

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

September 13, 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; Dr. Susan Kustka, Superintendent of Schools; Keith Buday, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Cynthia Listewnik, School Committee Chair and Julie DiCicco 21 Maple Del.

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

CARES ACT / ARPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE: a. ARPA i. Holliston School Committee Request:

Dr. S. Kustka presented a request for ARPA funding for Repairing COVID SEL and Learning Gaps for HPA Students in the amount of \$106,000. Dr. Kustka explained that these are designed to address the needs of the students most effected by the pandemic. This would allow to extend the time in which those students could be reached several hours during the week by attending school before and after normal school hours. The first goal is to determine the students in need and then arrange transportation and schedule the teachers. Dr. Kustka stated that this is a one time request for FY22 funding. Chief Cassidy and J. Cronin, both members of the Steering Group pointed out that this request aligns with the ARPA category and its intent.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the Schools request for Repairing Covid Sel and Leaning Gaps for HPA Students for the Holliston School Students in need in the amount of \$106,000 to be funded by ARPA. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

FALL TOWN MEETING – CAPITAL REQUEST ARTICLE – DRAFT:

K. Buday, Assistant Superintendent of Schools explained to the Board the reasoning behind the request to set aside funds for the roof top units on the schools in the amount \$500,000. The Schools have been proactive and taken steps to maintain the units over the years, however many units are currently at their end of life. K. Buday expressed his concern that funding will be needed within the immediate future to replace many of the units throughout the various school buildings within Town. After some discussion the Board asked that the Facilities Manager be included and bring the matter back within the next week or two.

The Board thanked the representatives from the Schools in attendance for their time. Dr. Kustka thanked the Board for all their support she has received since she began her tenure in Holliston.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATE:

Chief Cassidy began his update by stating that the numbers are trending in the right direction.

The Chief presented the Board with 5 requests for CARES Act Funding.

The Board of Health is requesting funding in the amount of \$9,000 for Communicable Disease Investigation via Salmon VNA & Hospice for 3rd party staffing covering July – October 2021.

The Facilities Manager is requesting funding in the amount of \$660 for a dehumidifier to be placed in the basement of Town Hall. As well as a request for funding in the amount of \$2,340 for Barrier Modifications in the Building Department for social distancing measures.

The Technology Director is requesting funding in the amount of \$6,070 for accelerated telework capacity for multiple buildings.

The Youth & Family Director is requesting funding in the amount of \$25,000 for Rent/Mortgage Relief. Chief Cassidy stated that the Youth & Family Advisory Board has not yet voted on the Rent/Mortgage Relief request. The Board asked that the Chief encourage them to look to increase the amount of the request up to \$50,000 and bring it back for a vote as soon as possible.

After some discussion the Board decided to vote on the first 4 requests and revisit the request from Youth & Family after they vote on it next week. J. Cronin asked the Chief to clarify the deadline for the CARES Act Funding spending. Specifically is the date October 31, 2021 or December 31, 2021. The Chief stated that he will get that information and bring it back to the Board as soon as possible.

T. Hein made a motion to approve the 4 requests as presented, (Board of Health, Facilities, and Technology) totaling \$18,070 to be funded by the CARES Act contingent on A&F Federal Funds Office approval on the use of said funds till December 31, 2021. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

WARRANTS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$682,485.20. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Cronin expressed his gratitude to Legion Post 47 and Steve Bradford for their 9/11 award ceremony and congratulations to the recipients.

T. Hein stated that the 9/11 award ceremony was a wonderful event and thanked Senator Spilka and Representative Dykema for their participation.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

T. Ahern stated that after working with Lenard Engineering regarding the condition of the Dam's in Town, all dams are in compliance with reporting to the State. The next step is to focus on 3 dams (Houghton, Factory and Winthrop) to determine what action should be taken, remove, breach or replace. More information is needed prior to making that determination. J. Cronin stated that he would like the input from a professional engineer as part of the decision making process.

Jay Talerman, Town Counsel will be presenting a seminar on Wednesday September 29, 2021 on Open Meeting Law via the hybrid option.

T. Ahern along with the DPW Director and Facilities Manager had a successful “kick-off” meeting with Weston & Sampson regarding the Feasibility Study for the DPW Facility. The report should be complete in January 2022 and then next step will be to design and then build. Stantec Engineering will present its report on the water and sidewalk study at the Select Board meeting on September 27, 2021.

The Board discussed possible use of ARPA funds for projects as a result of the Stantec study. Feedback from Senator Spilka and Rep Dykema on how to approach ARAP requests around this subject matter may be helpful. T. Hein would like to zone in on public transportation as part of the discussion. T. Ahern stated that some of the matters discussed could be brought to the DOT.

FALL TOWN MEETING – WARRANT DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:

T. Ahern presented a Capital Budget Draft for Fall Town Meeting. Various Capital requests include Facilities, doors at 1750 and electronic access for Town Hall. IT, phone system handsets and fire system. DPW, new snow and ice brine applicator flat bed and equipment. Police, replacement vehicles. Schools, replace roof top units for various schools. Public Safety, installation of cameras in the downtown area.

T. Ahern also presented the current list of probable articles for Fall Town Hall Meeting. Some of which included funding for legal support for the Cable license renewal, Fire/EMS organizational study, 9 Green Street production costs, water main and sidewalk designs and several more. The Board took time to go over each potential article.

On Monday September 20, 2021 at 7:45 there will be a Public Hearing regarding the Road Acceptance Article (Highlands of Holliston subdivision).

The Board noted that the Citizens Petition Article regarding Critical Race Theory may be best handled as a Special Town Meeting.

The Board unanimously decided to remove the article relating to the Town dams from the Warrant.

T. Hein made a motion to allow a Zoning Article at October Town Meeting under Mass General Law, Chapter 40A, section 5 and Town by-laws to allow and schedule a public meeting. J. Cronin second. Vote 3-0.

BOARD BUSINESS:

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2021. T. Hein second. Vote 2-0. B. Sparrell abstained.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2021. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2021. B. Sparrell

second. Vote 3-0.

Julie DiCicco, resident at 21 Maple Del joined the meeting to elaborate on the request made regarding a new driveway. J. DiCicco explained that they would like the widest driveway possible to accommodate their vehicles. J. Cronin noted that the DPW maximum is 16 feet, however the Select Board has granted 20 feet.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the driveway width of 20 feet at 21 Maple Del for the new driveway. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin read the Proclamation for Citizen of the Year for both Heather Scaringella and then Paul Saulnier declaring Saturday September 18, 2021 both Heather Scaringella and Paul Saulnier Day. J. Cronin signed both proclamations as Clerk of the Select Board.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the appointment of Shaw Lively and Carrie Anne Marsh-Loscocco to the Open Space Committee with terms that expire in 2022. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve a One-Day Beer and Wine License for Arcadian Farms on Saturday September 18, 2021 from 12:00noon – 4:00pm. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

At 9:51pm J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for reason #3 to discuss Collective Bargaining not to return to Open Session. B. Sparrell second. Roll Call: J. Cronin AYE, B. Sparrell AYE, T. Hein AYE.

Respectively submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_10-4-21