

## **TOWN OF HOLLISTON**

### **SELECT BOARD**

August 30, 2021  
7:00PM

Town Hall  
703 Washington Street

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

**Also Present:** Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief; Jay Robinson, resident and member of FinCom.

#### **COVID 19 COMMUNITY UPDATE:**

Chief Cassidy presented an update of the latest Covid 19 statistics. There are 5 additional new cases, 12 recovered, with 15 active cases throughout 14 addresses. Currently over 78% of Holliston residents are fully vaccinated. The Chief encouraged residents to get vaccinated and noted that there are numerous areas where vaccines are available.

Chief Cassidy stated that mask mandates are in place for pre-k through 12 grade throughout October 1, 2021 for all students, staff and visitors. MIAA (MA Interscholastic Athletic Association) issued a mask mandate for all indoor sports.

The Board of Health will be holding a meeting on Tuesday August 31, 2021 and mask mandates will be on the agenda under public comment.

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

**CARES ACT FUNDING:** Chief Cassidy looked to the Board for input regarding the remaining CARES Act funding requests prior to the October deadline. He noted that there may be requests made by the Board of Health, Facilities Manager and the IT Director within the next several weeks.

The Board members discussed the many needs that still may remain within the community, such as rent and mortgage relief, licensing fees for restaurants, transportation if and when booster shots may be needed. All of which may be eligible again for CARES Act funding. The Board asked the Chief to please reach out to the various departments.

Chief Cassidy stated that there has been some preliminary discussion as to whether the Board of Health would have the capacity to hold a clinic for booster vaccine shots. He will keep the Board informed on the subject.

**ARPA FUNDING:** Chief Cassidy stated that the Town has received approximately \$2.2 million in ARPA funds. To date the Board has allocated \$1.76 million. This translates into just shy of 60% that has not yet been obligated. The Chief opened up the discussion as to what the expectation of the Board is around ARPA funding. T. Hein had a conversation with Representative Dykema in which Rep. Dykema encouraged the Town to put together a list of projects with a focus on infrastructure, many of which would be Capital Projects, for ARPA funding.

J. Cronin voiced his concern that with 40% of ARPA funding already allocated he would like to see the process take a slower approach. The Board felt that having the ARPA Steering Group meet less frequently would result in requests being prioritized.

Jay Robinson, 233 Chamberlain Street and Finance Committee member, joined the meeting. J. Robinson asked as a resident if ARPA funding could be considered to address the repairs needed at the Arch Bridge on Woodland Street over the Factory Pond, as this could fall under infrastructure. Then J. Robinson as the Finance Committee Liaison asked the Board for input on what has been presented by the School Committee as to the plan to fund full day kindergarten once the ARPA funding has been completed. J. Cronin and Chief Cassidy, both members of the Steering Group responded by stating that the Schools have presented a plan for year 4 and 5 as ARPA funding will end after year 3. It has been acknowledged that after 5 years the School will need to look for a permanent solution for funding.

T. Hein suggested a Tri Board Meeting with the Schools, Select Board and the Finance Committee as a way to further the conversation.

#### **WARRANT:**

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$453,983.03. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

B. Sparrell stated that the Holliston Farm Day will be held on Sunday September 12, 2021 from 10:00am – 4:00pm at various locations throughout Town.

T. Hein stated that two finalists have been selected for the Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director and the interviews will be held Wednesday September 1, 2021.

T. Hein noted the start of school is Wednesday September 1, 2021.

T. Hein stated that a Cornhole Tournament will be held at the Farmers Market on Sunday September 12, 2021 at 10:30am.

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

Chief Cassidy who is Acting Town Administrator while T. Ahern is on vacation stated that he did not have any updates to share with the Select Board.

#### **FALL TOWN MEETING – WARRANT DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:**

T. Hein stated that the School Committee will plan to meet with the Select Board after their September 9, 2021 meeting. Several other items which may be presented for consideration for articles have yet to be submitted. S. Reese the DPW Superintendent will present a list of projects within the next several weeks. As a reminder it was noted that anyone wishing to submit a Citizens Petition for an article need to submit it to the Town Clerk with the

necessary signatures by 4:00pm on Monday September 20, 2021 when the warrant officially closes.

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chief Cassidy brought back ARPA funding for discussion. Traffic monitoring cameras in the downtown area were originally part of a project started many years ago, however were never installed. The Chief stated that because these cameras have the potential to add to the safety of the area the funding for installation could be considered for ARPA funding.

J. Cronin asked that Chief Cassidy ask T. Ahern upon his return to have Police Chief Stone produce the policy which indicates that the use of the monitoring cameras are used for safety reasons only and not for enforcement. B. Sparrell pointed out that due to the previous conversation regarding the process involving ARPA funding requests that this particular request if made, be made via Capital Funding. The Board will discuss further in the next several weeks.

T. Hein opened the discussion regarding a previous one in which the Board considered adding a 26<sup>th</sup> Police Officer to the Holliston Police Department. The Select Board decided it would like more time to consider the matter.

T. Hein noted there will not be a meeting the week of September 6, 2021 due to the holiday.

At 8:22pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully,

Margaret Driscoll

Approved\_\_9-27-21

