

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

May 24, 2021
7:00PM

Town Hall
703 Washington Street

Present: John Cronin, Chair; Ben Sparrell, Clerk. T. Hein, Vice Chair was absent.

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief.

At 7:01pm J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began his update by stating that the trend is continuing in the right direction. The Chief reported that there are 2 additional cases, 12 recoveries, and 4 active cases throughout 4 households. Holliston now is Gray for the first time since mid-September 2020. The Chief continued to state that 57.6% of Holliston residents are fully vaccinated and almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the residents are partially vaccinated. The State will be phasing out the preregistration process and will be expanding the in-home vaccination program. The mask mandate ends May 29, 2021, however the Chief recommends keeping masks on hand as there will be various entities that will continue to require them and unvaccinated individuals should still wear them. As of June 1, 2021 the Town Hall will be open to the public with no restrictions, or appointments necessary. The Senior Center will not fully open until certain renovations are completed. J. Cronin noted that the Upper Town Hall will not open for rentals until the new septic system at the Town Hall is installed.

CARES ACT/ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

The Chief did not have any additional requests for funding through the CARES Act. There were 5 added expenses posted bringing the new total to \$755,759. The Chief pointed out that after May 29, 2021 the Town will no longer be required to use additional cleaning, (high-touch) in municipal buildings. However it may be worth a discussion to determine if it should be continued in various locations. The CARES Act funding is available through December 31, 2021 and unaffected by the Governors order.

T. Ahern stated that he will put together a group of individuals, not a committee, that will aid in determining the best use of the ARPA funds once they become available. The process will be similar to that of the CARES Act.

WARRANTS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,994,205.46. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. Vice Chair T. Hein absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell recently met with the DPW Director S. Reese and had several updates to report. The sidewalk study prepared by Stantec has been completed and will be presented to the Select Board shortly at which point the Board will be looking for public input.

The Winter Street water main project is a quarter completed and should be completed sometime this September 2021.

The Mass DEP offered and completed testing of all Holliston wells for PFAS and have been found to be far below the maximum limits. A second round of tests will be done and after that the results will be posted.

B. Sparrell reminded all registered voters to go to the polls tomorrow Tuesday May 25, 2021.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the Town Clerks Office at the Town Hall will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday May 25, 2021 as they will be at the polls at the High School. Residents can contact the Select Boards Office if need be.

The Sustainability Coordinator has set up through Eversource an Energy Efficiency Program in which local small businesses in Town can be reviewed the week of June 6th – 11th, 2021.

The position of Assistant Town Administrator / Human Resource Director will be posted on the MMA website later in the week and T. Ahern hopes to have someone starting by August.

After the election the Clerk will provide all Board and Committee members with information including the on-line MIIA-MMA Code of Conduct class and the newly revised email policy.

Town Counsel will be offering a seminar for all Boards and Committees, tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2021.

The Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee will consist of 17 seats, 14 of which will default to the Chair of the various Committees unless another member wishes to participate. That will leave 3 seats open to be held each by the Finance Committee, Public Works and Sustainability.

FY21 RETROSPECTIVE / FY22 OUTLOOK:

B. Sparrell presented an overview of the Select Boards progress for FY21 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3. Some of the accomplishments include traffic studies, new parking at Blair Square through Shared Streets & Spaces, the solar project on Marshall Street, setting water rates, projects at Town Hall and the Library as well as personnel changes.

Looking forward to FY22 various infrastructure results will be forthcoming including the new water treatment plant. The impact of ARPA along with the new challenges the Town will face as a result of the pandemic. The Governance Committee will continue to work with the States Technical Assistance Bureau (TAB). The Marshall Street solar project should be completed during FY22 as well. T. Ahern noted that during the months of June and July there will be several (4-6) grant opportunities available to the Town.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve an event permit for an Anniversary Party at Kampersal Field, closing off Kampersal Road between South and Fisher Streets on Saturday June 5, 2021. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to grant an event permit for a Block Party on High Rock Road, closing off the road from noon to dusk on Sunday June 6, 2021. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,385.00 for a defibrillator for the Holliston Police Department from the Framingham Union Aid Association. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021, May 10, 2021 and May 11, 2021 as written. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to award the contract for the Drainage/Roadway Project in Mudville to R.M. Pacella in the amount of \$2,510,599.90. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to award the Engineering Monitoring Services Agreement for Well #5 to AP Associates in the amount of \$598,500. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint the following 3 EMT/Firefighters to the Holliston Fire Department: Andrew Cook of Holliston, on call firefighter/EMT; Meghan Cusick of Medway, on call EMT; and Christopher Winner of Holliston, on call firefighter/EMT. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the updated Town Email Policy, with the addition of an "opt-out" option. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein absent.

OTHER BUISNESS:

J. Cronin stated that it has been a pleasure serving on the Select Board over these past 3 years.

B. Sparrell added that it too has been a pleasure serving with J. Cronin during his first year on the Board.

At 7:57pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. J. Cronin second. Vote 2-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_June 14 2021

