

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

June 14, 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; Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Rennie Friedman, Sol Systems; Beth Greenblatt, Beacon Integrated Solutions.

MARSHALL STREET PROJECT UPDATE:

Rennie Friedman of Sol Systems joined the meeting and was happy to announce that 2 scholarships had been awarded to 2 deserving High School Students. Emily Rivera and Askhara Shankar where both awarded \$2,500. T. Hein thanked Sol Systems on behalf of the Town for their interest and generosity.

Beth Greenblatt of Integrated Solutions also joined the meeting with an update on the Marshall Street Solar Project. T. Ahern stated that the project kept moving forward during the pandemic. B. Greenblatt noted that the estimated total annual financial benefit to the Town would be \$510,000. At this time Sol Systems is completing 3 agreements, the final forms of which will be presented to the Select Board and Town Counsel. B. Greenblatt did explain that Eversource as being an Independent Systems Operator of New England, which operates the regional transmission grid now requires a Level 3 ISO testing which will take up to 9-12 months to complete. This had not been anticipated as part of the original project timeline. B. Greenblatt stated that due to the greater activity surrounding alternative energy sources, ie. Solar Power there is more demand on the grid, more congestion. She also noted that Eversource determines the flow/direction in which the power goes to the grid. This is what prompted the Level 3 ISO study. J. Cronin voiced his frustration over the fact that this information is just coming to light now and at the loss of revenue this will cost the Town due to the delay in the construction of the site. B. Greenblatt continued her update and noted that all state and local permitting is moving forward and should be completed by July 2021. If the ISO testing is completed by March of 2022 construction can begin in June of 2022 and the site up and running by the end of 2022. The Board thanked both R. Friedman and B. Greenblatt for their update and time. J. Cronin asked that T. Ahern with the assistance of B. Greenblatt compose a letter to be sent to the State Senator and State Representative explaining the Towns displeasure at the Utility's bureaucratic approach.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy was very pleased to announce for the first time since last July 2020 there were no new cases to report. There is currently 1 active case and Holliston is Gray for the 4th week.

More than 2/3 of Holliston's population has been fully vaccinated. The Chief noted that most retail pharmacies offer the vaccinations and many now have walk in capacity. Testing sites however have decreased and he suggests checking with your primary care physician if you want to be tested. Again the Chief pointed out that although the State of Emergency will be lifted as of midnight on June 15, 2021 residents should remain vigilant.

T. Ahern stated that there has not yet been word from the State as to the extension if any on remote participation meetings. If no action is taken prior to June 15, 2021 individuals will no longer be able to participate via zoom. Both the Chief and T. Ahern will update the public once and if there is an extension granted.

CARES ACT / ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy submitted his quarterly report (January – March) on June 4, 2021. He had posted 4 additional expenses since last week. These were to fund hiring and training and cleaning. The Chief presented 2 requests to be funded by the CARES Act by the Senior Center. One was for meal packaging in the amount of \$3,500 and the second for drivers (hours) for delivery in the amount of \$4,500. This is the estimated amounts from July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. J. Cronin made a motion to approve up to \$3,500 for meal packaging and up to \$4,500 for drivers/delivery to be funded by the CARES Act for the Council on Aging to be used July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Chief Cassidy stated that he had attended a webinar on Thursday June 10, 2021 in which it was noted that the deadline to allocate the remaining CARES Act funds is now October 29, 2021. These allocations would need to be used prior to December 31, 2021 or else returned to the State.

The Chief pointed out that the steering group for the ARPA funding is almost complete. The Select Board Chair will be authorized to sign 2 documents which will agree to the terms and conditions and Title VI assurance documents as part of the ARPA application.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign 2 ARPA documents as part of the application process. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize Chief Cassidy or T. Ahern to complete the application and apply for the ARPA funding by June 27, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Chief Cassidy stated after 456 days he also is recommending that the State of Emergency in the Town of Holliston be rescinded. Each Board member thanked the Chief for the exceptional job he did throughout the entire pandemic. The Chief in turn voiced his appreciation to all Boards, Town Administrator, Department Heads, staff, C. Mayo and the public for their trust and cooperation. T. Hein congratulated Chief Cassidy as his 20 year anniversary as Fire Chief was during the pandemic. The Chief will prepare an After Action Report in which he will recap what was successful and where there may be improvements during the past year.

J. Cronin made a motion to rescind the Local State of Emergency which has been in effect since March 16, 2020 in the Town of Holliston. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANTS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$1,583,824.70. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin congratulated T. Hein on being named a 2021 Commonwealth Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. B. Sparrell also expended his congratulations to T. Hein.

Sarah Baroud of Lowland Street called into the meeting to ask about the status of the HVCE, Truck exclusion on Woodland Street. T. Ahern responded that the public outreach has begun, including notifying the businesses in the area. The Police Chief will be attending the Boards meeting on Monday June 21, 2021 with an update on the progress of education and enforcement. T. Hein assured S. Baroud that the Board, Police Chief and the Town Administrator will remain committed and see the process through. S. Baroud thanked the Board for their time.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

As previously stated T. Ahern noted that the Police Chief will attend the June 21, 2021 Board meeting with an update of the HCVE on Woodland Street. At this time there has been no further update from MASSDOT on other streets in Town.

The 5 year Capital Plan, FY22-FY26 has been updated and will be posted on the Towns website soon. Some of the highlighted projects include. Blair Square, 9 Green Street, DPW facility Feasibility Study, Dam Inspections and Planning, Culverts Rehabilitation Program, Sidewalk Study, High School SOI and the Water Modernization Study.

The Board will schedule a public meeting for 9 Green Street in July.

The Division of Local Services Technical Assistance Bureau, TAB has been holding intake meetings with various Town Employees via Zoom as a way to review Holliston's government. They will present their findings in several months. The last time TAB was consulted was in 1998.

SELECT BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:

The Board reviewed the liaison assignments along with T. Ahern for FY22.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the liaison assignments as discussed. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

BOARD BUSINESS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the appointment of Eilish Corey as a member of the Conservation Commission beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the list of FY22 appointments as listed. He noted that there are still several vacancies. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein thanked Linda Marshall who has now been appointed to the Metrowest Regional Transit Authority. The appointment list will be posted on the Town's website.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2021 and May 24, 2021 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin read the Regulatory Agreement for 172 Concord Street, the Habitat for Humanity property.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize and sign the Regulatory Agreement for 172 Concord Street, Habitat for Humanity property. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the postings of the following Select Board meetings. July 6, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 12, 18(prior to Town Meeting), 25, November 2, 8, 15, 22, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 27 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0. T. Hein asked the Vice Chair to Chair the meeting on August 29, 2021 as she will not be available.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Common Victualler's license and waive the fees for the Lions Club Carnival July 7, 8, 9 and 10th 2021.

The Board signed the Entertainment license for the Farmers Market which had been previously approved with the reminder that no music will be allowed prior to 10:00am.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

T. Hein reminded the public that the first Farmers Market will be held on Sunday June 20, 2021 from 9:00am- 1:00pm at Blair Square and encouraged all to attend.

T. Ahern on behalf of the Sustainability Coordinator Matt Zettek made the request to insert flyers into the 1st and 2nd quarter tax bills which will sent out within the next few weeks to advertise the Metrowest Solar and Clean Energy initiative.

J. Cronin made a motion to allow a flyer with information regarding the Metrowest Solar and Clean Energy Challenge be included in the next tax bill provided the vendors cover the cost. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern noted that there is an agreement in place with the Congregational Church for an easement for the new septic system that is going in at the Town Hall. The Facility Manager J. Keast will oversee the project.

At 9:30pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Driscoll

Approved 7/12/21_____

