



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
MARCH 18, 2019**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

At 6:00p.m. Chairman J. Marsden called the meeting to order.

1.) Executive Session: J. Marsden made a motion at 6:30p.m. under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21A (3) to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing matters relating to collective bargaining and the Board would return to open session at approximately 7:00p.m.. Second, M. Ahronian.

Roll Call Vote: Marsden – Yes; Ahronian – Yes; Cronin - Yes

At 7:06p.m. J. Marsden made a motion to exit Executive Session. Second, J. Cronin

Roll Call Vote: Marsden – Yes; Ahronian – Yes; Cronin - Yes

J. Marsden called the regular meeting to order at 7:07p.m.

2.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-38) in the amount of \$1,489,738.32. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

2.) Public Comment: Christine Beling, 31 Franklin Street and a member of the Sustainability and Recycling Committee was present. C. Beling apologized the Chairman Michael Lavin was ill and could not attend the meeting this evening.

Page Two
Meeting Minutes 3-18-19

C. Beling was present to discuss the Board's March 4th decision to implement a 64 gallon trash cart and a 64 gallon recycling cart. Bids were received based on information in the RFP which stated 35 gallon carts for trash. They have no issue with the 64 gallon recycling cart.

She understands the recycling market is changing and the Board needs to balance environmental concerns with financial concerns. The current program is not really working the automated program is the way to go.

There is significant grant money available from DEP if the Town were to adopt a 35 gallon cart for trash and 64 gallon for recycling. This is a best practice.

C. Beling reviewed the history of sticker sales and DEP funding through grant opportunities.

Last year Republic Services determined less than 11% of residents are using the 64 gallon container or larger.

M. Ahronian asked about surrounding communities like Franklin and Hopkinton who are using the 64 gallon carts and it appears those communities are much cleaner. When you place a bag next to a 35 gallon cart there is risk of trash blowing all around which we did not think would DEP happy either.

C. Beling said Holliston already has a PAYT (Pay as You Throw) program. She did mention that M. Lavin did receive an e-mail on 2/28 about the March 4th meeting but forgot to open it that's why no one was present when the topic was previously discussed.

Kathi Mirza with Mass DEP was present and said grants apply to the 35 gallon trash carts. If you move to a 64 gallon cart the Town runs the risk of losing your designation as a PAYT community. More and more communities are moving toward a 35 gallon cart as a best practice. Recently 10 communities have move to a 35 gallon cart.

M. Ahronian said the Board thought a cleaner town would good for the environment.

K. Mirza said a resident can fit 3 large trash bags into a 35 gallon cart. This model will work well for most residents and it will also send the right message that this is important.

J. Cronin said when Harvey offered the 64 gallon option there was no one from the Sustainability Committee present to respond and the Board did not fully understand the financial impact and how that relates to possible grant funding. He is moved by the facts.

Page Three
Meeting Minutes 3-18-19

M. Ahronian recognized the work of the Committee they put a lot of work into the RFP document and I know the Board thanks all of you for your hard work and getting us to this point.

The Board will make a final decision next week. J. Ritter said there will most likely be a delay in rolling out which trash cart is decided on. Most likely a month or two. There should be no problem with the recycling carts.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter said he received one letter of interest to serve on the Affordable Housing Committee. Anyone interested should contact the Selectmen's Office.

The Board decided to have a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on March 28th for the purposes of reviewing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant starting at 7p.m.

J. Ritter provided a summary of the \$248,629 Green Communities grant application that the Board will be asked to approve later on the Agenda.

The Mudville water main replacement project, with the low bid at \$936,164.30 will also be taken up later on the Agenda.

J. Ritter reviewed the status of the performance evaluations. Last week he received the Assistant Assessor from the Board of Assessors. There are now only a couple outstanding.

5.) Pole Hearing Chestnut Street: J. Cronin made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

J. Cronin read the Notice to Abutters to place one jointly owned pole on the westerly side of Chestnut Street at approximately 50 feet from the center line of Wedgewood Drive. This is a joint application on behalf of Verizon and NStar.

Richard Forman, with Verizon New England was present to address any questions there were no questions from the public or the Board.

M. Ahronian at 7:38p.m. made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and sign the application. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

6.) Town Meeting Article – Consolidated Personnel By-Law: Special Labor Counsel Dan Brown was present and reviewed the changes to the By-Law. The scope of the changes are to

Page Four
Meeting Minutes 3-18-19

bring the By-Law up to date and make it consistent with the provisions of the Town Administrator Special Act.

Also, for the first time in the By-Law and at Town Meeting voters will be asked to approve a wage chart for Department Heads.

There will still be a functioning Personnel Board but their only function would be to hear any appeals from employees relating to decisions made by the Town Administrator.

