

TOWN OF HOLLISTON

SELECT BOARD

August 26, 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; Barry Sims, Cable Advisory Committee; Beth Hopper, resident 184 Winthrop Street; Matthew Zettek, Sustainability Coordinator.

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

CARES ACT/ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE:

The Chief began his update with mixed news. The number of Covid Cases are on the rise slightly, however the positivity rate is down slightly, due to the increase in testing.

CARES ACT Funding: The Chief presented three requests for funding through the CARES Act.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the purchase of a 24ft banner requested by the Town Clerk with the date of the 2021 Fall Town Meeting in the amount of \$750 to be funded by the CARES Act. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$1,500 to be funded by the CARES Act to cover the cost to erect the tent at the Senior Center to accommodate Social Distancing as requested by the Facilities Manager. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve 2 software packages in the amount of \$6,865 requested by the Assessor for accelerated telemarketing capacity to be funded by the CARES Act. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Chief will discuss the balance of the CARES Act at next weeks Board meeting.

ARPA Steering Recommendations: T. Ahern stated that as of August 2, 2021 the ARPA Steering Group had received 17 requests and have had several additional requests since that time. After review the Steering Group recommends 6 requests for the consideration of the Select Board.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$1,800 requested by Youth & Family Services for "The Art of Belonging for the LGBTQ Youth" in Holliston to be funded by ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$5,000 requested by Youth & Family Services for the "PTO Mindshare Initiative Program" to be funded by ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$19,350 requested by the Library for "Expanding Online Resources" for library patrons to be funded by ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$20,000 requested by the Council on Aging for a Survey 55+ population to be funded by ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$26,350 requested by the Facilities Manager for the partial cost of the Town Hall Septic project to be funded by the ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve \$34,730 requested by the Trails Committee for the Safety Crosswalk upgrades to be funded by ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Ahern stated that the second installment of ARPA funds have been received by the Town. He hopes to go through the list of potential Capital "Shovel Ready" projects which may be eligible for ARPA funding at next weeks Board meeting.

VERIZON LICENSE RENEWAL-CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Barry Sims, a member of the Cable Advisory Committee presented the Board with the proposed Verizon 5 year license contract. Due to the length of the contract B. Sims highlighted the most important aspects. The license period is from 10/22/21 – 10/21/26 with a cancellation option (Verizons), after 3 years. They will provide 3 channels. Five percent of gross revenues will be paid quarterly directly to HCAT. B. Sims noted that the Cable Advisory Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the request of Comcast on Thursday September 9, 2021.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the proposed 5 year Verizon License agreement as recommended by the Cable Advisory Committee. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a letter to Verizon requesting that the 5% fee and capital payments outlined in the licensing agreement be paid directly to HCAT. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

The Board thanked B. Sims for his presentation.

WARRANTS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Weekly Warrant in the amount of \$744,497.25. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

B. Sparrell noted that Farmers Day will be held on Sunday September 12, 2021 from 10:00am-4:00pm at various locations throughout Town.

T. Hein noted that the American Legion Post #47 will hold its annual awards ceremony at the Senior Center on Sunday September 12, 2021.

Beth Hoffer, 184 Winthrop Street joined the meeting to present findings of manganese levels in the water obtained at her home. There is however no state standard for this mineral. B. Hoffer has an ongoing concern regarding the safety of the water. The Town offered to have water testing at her property provided by MASS DEP, however she has declined. B. Hoffer is also looking for clarity regarding Water Main vs. Service Line. A Stantec Study which will include Winthrop Street is close to completion and will provide the answers to some of B. Hoffer's questions. The Board pointed out that they need to defer to the professionals when it comes to

this matter, however they like B. Hoffer would like to see this issue resolved as soon as possible. B. Hoffer thanked the Board for their time and looks forward to speaking with them in the near future.

RECYCLING CENTER – PROPOSED VENDOR CHANGES:

Sustainability Coordinator Matthew Zettek joined the meeting to present to the Board two proposals for vendor changes at the recycling center at Marshall Street. The proposal for the cardboard from Woods Trucking includes adding a second bin and would cost less to remove the contents of both than what the current vendor is charging for one. M. Zettek also proposed changing vendors for the scrape metal. As the new vendor Framingham Salvage could generate approximately \$10,000 of additional revenue. J. Cronin asked that with the additional revenue the Town look to expanding the hours of operation at the recycling center.

J. Cronin made a motion to accept the proposed vendor changes for the cardboard and scrape metal at the Recycling Center as presented by M. Zettek. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

FALL TOWN MEETING – WARRANT DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:

T. Ahern opened up discussion around the first draft of the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting Monday October 18, 2021. There are currently 19-20 possible articles. This includes the standard 6 articles, one citizens petition and various placeholders. T. Ahern will converse with Town Counsel regarding several Town Planner items. B. Sparrell noted that the Blair Square Committee has a meeting on August 31, 2021 after which time the Committee will bring a article request to the Select Board meeting on September 13, 2021. The Governance Committee has met with the Treasurer/Collector and the Town Accountant and may bring a request forward. T. Ahern is still awaiting requests from the School Committee. The Warrant will close at 4:00pm on Monday September 20, 2021.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that the State has provided a resource SMEs (Subject Matter Experts) at no cost to the Town to assist with the recommendations made by the Local Rapid Recovery Plan. The Conservation Commission has received the reports on the town dams from Lenard and are in the process of reviewing them.

The Financial Policies which have been created with help of the staff have been reviewed by the Select Board and are now being reviewed and edited by the Finance Committee. B. Sparrell stated that he would like to see both the Select Board and the FinCom collaborate during the process.

T. Ahern stated that he will be on vacation next week (August 30, 2021 – September 6, 2021). Chief Cassidy will be acting Town Administrator in his absence.

BOARD BUSINESS:

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint John Drohan to a 3 year term as a member of the Holliston Cable Access TV. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Janet Alexander and Lynn Bajdek as associate members of the Council on Aging for a 1 year term each. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2021 as written. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the extension of the contract for Anthony's on the Green, as recommended by the Golf Course Advisory Committee through December 31, 2023 at Pinecrest Golf Course and to approve the contract for New England Golf which will expire on December 31, 2023 as well. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$400 into account #285541-45320, Holliston Senior Center gift account from the patrons of the Superette. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the installation of 2 "Dangerous Curve" signs as recommended by the Traffic Advisory Committee on Hill Street. B. Sparrell second and noted it fell under those approved at Special Town Meeting in December 2020. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the contract with Blue Diamond Equipment Company in the amount of \$126,730 for the Town Hall Septic project. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein thanked Paul Saulnier and James Keast for their work on the septic system project.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

At 8:47pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved__9/13/21

