

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
DECEMBER 9, 2019**

**Present:** Mark Ahronian, Chairman; John Cronin, Vice Chairman

**Absent:** Tina Hein, Clerk

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

M. Ahronian called the regular meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**1.) Warrants:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and sign the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-24) in the amount of \$738,188.45. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**2.) Public Comment:** J. Cronin thanked and recognized the Department of Public Works for the outstanding job they did during the two (2) recent snow storms.

He also recognized the outstanding work of the Holliston Police Department when on November 30<sup>th</sup> at approximately 9a.m. there was a drug arrest in the area of 1905 Washington Street. A search warrant was later secured and upon the search of the vehicle a gun was discovered. He offered a congratulations to all those involved and well done.

J. Cronin also recognized Seaman Ouellet who was killed in action during the Vietnam Conflict and the Thistle family for receiving the Medal of Liberty.

M. Ahronian also thanked all the veterans for what they do to keep us safe.

He also thanked Tina Hein for all the work she does on behalf of the community. She always does her homework and has a very high ethical standard.

**Page Two**

**Meeting Minutes, 12-9-19**

Rich Rosenberry, 66 Jarr Brook Road asked about the possibility of creating a sustainability committee. J. Cronin said there is currently one in place but they deal mostly with trash and recycling. He would prefer to see how the sustainability coordinator works out given there is funding from the Commonwealth.

**3.) Report of the Town Administrator:** J. Ritter said the 9 Green Street Committee is seeking proposals to hire a Licensed Site Professional (LSP). He anticipates the Committee will be coming forward shortly with a Reserve Fund Transfer request.

J. Ritter notified the Board that 2019 Cybersecurity Awareness Grant has been awarded to the Town of Holliston and the Holliston Public Schools.

Work has started on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

There was a staff meeting this morning the auditor regarding the Town's bond rating.

There was a Department Heads Meeting last Thursday with thirteen (13) in attendance.

The Town has been contacted by the DPW union and has requested to start negotiations. The first meeting will be next Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a staff meeting next week regarding the Facilities Manager position.

The Finance Committee Meeting is meeting tomorrow evening.

There will be a working group meeting regarding the Finance Director's position this Thursday at 6p.m.

Work on the Green Communities projects started at the Schools over the week-end with further work to be completed at 1750 Washington Street.

There will be Public Hearing in January regarding the landfill solar field project.

The Town is seeking an appointment to the MWRTA. Anyone interested should contact the Select Board's Office.

Today, there was a staff meeting regarding the Radio Operability Improvement Project. This project is now underway with a \$100,000 appropriation from the State Legislature.

There will be a conference call tomorrow morning regarding the Safe Routes to School Sign and Lines Grant.

**Page Three**  
**Meeting Minutes, 12-9-19**

**4.) Electricity Aggregation: McMahon Report:** Denise Allard and Mark Cappadona with Colonial Power were present and provided an update. It was noted that the aggregation program could support the financing of a sustainability coordinator position.

J. Cronin asked about the annual amount of money. M. Cappadona said the revenues would be built into the monthly bills. Another advantage to the aggregation program is some of the solar power generated at the former landfill could be used to off-set some of the electric bills for low income residents.

D. Allard said they can update the aggregation plan so it can be posted to the Town's web site.

J. Cronin asked about forecasting rates and trends. D. Allard said they try to look out for three (3) years.

M. Cappadona said the trend is downward because of all the natural gas currently available. Colonial Power has about eighty two (82) clients and they all like a stable market and pricing.

Joan Levinson, 66 Jarr Brook Road said she was aware of the aggregation but was not aware of the twenty-four (24) percent increase for the other options.

M. Cappadona said residents can opt in or out regarding the green power options but if a resident selects to be part of the green power option they would pay more on a monthly basis. Once the Select Board approves the new plan it will take about a year to implement.

**5.) Parks and Recreation Update and Gift:** The Board decided to hold on the gift acceptance until next week. The gift is from M. Ahronian.

Mark Frank, Parks and Recreation Director was present and provided the Board with an update on various parks improvement projects.

The Drake Company was selected after a competitive bid process. Improvements to various ball fields is scheduled to be completed by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

J. Cronin asked if the project could be called Phase I. M. Frank said yes, it is more safety and the fields need to be flat. There is also some tree work needed fence work and dugout work is also needed and signage.

J. Cronin asked if it was part of the master plan. M. Frank said yes and we are trying to keep it moving.

J. Cronin said there is a strong need within the community to make improvements to the parks.

**Page Four**  
**Meeting Minutes, 12-9-19**

M. Frank said in May they were awarded \$40,000 in Community Preservation funding plus a DEP grant for new beach sand but the DEP funding was denied because alternative funding was needed to address the run-off

**5.) Board Business**

**Minutes of November 25, 2019:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from November 25, 2019. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**Facilities Manager Screening Committee:** J. Ritter noted this is not a Committee but it is an advisory staff team to assist him in making a recommendation the Select Board of several candidates.

There is an impressive group of candidates. Deb Moore, Chief Cassidy, the School Business Manager and others will be invited to participate in the screening process to assist J. Ritter in making a recommendation to the Select Board.

J. Cronin asked about the timeline. J. Ritter said early January is the objective to get candidates before the Select Board.

**Sustainability Coordinator Position:** J. Cronin read the position posting to hire a consultant and the job description and said he would be willing to help in the interview process.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the posting and job description and noted there was a lot of work to be done. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**Reserve Fund Transfer Request – Veterans Benefits:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve a \$22,000 reserve fund transfer request for the Veterans Benefits account due to the increase in the number of participants in the programs. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**Town Hall Septage Committee Appointments:** J. Cronin made a motion to appoint David Thorn from the Planning Board to serve on the Town Hall Septage Committee. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**Annual Licenses – Common Victualler:** J. Cronin asked if the issues with Bartucci's have been resolved. J. Ritter said the Board of Health inspected the restaurant and there are no current issues.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve Common Victualler's licenses for the following: Bazel's Bertucci's, Casey's Crossing, Anthony's on the Green, Gaetano's, Holliston Grill, Jing's Garden, Subway, Table Top, Bar Athena, Central Café, Coffee Haven, and Holliston Donuts. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**Page Five**  
**Meeting Minutes, 12-9-19**

**Annual Licenses – Class II and Class III Motor Vehicle Dealers:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant the following Class II and Class III Motor Vehicle Dealers Licenses: Class II – 360 Motorsports, Authentic Auto Body, Blaius, Car Vault, Classic Auto Sales, Countryside Auto, Empire Automotive Group, Classic Motor Cars, Holliston Auto Village, Keystone Automotive, Michael Orman, Nick's Enterprises, Paul Coan, Roadmaster Motors, Washington Street Auto Sales, Vintage Motorsports, Scooby Truck Sales, Planet Automotive, Grengus Motors; and a Class III license for Holliston equipment. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

**Appointments – Auxiliary Police Officers:** J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Andrew M. Gentile and Anne M. Diresta for the positions of Auxiliary Police Officers. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

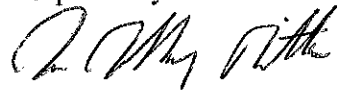
**Mass DoT Needs:** The Board decided to hold on this discussion until T. Hein could join in that discussion.

**6.) Any Other Business:** The Board approved the Host Community Agreement Form with Good Chemistry Nurseries of MA.

J. Cronin said there will be a meeting this Thursday to start the discussion regarding a Finance Director. He also met with Sean Reese about analyzing the Planning Board files relative to existing conditions and improvements made to date on a new Public Works Facility and is reviewing Planning Board files.

**Adjourn:** At 7:55p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator