



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 7, 2019**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. (Executive Session)

1.) Executive Session: At 6:30p.m. T. Hein made a motion under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21A (3) to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; and or to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

The Board will re-enter open session at approximately 7:00p.m. Second, J. Cronin.

Roll Call Vote: Hein – Yes; Cronin – Yes; Ahronian – Yes

The Board returned to open session at 7:14p.m.

2.) Warrants: T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-15) in the amount of \$3,730,221.16 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0.

3.) Public Comment: M. Ahronian thanked T. Hein and J. Cronin for all their hard work regarding the upcoming Special Town Meeting and the preparation of the Warrant. Especially, their work on the capital budget article. He understands there is around \$3.6 million available and the town will most likely not spend it all. There are a lot of needs such as playing fields and the septic system at the Town Hall. These are expensive items.

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4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter the only thing he had to report is was the Special Town Meeting Warrant is consuming much of his time.

T. Hein asked for an update on the solar field at the landfill and would like to get that going before the Special Town Meeting.

5.) Public Hearing – Conduit Hearing – Boynton Road: T. Hein made a motion at 7:20p.m. to reopen the Public Hearing. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Christine Cosby, from Eversource was present and reviewed the scope of the project. The approximately 121 feet of conduit is needed to provide new electric service to a building.

J. Cronin asked if it was a commercial building. C. Cosby said yes it was.

T. Hein asked about any disruption in service. C. Cosby said there would be a little on and off for one day but people would be notified by mail in advance.

J. Cronin asked about any traffic issues and how the connection would be made. C. Cosby there should be no traffic issues and the connection would be made by splicing the wires.

There were no comments from the public.

T. Hein made a motion at 7:25p.m. to close the Public Hearing. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant the placement of underground conduit in the area of 56 Boynton Road. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

6.) Petitioner Article: Carrie Marsh, 182 Highland Street was present and read from a statement regarding the Petitioner Article and asked for the Selectmen's support.

For context, T. Hein read the Article, "The undersigned registered voters of the town of Holliston request that the following article be placed on the Warrant for the next Town Meeting scheduled to commence on October 28, 2019.

To see if the town will vote to create a bylaw to limit the first school bus stop as, no earlier than sunrise, for elementary students."

M. Ahronian said later in the evening the Board will be reviewing and discussing a sidewalk prioritization Article that is on the Warrant.

J. Cronin said the Board has been working with the DPW to locate money to improve pedestrian safety. T. Hein has been working on this issue Holliston is not the only town working on this issue. This issue is a school policy matter if and when it gets implemented.

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C. Marsh said children should never be in the dark at 7:30a.m. start time is too early.

J. Cronin asked if she was aware of any other towns who have implemented this policy and if there was a budget impact. C. Marsh said no. J. Cronin said he wants to understand the budget impact. There are no solid numbers to work from.

C. Marsh said she would be in favor of completing a feasibility study.

T. Hein said she had spoken with C. Marsh previously and she wants to make sure pedestrian safety concerns are addressed. She had reached out the Health Director as far as mosquitos and EEE are concerned dusk is the same as dawn.

She further asked if there was any positive interaction with the School Committee.

C. Marsh said she did attend a subcommittee to review current and future plans. The Superintendent plans to implement the new plan next year.

T. Hein asked about the level of support the Petitioners have. C. Marsh said she was not aware of any opposition to their Petition all students benefit from a later start time.

M. Ahronian suggested C. Marsh reach out to the Superintendent of Schools to review and discuss.

C. Marsh said he is not interested in looking at alternatives or an impact study.

M. Ahronian said that C. Marsh should reach out to the Chair of the School Committee. C. Marsh said they want to find a common ground.

M. Ahronian asked about the threat of EEE. T. Hein said a public forum will be held Thursday.

J. Cronin said the Moderator will decide if the question is binding or if the vote at Town Meeting is advisory.

Andrew Horton, 164 South Street said speeding and public safety of children should be the top priority and asked how bus drivers can see children in the dark.

7.) Stormwater Management: Karen Sherman, Town Planner was present and reviewed the proposed Illicit Discharge by-law. The by-law will further protect the groundwater. It will allow the Board to adopt regulations. The Board has the legal authority to adopt regulations and the Department of Public Works would enforce the regulations.

For example, gray water septic discharges, street sweepings, and catch basin cleaning would be all covered under the new by-law.

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M. Ahronian said with larger storms this is an important step. K. Sherman pointed out the by-law would mostly cover replacement catch basins.

J. Cronin asked if there is a compliance deadline. K. Sherman said there is a 180 days for enforcement and that education of the public is very important.

T. Hein asked if the by-law might work in concert with the MVP program. K. Sherman said not really.

J. Cronin asked about Article 17 Storm Water Management.

K. Sherman said that article really addresses a 5-10-15 year plan for the Town. But we need technical assistance to help staff to develop the plan. We are currently using the consulting firm CEI. It is a team effort to establish protocols.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve Articles 17 & 21. Second, T. Hein voted 3-0

8.) Capital Budget Article – Priority List: J. Cronin reviewed the capital planning process and the spreadsheet showing all the top priorities for the Board.

T. Hein said she has reviewed the capital budget article and all the articles with funding and how those match the asset management plan.

J. Cronin said his top priorities would be the facilities manager position and then the public works studies. Then the public safety vehicles. We should try to link the \$378,000 in Host Community Agreements (marijuana revenues) to specific funding requests.

M. Ahronian said perhaps we can link those revenues to the various studies.

T. Hein said perhaps some items could be funded in May.

J. Cronin said regarding the Pinecrest Renovations Article. This is revenue neutral and revenues from the Clubhouse would pay for the renovations.

9.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2019 and September 30, 2019: T. Hein made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from /September 23, 2019 and September 30, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Traffic Advisory Committee: T. Hein reviewed the status of the Traffic Advisory Committee. J. Cronin said he supports enhanced pedestrian safety and made a motion to accept the Traffic Advisory Committee charge as presented. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

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T. Hein asked the Board if she could talk with the Town Clerk about the process for getting the Committee up and running.

9 Green Street Appointment: T. Hein made a motion to appoint Fay Hale, 13 Green Street to the 9 Green Street Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0 J. Cronin noted there are several environmental issues including mold in the basement. We need a plan and how to use the allocation of \$350,000 for downtown parking.

Special Town Meeting Warrant: J. Cronin made a motion to remove Article 21 “Solid Waste and Recycling” from the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin said as the new program rolls out there could be savings realized with a reduction in the amount of solid waste tons brought to Wheelabrator. Including the introduction of the Smart Recycling of textiles.

M. Ahronian said a central business district might be created.

Waiver of Fees – Veterans Lunch: T. Hein made a motion to waive the fees for the use of the Upper Town Hall for the Annual Veterans Day lunch. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License: T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage License to Arcadia Farm for an event that is being held on October 19, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

10.) Other Business: T. Hein made a motion to place “Rail Trail Parking Only” along Cross Street and on both sides of the street. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Adjourn: At 8:45p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator