant is posted on the Town's website. The Warrant consist of 37 Articles. There are several exhibits located on after the last Article #37 that relate to Article #4, Stipend Committee and Articles #9 and #10, Governance Committee. The report from the Finance Committee should be available no later than Monday May 3, 2021. Printed copies will be distributed at various locations throughout Town. The Board members thanked T. Ahern for the effort he put into providing a thorough document.

J. Cronin asked Chief Cassidy to present a final update regarding the protocol for the May 10, 2021 Town Meeting at the next Select Board meeting on Monday May 3, 2021.

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

B. Sparrell made a motion approve the Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2021 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

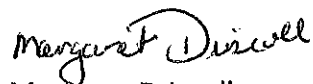
**OTHER BUSINESS:**

T. Hein will be attending a meeting held by the Diverse Holliston Group which will be planning activities for June, Pride month.

T. Hein stated that the Metro West Regional Collaborative voted to appropriate \$5,000 for a Metropolitan Area Planning Council climate project, which M. Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator is a participant.

At 7:56pm. B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;



Margaret Driscoll

Approved 5-17-21