



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

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

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

M. Ahronian called the regular meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

**1.) Executive Session:** At 6:00 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; 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 6:58p.m.

**2.) Warrants:** T. Hein made a motion to approve and sign the weekly expense and vendor Warrants (20-32) in the amount of \$1,544,225.84. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**3.) Public Comment:** J. Cronin congratulated the Food Pantry regarding a recent fundraiser a lot of money was raised.

M. Ahronian thanked J. Ritter and his staff for all their hard work in helping the Select Board, residents and staff.

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**4.) Report of the Town Administrator:**

\* **Borrowing:** There will be a staff meeting Wednesday morning with S&P our rating agency.

\* **Green Communities:** The third phase of the project is now complete. Over the last three (3) years \$490,532 of energy cost savings have been implemented. Thanks team.

\* **Landfill Solar Field:** Last Thursday we had a staff meeting with our project consultant and SolSystems. We discussed the short term lease and a public outreach program.

\* **Mass Trails Grant:** Received notification the Town has been awarded a \$92,122 grant for the Upper Charles River Train: Depot Trail and Parking project improvements.

\* **PharmaCannis:** Last Friday, received \$100,000 check from PharmaCannis as part of the Host Community Agreement.

\* **Sustainability Coordinator:** I met with Matt Friday morning he is well underway and will provide an update next week.

\* **Town Center Lights:** Meeting this Friday morning for the purposes of reviewing the \$24,000 in adjustments and timeline for improvements.

\* **Town Hall Gutter Work:** Rear of building to start tomorrow morning at 7:30a.m.

**5.) Indigenous People Day:** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class was present and read statement in support of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day. T. Hein read a petition and asked what does it mean to be indigenous person on Columbus Day. The students did recognize that Columbus did discover America.

M. Ahronian asked how can you celebrate America and also recognize indigenous people. The students said they would take a walk in the woods.

The Select Board took the matter under advisement.

**6.) Budgets – Finance Committee and Conservation Commission:** Vincent Murphy and Ben Sparrell from the **Finance Committee** were present and provided an update. They retreated the way T. Hein was treated at a recent meeting of the Finance Committee.

Regarding the Solid Waste budget they are seeking additional information about the solid waste district and wanted to understand what other towns are doing in this regard and the cost. E.L. Harvey the Town's current trash and recycling hauler is most likely the best source for this information.

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M. Ahronian welcomed the members of the Finance Committee and asked the liaison to attend weekly meetings of the Select Board. It provides an opportunity to ask questions and get feedback. We need to treat each other with respect. B. Sparrell said they did not mean to be disrespectful.

T. Hein said this exchange provides for a positive experience and demonstrates good faith and assumes a culture of trust as well as an opportunity to clearly communicate.

V. Murphy said the liaisons need to understand their role and learn to work together. As well as ways to solve problems together.

J. Cronin observed there are strong personalities between Boards and we need to do a better job communicating.

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Agent was present representing the **Conservation Commission** and their proposed FY21 budget. The Commission reviewed and approved the budget on January 21, 2020.

The budget is within the one (1%) budget guideline. J. Cronin noted the total salary increase has not yet been allocated to individual departments but the increases were approved by Town Meeting last spring.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the FY21 Conservation Commission budget. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**7. Pinecrest Club House Update:** Jay Robertson, Chair of the Pinecrest Club House Committee was present and provided the Select Board with an update. They have met with the Finance Committee and Deb Moore.

M. Ahronian asked if the revenues from the Golf Course could pay for any renovations to the Club House and return money to the Town to finance the bond that would be needed.

D. Moore said they prefer to put money into the Course. J. Ritter said there is approximately two (2) years remaining on the bond to be paid off.

T. Hein asked if the Course could make up the difference or gap in the revenue stream.

J. Cronin said he supported the renovation project last fall then when it got to the Finance Committee the project went sideways.

J. Robinson said all three (3) parties need to get together. It will be a hard sell the other option is to close the Club House. There needs to be a vision for the entire property.

T. Hein said she understood the Finance Committee was seeking additional information.

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J. Robinson said the Golf Course is a profit center for the Town and an opportunity asset a strategy needs to be pulled together.

M. Ahronian suggested a meeting be set-up with the Finance Committee and the Pinecrest Club House Committee and the Golf Course Advisory Committee after that we could consider a placeholder in the Warrant.

**8.) Blair Square Committee Update:** Kevin Conley, 44 Cranberry Lane and Chair of the Committee was present and provided a project update. GLM is in the process of developing a plan. The Town is in line to receive a \$92,000 grant and \$30,000 in kind services.

M. Ahronian said this will be a major improvement to Blair Square.

T. Hein said it is her understanding that work will be completed by December 2021.

K. Conley said he would like to see it completed this year if possible. Bathrooms are needed and brush needs to be removed. Drainage is important given sections of the Trail were underwater in January.

T. Hein asked about public meetings and an opportunity to display the proposed plan. K. Conley said yes they are looking at a June 17<sup>th</sup> public hearing date.

J. Cronin asked about the status of the caboose. K. Conley said the Committee voted that down and it is no longer available.

J. Cronin said he though Ms. Daniels were to provide drawings.

T. Hein said outreach to the neighbors will be really important to gain support for the project and supports the idea of providing temporary bathrooms. K. Conley said the plans should be ready for review in about a month.

**9. Board Business**

**Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2020 and January 27, 2020:** The Select Board decided to hold on approving these minutes.

**A.P. Associates – Emergency Generator Cedar Street Water Mains:** The Select Board decided to hold on approving these Contracts.

**Reserve Fund Transfer – 9 Green Street:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer request and refer it to the Finance Committee for the purposes of hiring a Local Site Professional. Second T. Hein. Voted 3-0

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**One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – St. Michael’s:** J. Cronin made a motion to grant approval for the St. Michaels Auction to be held in the upper Town Hall on Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 6:30p.m. to 11:00p.m. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** J. Ritter reviewed the Articles received to date. He noted that the Warrant will close next week.

**Facilities Manager:** M. Ahronian noted that the Select Board interviewed Mr. Keast and Mr. Lefter. He had some concerns about certain representations.

T. Hein said it was a good process and wondered if Mr. Pizzi who was offered the position but turned it down might have been over qualified all five (5) candidates had certain strengths.

The Select Board decided to bring Mr. Keast back for another interview. J. Cronin disclosed he had a conflict given Mr. Keast is a friend.

**10.) Any Other Business:** T. Hein made a motion to accept a donation from the Middlesex Savings Bank to the Holliston Police Department in the amount of \$10,000. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

T. Hein said she would like to have a conversation to come up with some ideas to encourage more participation at Town Meeting.

**Adjourn:** At 8:48p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator