



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
JANUARY 14, 2019**

Present: Jay Marsden, Chairman; Mark Ahronian, Vice Chairman; John Cronin, Clerk

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-29) in the amount of \$2,883,557.83. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

2.) Public Comment: J. Cronin congratulated Police Lieutenant Craig Denman with his announced pending retirement. Lieutenant Denman is often seen at various community events he has done an extraordinary job for the citizens of Holliston for the last thirty-three (33) years. Well earned, he is a great guy.

M. Ahronian congratulated Peter Barbieri who wears so many hats for the community. P. Barbieri is the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, the Board of Assessors, serves on the Blair Square Committee, which is a real challenge getting everyone to pull in the same direction.

J. Marsden thanked C. Denman for all the years of service to the Town of Holliston. It is a real loss for the Department and the community his commitment to Holliston is really appreciated.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter reported Phase II of the Green Communities grant is not complete. The final report was submitted to the Department of Energy Resources. This was a \$247,227 grant which introduced many new energy savings to various public buildings. We will now start preparing for Phase III with energy audits to be received shortly.

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He thanked the Green Communities team Information Technology Director, Chris Meo; Administrative Assistant, Andrea Minihan; and Fire Chief Michael Murphy for making the program a success.

The Landfill Solar RFP is well underway. There was a meeting today with Sun Power and we reviewed their proposal. Consultant Beth Greenblatt will be on the Agenda January 28th to provide an update and the Board will hear a brief presentation from Sun Power.

Work on the Annual performance evaluations continue with two (2) complete and two (2) to be complete tomorrow. Several self-evaluation documents are now circulating among staff and the entire process should be completed by mid-February.

Finally, he reminded the Board of the discussion that will be held tomorrow evening at the High School. "The Future of Holliston High School: A Community Conversation" starting at 7p.m.

4.) Mudville Traffic Discussion: Police Chief, Matt Stone; Fire Chief Michael Cassidy; and DPW Superintendent were present.

J. Marsden provide the group of a summary to date. McMahon completed a baseline traffic study before the new lights were installed. Then after the lights were installed another traffic study was completed. We turn all that information over to our public safety personnel and asked for some recommendations.

The public safety team made nine (9) recommendations eight of which have been affirmatively adopted by the Selectmen with one (speed limit) to 25 MPH is pending town Meeting approval.

J. Marsden said there are some remaining open questions for example a three (3) way stop at Union & School. We also need to define the crosswalk location and address any turn restrictions off Rt. 16 onto Spring, School and Pleasant.

A stop sign at Pleasant and Mechanic. No through trucking on Pleasant.

M. Stone said signs are not used to control speed. We approached the issue with an incremental introduction of the new signage because motorists will be overwhelmed with all the new signs.

J. Cronin asked to explain. M. Stone said it would be too much for drivers to absorb too quickly. We need to understand if the new signs are working.

J. Cronin asked how many new stop signs will there be. M. Stone said five (5).

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S. Reese said people will not use the crosswalks they are just going to cross the street.

M. Stone everything comes down to enforcement and we do not have the personnel to be there all the time we are charged with protecting the entire town not just Mudville. We have asked for additional money in the FY20 budget for a traffic unit but that is still being discussed.

J. Marsden asked about the idea of no through trucking. M. Stone asked how that would be enforced and what defines a truck. We need more information before a recommendation can be prepared.

J. Marsden asked about reducing the speed limit from 25 MPH to 20MPH. M. Stone said he spoke with McMahon and MassDoT. The Town would have to clearly demonstrate that there is a speed issue but he does not speed as an issue. He does support a posting of 25MPH.

J. Cronin asked about turning restrictions and the type they would recommend and how would they read. M. Cassidy said they would be looking at directing traffic away from the Mudville neighborhood and to keep the vehicle on Washington Street. Similar to what is currently in place in Newton on Washington Street.

J. Cronin asked about restricting only to local traffic. M. Cassidy said that would not be consistent with the Newton example, the restriction is for all traffic.

J. Cronin asked about restriction left hand turns onto Washington Street in the evening. M. Cassidy that would result in cars trying to turn around causing a greater danger and signs would have to be installed at Exchange Street and by that time the problem has already been created. We would be looking at a similar solution as is currently in place at Church and Washington. Which there are current many violations he has witnessed.

M. Ahronian asked if turn restrictions were to be considered which street would they be placed. M. Cassidy said the restriction should apply to all three (3) streets (Pleasant, Spring and School) because if only two (2) streets were to be 4restricted you would just be pushing the problem to another street.

M. Ahronian asked about truck restrictions because once the granite curbing is in place the streets will appear narrower and it will be dangerous for people to be parking on the street.

S. Reese reported that construction will be starting soon but no design or layout have been completed as of yet. The work is scheduled to be complete by the Spring of 2020.

