

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

June 1, 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; Office David Charette HPD Sergeant Candidate; Officer Andrew MacGray, HPD Sergeant Candidate; and Matt Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator.

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

REORGANIZATION OF THE SELECT BOARD:

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint T. Hein as Chair of the Select Board. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. T. Hein abstained.

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint B. Sparrell as Vice Chair of the Select Board. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell abstained.

T. Hein made a motion to appoint J. Cronin as Clerk of the Select Board. B. Sparrell second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin abstained.

HPD SERGEANT CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS:

The Select Board interviewed two Holliston Police Officers separately for the vacant Sergeant position. Officer David Charette introduced himself and gave a brief background of his experience to the Select Board. Officer Charette has been on the Holliston Police Force for the past 3.5 years and has previously been an Auxiliary Officer for 7 years. He is looking for the opportunity to take on more responsibility within the Department.

Andrew MacGray also introduced himself and gave a brief background of his experience to the Select Board. Officer MacGray has been with the Holliston Police Department for the past 19 years and prior to that was with the Sherborn Police Department for 11 years. He has had a variety of jobs while on the Force and has been a training officer for the past dozen years. Each member of the Select Board asked both candidates various questions some of which included the impact of the new Police Reform Act, how would they deal with mental health concerns of the public and also fellow officers and what has motivated them to apply for the Sergeants position.

The Board thanked both Officer Charette and Officer MacGray for their time.

After some discussion among the Select Board members the Board decided unanimously to select Officer Andrew MacGray due to his experience.

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Officer Andrew MacGray as Sergeant with the official date to be determined by the Police Chief. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began his update by reporting there are 3 additional cases bringing the total to 810 cases. There are currently 7 active cases throughout 6 addresses in Town. Holliston remains Gray. At this time 57% of the 12-15 year old residents have been partially vaccinated and 101% of 16-19 year old residents have been fully vaccinated. The Chief noted at this time there are concerns regarding variants of the virus and how they may impact numbers in the fall. The Select Board will continue to monitor legislation going forward to determine how it will effect remote participation for meetings throughout Town.

CARES ACT / ARPA:

Chief Cassidy stated that there were 2 additional expenses with very little change to the balance.

The Chief presented a slide outlining the Steering Group for ARPA. It will consist of a representative from the Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee, School Superintendent (or designee), Emergency Management Director, and the Town Administrator (or designee).

B. Sparrell made a motion to designate J. Cronin as the representative from the Select Board for the ARPA Steering Group. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. J. Cronin abstained.

WARRANTS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$507,953.71. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin thanked all who were in attendance at the Memorial Day Parade. He also commended T. Hein for her speech and thanked Steve Bradford for all the work he does in preparation for the day.

B. Sparrell also thanked all the voters who took the time to go and vote as well as all the volunteers and staff at the polls.

T. Hein thanked the staff at Town Hall for displaying the Pride Flags.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the traffic rules have been updated and the (HCVE) signage on Woodland Street should be going up shortly. The Holliston Police Department will facilitate educating the public at that point.

T. Ahern will present an update on the Marshall Street Solar Project at the upcoming June 14, 2021 Board Meeting.

The Select Board will reorganize their Liaison Assignments. Other committees and annual appointments will be updated in the month of June.

The Blair Square RFP is waiting on Town Counsel to finalize a detail and will be going out to bid. The DPW feasibility study is also awaiting a finalization from Town Counsel and will be released soon.

The Assistant Town Administrator position has been posted. Applications are due by June 18, 2021. The search committee will consist of the School Superintendent, Police Chief, Town Planner, Park & Rec Director, IT Director and 1 more individual to be named in the future. T. Ahern is waiting to hear back from the various committees on who will be the designated member to sit on the Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee, (CLRPC).

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint B. Sparrell to the Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell abstained.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR UPDATE:

Matt Zettek joined the meeting to give a presentation on cost saving energy programs which will be available to residents. There are 4 communities working together to provide vetted energy vendors. Three vendors have been selected and the programs will run for 6 months.

Solar Vendor: Ace Solar

Air Source Heat Pump Vendor: New England Ductless

Ground Source Heat Pump Vendor: Achieve Renewable Energy

There will be a "Meet the Installers" virtual seminar on Thursday June 17, 2021.

M. Zettek explained that the goal is to direct homeowners and small businesses to the above mentioned vendors and as they have been researched. He is asking that the Select Board assist in "spreading the word". One option would be to put inserts in with the upcoming water bills. A website will be available shortly with detailed information.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize T. Ahern to sign agreements with Ace Solar, New England Ductless and Achieve Renewable Energy. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

M. Zettek also announced that Eversource Main Street Energy Efficiency program will be available to businesses within Holliston the week of June 7 – 11, 2021. Postcards will be sent to various businesses located on October Hill, Hopping Brook, Washington, Highland and Central Streets.

Joan Levisohn and Rich Rosenberry, Holliston residents joined the meeting to express their thanks to M. Zettek and the Select Board for their efforts to bring these programs to Town.

BOARD BUSINESS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the redesigned driveway at 10 Shaw Farm Road as described in the letter presented to the Select Board. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Sparrell will be meeting with Stantec and will present an update to the Board next Monday

June 7, 2021 regarding the sidewalk study.

T. Hein would also like to discuss any additional grants which may be available to coincide with the study.

J. Cronin stated that the Town's 300th Anniversary is only several years away and discussion regarding event planning should begin soon. The Board will discuss creating an article for the 2021 Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

At 8:43pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved: 06/21/2021