



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 21, 2019**

Present: Mark Ahronian, Chairman; John Cronin, Vice Chairman; Tina Hein, Clerk

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator
Kate Feodoroff, Town Counsel

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order in the Upper Town Hall. The reason for this portion of the Agenda was to witness the swearing in of four (4) police officers.

At approximately 6:55p.m. the Board met in room 104.

J. Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. M. Ahronian joined the meeting at approximately 7:13p.m.

1.) Warrants: T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-17) in the amount of \$1,497,598.11 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 2-0.

2.) Public Comment: T. Hein said Sunday there was a tour of the Thistle Dew Farm. It might be possible to establish a link between the proposed Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program at some point in the future.

J. Cronin reminded the public about the upcoming Special Town Meeting next Monday. The meeting starts at 7:30p.m. and there are twenty (20) articles on the Warrant it is important that everyone attend and participate.

Holliston has been designated among the eight (8) safest towns in MetroWest.

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This evening in the upper Town Hall there was a swearing in ceremony of several new police officers and the promotion of Sergeant George Leurini to the position of Lieutenant.

Sharon Weaver, 69 Woodland Street said more than one hundred (100) people attended the Truck or Treat event. There are continuing concerns about the EEE virus. Several events have been cancelled at the Community Farm.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter reminded the Board about the upcoming Annual Veterans Day Ceremonies and Dinner to be held on Monday November 11th.

The Town has received a \$5,400 grant under the Department of Environmental Protection's Recycling Dividends Program. The money will be used for public education and to further reduce the solid waste stream.

4.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2019; October 15, 2019; June 10, 2019; July 8, 2019 and August 5, 2019: T. Hein made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from October 7, 2019; October 10, 2019; October 15, 2019; and Executive Sessions of June 10, 2019; July 8, 2019; and August 5, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 2-0

Safe Routes to Schools – Signs and Lanes Grant: T. Hein said the grant if funded would connect the Upper Charles River Rail Trail by Holliston Oil with a crosswalk with perhaps a solar powered crosswalk sign. The grant would be for \$6,000 and must be expended by June 30, 2020.

There was a site walk with representatives from the awarding authority and it is understood that this would be a strong candidate for funding. There about 2,000 students in the area every day.

J. Cronin made a motion to support the grant application. Second, T. Hein. Voted 2-0

(M. Ahronian joined the meeting at 7:13p.m.)

Town Hall Septage Committee: This item was placed on hold until J. Ritter could prepare the Committee Charge/Profile. M. Ahronian agreed to provide assistance.

145 Marked Tree Lane, Driveway Opening: This matter was placed on hold until after Special Town Meeting.

2019 MPO Election: T. Hein said she was planning to attend the next MPO meeting. There is an upcoming election with Ashland and Framingham in the running. The ballot will next to be returned by November 5th. This matter will be on the Board's Agenda next week.

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Special Town Meeting: J. Ritter reviewed the Motions with Town Counsel and the Board.

M. Ahronian addressed Article 8: Water Asset Management Plan Update. M. Ahronian said it has been at least nine (9) years since a similar plan was completed. Once it was completed nothing was done for five (5) years.

The about five (5) years ago the Department of Public Works was established. A new water treatment plant was approved.

Underground water pipes should have been replaced thirty (30) years ago but they were not. Every three (3) weeks there is a water main break. So far, this year the Town has spent about \$30,000 on contractors and overtime.

During 2018 there were seventeen breaks costing \$60,000. During there were eight (8) breaks costing \$30,000. During 2016 there were sixteen (16) breaks costing \$60,000. The Town should have invested sooner. Now we have an opportunity to address this problem. This plan if approved would help significantly.

If we continue to replace one (1) mile per year of underground water mains it will take fifty (55) years to complete. If this is increase to three (3) miles per year it would take eighteen (18) years to complete.

As important as the High School project is good clean water is essential to the quality of life and for businesses.

J. Cronin said the old study did not explain how to prioritize projects. We should use the old plan as a map to the future.

T. Hein said the 1997 plan identified the protection of our public water supply to be the number one (1) priority.

J. Cronin said the study will most likely result in a large capital investment and the Finance Committee is mind full of the school building needs and he wants to see what happens in the Spring.

M. Ahronian addressed Article 10: DPW Facility Feasibility Study. The Water Department and the Highway Department were combined about five (5) years ago.

The DPW Department impacts every resident and departments including schools, parks, solid waste, and fields in Town. They fix buildings, repair road and make sure our water quality is safe. They are always on call.

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It makes no sense if people want to kick this problem down the road.

J. Cronin said asked S. Reese to review the Medway and Wrentham studies to determine cost. He understands it cost Medway around \$15 million.

M. Ahronian addressed Article 11: Sidewalk Prioritization Plan. In order to have a safer town and a safer town center this plan is needed. This is a first step. He has heard from residents and business owners that there the sidewalks are not safe or there are no sidewalks at all.

Some sidewalks have not been addressed for sixty (60) years. Some date back to the 1930's. Holliston has become much more of a walking and biking community. More and more people are using the community parking lot and are walking to various businesses.

The study would provide for a plan going forward.

J. Cronin said he could envision some crossover between Article 8 and Article 11.

T. Hein said Article 11 also ties into the state objectives to have more multi-modal transportation networks with linkage to the Rail Trail.

It would also be a tool for the Traffic Advisory Committee to use.

Ben Sparrell, 1460 Highland Street (Vice Chair of the Finance Committee) said he favored the studies. But he has a general lack of knowledge and as with all studies we would need to understand the data behind the study.

Regarding Article 13: Remove Structure(s) at 310 Woodland Street. J. Cronin said these are next to the Upper Charles River Rail Trail and might be used as a picnic area in the future.

Regarding Article 18: Dam Inspections, Repairs and Ownership. J. Cronin said it takes a plan and once that is completed it could open us up to additional funding. But the project needs to be shovel ready.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the Motion document with the noted edits. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

5.) Any Other Business: T. Hein noted that Fay Hale had been appointed to the 9 Green Street Committee and asked if she was representing the Economic Development Committee.

J. Ritter said the Committee Charge although not ideal it is a guideline document and the Board can appoint whomever you like with certain skills or background.

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Regarding the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant application the deadline is around the middle of November.

J. Cronin said he would like to see the sustainability coordinator hired.

M. Ahronian said Holliston will go it alone and not share the position with Sherborn as a part-time consultant for now. J. Cronin said we will need to work on a job description.

Adjourn: At 8:24p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein.
Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator