

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

May 17, 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; Peter Barbieri, Esq.; Jamie McManus owner of Auto Lounge of New England; Matthew Stone, Police Chief

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

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy started his update by stating there are no new case to report since last week. Twenty five cases were cleared and there are 14 active cases throughout 10 addresses. The positivity rate is still slightly higher than the States average, however Holliston continues to remain Yellow for the 16th week. At this time 53.4% of Holliston residents are fully vaccinated and 71% are partially vaccinated. The regional collaboration in Northborough is now offering appointments for individuals 12-15 years of age.

The Chief noted that the Governor announced the beginning of the “reopening” as of May 29, 2021. One of most notable changes will be the lifting of the required face covering, mask wearing. The Chief pointed out that there will still be guidelines in place and there will be sectors where mask wearing will still be required. The Governor also announced that as of June 15, 2021 he will be ending the “State of Emergency”. Chief Cassidy explained that the Town of Holliston also instituted a “State of Emergency” in March 2020. The Chief will facilitate a local response to coordinate with the Governors. There will continue to be a need to address the impact of the pandemic on local businesses and residents, as well as the need to identify recovery while no longer in a “State of Emergency”. The ARPA funds will be utilized once the needs are identified. The Technology Department may also be effected by what the “new normal” will be when it comes to the future of town wide meetings which have been run via zoom over the past year.

CARES ACT PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE/ARPA:

The Chief did not have any requests for CARES Act funding however he presented the recent weekly update including 16 additional expenses approximating \$20,000. The quarterly update is due on June 4, 2021 which will reflect the spending from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

On May 10, 2021 the Us Treasury released the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). T. Ahern will be joining a webinar held by MMA this coming week to discuss ARPA.

The Chief highlighted several ARPA eligible uses, and plans to use a similar Flow Chart format as the one for the CARES Act to outline expenses and funding allotments.

The Chief concluded his update by thanking all those who contributed in making the Annual May Town Meeting a safe and successful one, including Town and School employees, Town Clerk, HCAT, IT Director, Town Administrator and all the voters who attended.

As this is EMS appreciation week Chief Cassidy noted how thankful he is to have such a dedicated crew and personnel, much thanks to all the ambulance workers. J. Cronin also thanked all those involved in assisting the public with all medical emergencies on behalf of the Select Board.

WARRANT:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,615,614.25. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell expressed his thanks to all residents who attended the Annual May 10th, 2021 Town Meeting and all those involved in making it a successful one.

T. Hein echoed both B. Sparrell and Chief Cassidy's thanks for a successful Town Meeting and to all those EMS professionals.

J. Cronin thanked B. Sparrell for attending the HPD memorial ceremony at St. Mary's Cemetery on Friday May 14, 2021. He too thanked all previously mentioned for a successful Town Meeting. Lastly J. Cronin voiced his support of continuing the use of technology in aiding with public meetings beyond June 15, 2021.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the Senate Ways & Means released their budget and Holliston remains in good standing.

The Division of Local Services, Mass DOR Technical Assistance Bureau (TAB) will be reviewing the Town's government in June 2021. Once the Town is assigned a Team Leader T. Ahern will reach out to all the various groups in Town that the Team Leader wishes to meet with.

CLASS II AUTO LOUNGE OF NEW ENGLAND AT 86 WASHINGTON STREET:

At 7:45 B. Sparrell read the memo to open the Public Hearing for the Class II Auto Lounge of New England located at 86 Washington Street and made a motion to open the Public Hearing. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Attorney Peter Barbieri gave a brief background on the use of the property at 86 Washington Street, currently used to display and store vehicles. Jamie McManus the owner of the Auto Lounge of New England stated that they are now looking to sell vehicles by appointment only.

There was some discussion regarding the hours of operation and marketing involved. Karen Langton, 100 Woodland Street joined the meeting to inquire if the sales of the vehicles will be by appointment only during the hours of operation. J. McManus replied that his intent is to schedule appointments from 8:30am-6:00pm Monday – Sunday. K. Langton also asked about the environmental impact of the storage of the vehicles. J. McManus stated that the property has a separating system which is designed to address any leaking fluids etc., which has been previously approved by the Town.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Class II Auto Dealer License for the Auto Lounge of New England at 86 Washington Street, Unit #1 & Unit #7 for the sale of vehicles during the hours of operation from 8:30am – 6:00pm Monday – Sunday by appointment only. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

At 8:00pm B. Sparrell made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Class II Auto Lounge of New England at 86 Washington Street. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR CON'T:

A new code of conduct seminar sponsored by MIIA and MMA was viewed by several Town Departments with positive feedback. T. Ahern will contact Town Council to see what is feasible. The e-mail policy which was drafted in 2018 and again appeared as an Article at the May 10th, 2021 Town Meeting needs to be updated and become part of the installation process for all board and committee members. B. Sparrell suggested an opt-out option. T. Ahern will update the policy and put it on the next weeks agenda for the Boards approval.

T. Ahern welcomed and thanked two new members of the Economic Development Committee, John Drohan and David Menapace. As of June 2021 the Committee will be looking to fill another seat.

T. Ahern presented a chart showing the funding sources prior to May 10th, 2021 Town Meeting, any actions taken through articles which were approved and the result of any financial changes with a revised ending balance. T. Ahern expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of Town Meeting.

TRAFFIC DISCUSSION:

T. Ahern stated that the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion (HCVE) on Woodland Street has been approved by MassDOT. It was noted that any trucks doing business on Woodland Street will be exempt from the HCVE. There are several other streets in Town that are awaiting final review from MassDOT at this time. T. Ahern presented a slide showing the various different signage to be used.

Chief Stone joined the meeting to speak to the enforcement of the HCVE's within the Town. He stated that the greatest emphasis will be on education and then therefore changing the behavior of the truck drivers. Some of the ways this will be done is by determining signage location, and the use of recently purchased traffic monitoring equipment.

One point Chief Stone made was the importance of using signage that has enforcement behind it. T. Hein suggested a sign audit be done by the DPW and any signage that is deemed not enforceable be removed. T. Hein went over several recommendations made at the last TAC meeting. Which the Board discussed and then voted.

T. Hein made a motion to move a sign on Mellen Street "Not a through Street" to a new location on the street and add a second "Not a through Street" sign as well. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to remove a "30mph" sign on Bullard Street and replace it with "25mph" sign. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to install a sign "Designated Truck Route" on Washington Street near South Street directing trucks to Route 495 via Route 16 to be funded by MassDOT. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

BOARD BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2021 and April 26, 2021 as written. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the contract with ClearWater Recovery to manage the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant on Linden Street. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to appoint the following 3 EMTs; Tyler Chapman, on call EMT; Stephen Demaio, seasonal EMT; and Matthew Mancini, seasonal EMT. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve an event permit for the Friends of Holliston Trail for the road race on May 22, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve an event permit for Ernie's Run Softball Tournament at Kampersal Field on June 19, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Cronin reminded voters that the Town Elections will be held on Tuesday May 25, 2021 at the High School from 7:00am-8:00pm.

At 8:58pm B. Sparrell made a motion to adjourn. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__June 14 2021