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M. Ahronian asked how do you define a truck. M. Stone said it is difficult to define what is a large truck to trucks making an oil delivery which might make a stop on Union and then continue on again it is all about enforcement and a question of manpower. Over time people will disregard the signs and take a chance. That's another reason way a traffic officer is needed.

M. Ahronian said he favored the incremental approach to see what happens but he is also concerned about private property damage that has happened due to the large trucks that are in the area.

M. Stone said the incremental approach is open to change. M. Cassidy said we need to measure which changes are best implementing the goal.

J. Marsden provided a summary. First, turning restrictions. J. Cronin said he favored no right hand turns from 6a.m. – 9a.m. off Washington Street on all three streets.

M. Stone said teaching and educating is the objective. Enforcement is the last option. M. Cassidy said to be clear we are not establishing a one way system.

Jackie Napolitano, 67 Pleasant Street said she wanted to point out a few issues to be considered. First, what about the school buses. M. Stone said the bus routine would have to be changed and or adjusted.

Tina Hein, 142 Union Street read a statement and encouraged the Board to reach out to the Regional Planning Commission for technical support and said there are car transport trucks entering Mudville. The restriction should be seven (7) days per week.

M. Ahronian said regarding the implementation and painting of the crosswalks this will be subject to weather conditions.

Susan Woodrow, 136 Union Street said she was happy the Selectmen are listening and taking action and there is one spokesperson for the neighborhood. The traffic is because motorists are either lost or following "Waze." Someone should look into.

J. Cronin made a motion to install three (3) "No Right Hand Turn from 6a.m.-9a.m." signs at Pleasant, School and Spring Streets. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin made a motion to install three (3) stop signs at Union and Pleasant Streets. Second, M. Ahronian. Vote 3-0

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J. Cronin asked S. Reese when he would anticipate the signs to be installed. S. Reese said the signs have been ordered and should arrive at the end of this week or early next week.

J. Cronin asked if there any approval required by the State. S. Reese said no.

5.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes of December 26, 2018 and January 7, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from December 26, 2018 and January 7, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and hold the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Operational Plan: The Board reviewed and discussed the draft Operational Plan. J. Cronin said he would like to see in the plan a requirement for the ACO to submit an annual report in January.

Patricia Gipps, 165 Shaw Farm Road said she reviewed the draft of the Plan and presented the Selectmen with some suggested revisions and reviewed the number of loose dogs based on the numbers reported. This is not about the person in the position now it is about how the position is structured and the requirements to do the work and to make sure there is proper staffing.

There should be clear documentation and reporting, all paperwork should be made available to the public.

M. Ahronian made a motion to send the suggested changes to the ACO for review and comment. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

FY20 Budgets – Economic Development, Liability Insurance, Celebrations, Motor Vehicle Fuel, Animal Control and Street Lights: J. Ritter presented and explained the Economic Development Budget. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee the Economic Development budget for FY 20 in the amount of \$12,486. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

J. Ritter presented and explained the Street Lights and explained that it had to be resubmitted because the Town Account did not include in the calculation the December 2018 bill. Therefore, the budget should be adjusted upward to the guideline number. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee the Street Lights budget for FY 20 in the amount of \$62,432. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

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J. Ritter presented and explained the Insurance Liability budget. These are estimated numbers based on a three (3) year average and estimates provided by MIIA. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee the Insurance Liability budget for FY 20 in the amount of \$275,572. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

J. Ritter presented and explained the Celebrations budget. M. Ahronian said this is for flowers and flags for the Memorial Day celebration. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee the Celebrations budget for FY 20 in the amount of \$2,000. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

J. Ritter presented and explained the Motor Vehicle Fuel budget. He noted this budget is 12,890 below the guideline budget because of the decline price of gasoline and diesel. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee the Motor Vehicle Fuel budget for FY 20 in the amount of \$115,000. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

J. Ritter presented and explained the Animal Control budget. This will fund a contractor for service with the Town of Ashland.

M. Ahronian suggested holding this budget until the next meeting to allow the Board to better understand the staffing needs. J. Cronin said there might be an issue there but more time is needed to understand the volume of calls.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee the Animal Control budget for FY 20 in the amount of \$38,000. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Technical Assistance Program – MAPC Grant for Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility for the Rail Trail and Mudville Corridor: J. Ritter asked if this is something the Board would like him to apply for. J. Marsden said this would study the corridor between Mudville and the Upper Charles River Rail Trail River.

J. Cronin suggested that the application be passed by the Blair Square Committee and the Trails Committee. There was no objection to filing the application.

Engineering Service Agreement – A.P. Associates for the Design Phase of Generator at Well #4: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and sign the Agreement pursuant to an affirmative recommendation from the DPW Superintendent in the amount of \$31,400. Second, J. Cronin.

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Adjourn: At 8:34p.m. J. Marsden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator