

## TOWN OF HOLLISTON

### SELECT BOARD

June 7, 2021  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

**Present:** Tina Hein, Chair; Ben Sparrell, Vice Chair; John Cronin, Clerk.

**Also Present:** Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Dr. Susan Kustka, School Superintendent; Keith Buday, Schools Business Manager; Staci Raffi, School Committee Chair; Meredith George and Christopher Patano, owners of Mederi; Kate Feodoroff, Town Counsel; Michael Tucker, Mederi Counsel; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief and Robert Blair, Farmers Market.

At 7:00pm T. Hein called the meeting to order.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL STATEMENT OF INTEREST:**

Staci Raffi, School Committee Chair expressed her thanks to Chief Cassidy and Chief Stone for their efforts in assuring a safe and successful Graduation and Graduation Parade for the Class of 2021.

Dr. Susan Kustka, School Superintendent joined the meeting to present a Statement of Interest with the intent to obtain the Boards approval to submit it to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Dr. Kustka pointed out that since the 2001 renovation of the High School the building has been well maintained and is not unsafe, however it is not considered "Education Sound" for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was noted that there is more flexible space in the Middle and Elementary Schools as they are newer buildings. They are looking to put long term solutions in place at the High School. Currently the High School has outdated science labs and classroom spaces. It also lacks a Black Box Theatre as well as storage and meeting spaces for both teachers, administrators and students. As well as poor onsite traffic flow. Keith Buday the Schools Business Manager explained that if the Statement of Interest is approved by the MSBA the Town would then move forward with a feasibility study. There is no cost to the Town to submit a Statement of Interest. Holliston has submitted a Statement of Interest the past 3 years, however has not been selected by the MSBA. The Select Board was given the opportunity to join in the discussion, after which J. Cronin read the Statement of Interest dated June 7, 2021 which will authorize the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Kustka to submit a SOI by the deadline of June 25, 2021.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Statement of Interest as written to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority by Dr. Susan Kustka. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

### **MEDERI MEDICAL RETAIL HCA:**

Meredith George owner of Mederi stated that Mederi would like to enter into a new Host Community Agreement (HCA) with Holliston to include the operation of a dispensary for medical marijuana. T. Ahern noted that the current HCA which was approved in April 2019 was for cultivation only. M. George stated that the footprint of the building would remain the same and that the cultivation of the medical marijuana would be done in the rear of the building and the review process would be subject to the Town Planner and the Building Inspector. The product would be sold to individuals with medical cards and would be labeled with warnings as needed. Kate Feodoroff, Town Counsel joined the meeting to inform the Board and residents that the additional HCA would address the issues of security, parking and operation of hours. Also included will be the recording structure specific to edibles as they may appeal to the youth population. M. George responded to a question asked by B. Sparrell stating that there would be no consumption allowed on site. Also the hours of operation will be Monday – Saturday 10:00am-8:00pm, Sunday 12:00pm – 8:00pm.

Michael Tucker, counsel for Mederi joined the meeting to confirm that the 3% Impact Payment would remain the same and not be doubled due to the proposed amended HCA. The response from K. Feodoroff was that the 3% would remain as is.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize and execute the revision to the existing Host Agreement with Mederi located at 44 Boynton Road to include the dispensing of medical marijuana as a licensed medical marijuana treatment center. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

### **REVISION TO HCA FOR 91 KUNIHOLM DRIVE:**

Attorney Meg Nash and Jill Lamoureux CEO of White Label Mass, LLC joined the meeting to ask the Board to approve a transfer of a Host Community Agreement for a proposed marijuana cultivation business at 91 Kuniholm Drive. The Town had approved a HCA for Mass Botanicals in 2018 at that location, however the business never opened. J. Lamoureux stated that WLMA, LLC would like to purchase and renovate the building and transfer the approved HCA into their name.

After some discussion the Board asked J. Lamoureux to please return with a more thorough presentation.

J. Cronin made a motion to defer discussion regarding the revision to the HCA at 91 Kuniholm Drive until after a complete presentation. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON CANNABIS DELIVERY FROM TOWN COUNSEL:**

K. Feodoroff returned to update the Board on the latest changes approved by the CCC regarding delivery of recreational marijuana. There are 2 approved forms of delivery, one is currier delivery in which the product is driven to the purchaser's home and delivered. The second is the operator delivery, in which the product is purchased and then can be repackaged and delivered to the second purchaser's home. Holliston's by law does not allow the sale of recreational marijuana and therefore currently does not allow either of these two options.

K. Feodoroff added that it may be a question on a future ballot or appear as a warrant article at a future Town Meeting.

Blake Menning a Holliston resident (Washington Street) and a cannabis attorney phoned in to voice his support of recreational delivery within the Town. He stated that the Town may benefit from revenue obtained by said deliveries.

#### **COVID UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy reported 1 new case at 1 additional address. However the positivity rate went up slightly due to the fact that testing has decreased over the past several weeks. At this time 3/4 of Holliston's population is partially vaccinated and approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> are fully vaccinated. The Chief will continue to communicate with the Select Board and the public on a weekly basis. He reminded everyone that even after the lifting of the State of Emergency on June 15, 2021 people should continue to stay informed and take caution when needed. The Chief stated that the remote access for meetings will stay in effect through September 1, 2021, and if and when any further announcements are made he will forward the information.

#### **CARES ACT /ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy presented to the Board 2 additional requests for CARES Act funding for zoom licensing from the Technology Director. The requests consists of 3 separate zoom licenses at \$150 each and a subscription costing \$600. All totaled \$1,050.00.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the renewal of 3 zoom licenses and subscription to continue through June 2022 in the amount of \$1,050 to be funded by the CARES Act. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Chief took the time to express his deep appreciation to C. Meo, IT Director and his staff. At this time the Town is just shy of logging in 10,000 participants to zoom meetings since the beginning of the pandemic.

T. Ahern stated that the ARPA Steering Committee should be holding their first meeting within the next several weeks. Chief Cassidy will attend a webinar on Thursday June 17, 2021 on the ARPA application process.

#### **WARRANT:**

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,701,190.58. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Beth Hoffer, Winthrop Street phoned into the meeting to inquire about an update on the new Water Treatment Plant. T. Ahern stated that Notice of Award should have been posted on the

website in April 2021. He will see that the website is updated. B. Hoffer made several other inquiries. T. Hein asked if she could please email her specific questions to T. Ahern.

B. Hoffer thanked the Board for their time.

J. Cronin stated that the Holliston Hazardous Waste Day will be held at the Robert Adams Middle School on Saturday July 10, 2021 from 8:00am-12:00noon or until capacity is reached.

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

T. Ahern again stated that the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Steering Committee will be holding their first meeting in the very near future.

The Consolidated Long Range Planning Committee (CLRPA) is 80% complete.

T. Ahern will notify the Select Board if and when the final decision regarding extending remote meetings is approved by the State.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$400 from the Holliston Superette to the Senior Center. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to amend/change the date of the October Town Meeting from October 25, 2021 to October 18, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Bobby Blair joined the meeting to request an entertainment license for music at the Farmers Market which will begin on Sunday June 20, 2021. B. Blair stated that the bands would play from 10:00am – 12:00noon.

J. Cronin made a motion to waive the \$100 fee for an entertainment license for music to be performed at the Farmers Market. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

B. Blair will complete an application for the entertainment license.

B. Blair also requested permission to hang 10 flower baskets on posts located on Washington Street. The donations to the Legions Downtown Marigold Project will fund the cost of the brackets and baskets. B. Blair will assure that the baskets will not impair the view of traffic.

J. Cronin made a motion to accept the donation of 10 brackets and hanging flower baskets to be on hung Washington Street with the assistance of the Highway Department. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern stated that he had applied for a grant “One Stop for Growth” in the amount of \$27,500. This is a notice of intent and is to generate feedback regarding the Housing Production Plan. T. Ahern thanked Senator Spilka and Rep. Dykema for their support.

J. Cronin made a motion to support the application for the grant for “One Stop for Growth”, Housing Production Plan. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell recently met with S. Reese and Stantec regarding an updated on the sidewalk study. After some discussion including estimating cost of repairs to the sidewalks in Town as well as

cost of new construction along with proximity to the Downtown, Parks, Rail Trail and Schools it was agreed that B. Sparrell would pass additional information onto Stantec and ask them to attend a Board meeting in August.

At 9:53pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_7-6-21\_\_\_\_\_