The Board needs to make a decision about having employment contract or to adopt the concept of a wage chart for non-union employees and Department Heads.

J. Cronin asked to expand on the concept of employment contracts. J. Ritter said under the law there are four positions allow to employment contracts the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Accountant and Town Administrator.

D. Brown said the employment contract provides for the flexibility to customize it with each employee. For example, provide for an extra vacation week.

It was decided to hold off on a decision until next Monday.

7.) Town Meeting Article – Economic Development Enhancement Grant: Matt Coletti, a member of the Economic Development Committee was present and reviewed proposed privately funded grant program that would go through the Economic Development Committee and the Board of Selectmen for final approval. The grants would be used to improve the exterior space of local businesses.

J. Cronin asked about where the model for this proposal came from and the results to date. M. Coletti said the proposal is based on what was done in Ashland. The results are still being compiled.

J. Cronin asked about public funds vs. private donations. M. Coletti said in theory for example private banks under the Community Reinvestment Act could make a grant payment for this purpose.

J. Cronin asked how a store front improvement would improve economic development. M. Coletti said when a store front is pleasing and looks nice more shoppers are likely to visit that store. Any applications recommended by the Economic Development Committee would need final approval of the Board of Selectmen. Holliston is unique and is becoming a destination for many.

Page Five
Meeting Minutes 3-18-19

J. Cronin asked if the Finance Committee have been consulted. M. Coletti said yes they have been working with the liaison and their questions have been addressed. There also many be grants from other sources.

M. Ahronian said there are areas where murals could be painted with grants from the Cultural Council.

J. Marsden said he was not sure if the Town needed to get involved if private funds are being used. Perhaps the Economic Development Committee working with the Holliston Business Association could accomplish the same objective.

J. Cronin said another approach would be to establish a revolving fund and then award the grants.

M. Coletti said the specific criteria have not yet been developed.

J. Cronin said involvement of the Economic Development Committee is important because there would be a public discussion at a posted public meeting with minutes to make sure the rules are followed.

M. Coletti said the Economic Development Committee needs the tools to carry out its mission and this is just one of those tools.

M. Ahronian said he supports the idea of improving the appearance of both public and private spaces.

J. Marsden said it really is the responsibility of the private land owner to maintain their properties.

M. Coletti said we are seeking ways to incentivize the private land owner to make improvements.

J. Cronin and M. Ahronian said they support the concept. J. Marsden said this should be the responsibility of the private property owner.

J. Cronin asked if there has been any outreach to the Holliston Business Association. M. Coletti said someone did attend a recent meeting but we could reach out to them to help develop the rules and regulations. This would be important progress toward a solution.

M. Ahronian made a motion to support the Article. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Page Six
Meeting Minutes 3-18-19

8.) FY20 Budgets – Council on Aging, Solid Waste, Waste Water: Bob Malone with the Council on Aging and Linda Marshall, Senior Center Director were present and explained that they are seeking reconsideration of their FY20 budget to restore the part time van driver hours at eight hours per week. The hours were reduced to meet the budget guideline.

B. Malone said the alternative would be to eliminate the service for the last 4-5 weeks of the fiscal year. The estimated expense would be about \$5,000.

J. Cronin asked about other funding sources. B. Malone said they have some private funding but those funds are programmed for other projects.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the increase. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 2-0-1 (Marsden)

The agreed to hold the solid waste budget until next week.

J. Ritter presented the FY20 Waste Water Treatment budget. There is a small increase in the professional services line item. M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the FY20 Waste Water Treatment budget and to refer it to the Finance Committee.

9.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Joint Meeting Date with the Finance Committee: The Board agreed to meet with the Finance Committee on Thursday, March 28th for the purposes of reviewing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Re-Appointment – Registrar: M. Ahronian made a motion to re-appoint the Town Clerk L. Greendale as Registrar for a three years. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Green Community Grant Application: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and submit a \$248,629 grant application to the Executive Office of Energy Resources to assist the Town to implement various town/school energy efficiencies. Second, J. Cronin. Vote 3-0

Water Main Replacement Contract Award: M. Ahronian made a motion to award the Mudville water main replacement project in the amount of \$936,164.30 to P.J. Hayes, Inc. and for J. Ritter to sign the notice to proceed. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

9 Green Street Committee: The Board decided to hold until more volunteers stepped forward.

Page Seven
Meeting Minutes 3-18-19

Snow and Ice: M. Ahronian made a motion pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 and 31D to over expend the snow and ice budget. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Senior Center Window and Door Replacement Project: M. Ahronian made a motion to award a contract and to issue a notice to proceed to E5 Builders in the amount of \$58,500. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

7. Any Other Business: None

Adjourn: At 8:40p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator