



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
MARCH 4, 2019**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

At 7:00p.m. Chairman J. Marsden called the meeting to order.

1.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-36) in the amount of \$372,954.86. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

2.) Public Comment: J. Cronin reminded residents to help the Town by clearing snow away from hydrants and thanked the Highway Department for doing an outstanding job with in clearing snow from the recent snow storm.

M. Ahronian also thanked the Highway Department and noted they have already started to clear snow from the sidewalks in the Town Center.

M. Ahronian recognized Bob Malone for being an outstanding citizen volunteer. B. Malone serves on the Council on Aging Board of Directors, the Federal representative to the Housing Authority and the Board of Library Trustees. Finally, his work and assistance with the once a month "Old Man's Breakfast."

J. Marsden echoed the previous comments that the Highway Department did an outstanding job in clearing snow from the recent snow storm.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter reported that he had received a telephone call from Congresswoman Katherine Clark's Office. Similar to the project needs list for the Town

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submitted to State Senator Karen Spilka and State Representative Carolyn Dykema she is asking the Town to submit a similar list to her. J. Ritter will be working on that and it will be on the Board's Agenda for a future meeting.

J. Ritter echoed the compliments to the Highway Department for doing a great job during the recent snow storm.

Regarding the Library ceiling project the Town will receive a reconstruction schedule by Friday of this week. The schedule will be posted to the Web site.

The performance evaluations are nearly completed. There are two (2) outstanding reviews to be done which should be completed next week.

The Senior Center window and door replacement project is on track. There was a pre-bid meeting last Thursday five (5) contractors met on site and reviewed the scope of work. Bid will be due on Thursday, March 14th.

The Town Hall door replacement specifications have been drafted and are currently under review by the Building Inspector.

Finally, there will be a regional Board of Selectmen meeting in Medway on Thursday, March 14th starting at 7p.m.

4.) E.L. Harvey Trash and Recycling Implementation Plan: John Horak, Operations Manager with E.L. Harvey was present and thanked the Board for the opportunity. The Town is moving from a dual stream to a single stream recycling system.

The Board has a decision regarding containers to use a 96 gallon, 64 gallon, or 35 gallon container. Communities who recycle every other week the 96 gallon container works well. Communities who recycle weekly tend to use the 64 gallon container and that will fit nicely into a garage.

The containers are gray for trash and blue for recycling.

J. Cronin asked if residents could make a choice. J. Horak said E.L. Harvey likes to provide one (1) option but if necessary accommodations can be made.

J. Cronin asked if the containers will be labeled "Property of the Town of Holliston." J. Horak said yes.

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K. Cronin asked about the microchip technology on the containers. J. Horak said each vehicle will have eight (8) cameras working in conjunction with a GPS system. E.L. Harvey has better technology than the chip devices.

J. Cronin said customer service is very important to Holliston and asked J. Horak how does E.L. Harvey manage complaints. J. Horak said they are a family based local company since 1970 and they have eleven (11) operators working all out of the Westborough Office. They take great pride in customer service.

J. Horak said the goal is not to miss any of the scheduled pick-ups. They have recently took on Mendon, Bellingham, and Plainville.

J. Cronin asked if they have the resources to take on these new communities. J. Horak said yes they are in Town every day.

J. Marsden asked about any changes to the bulk pick-up. J. Horak said we have tried to implement the new service without a lot of changes. So the bulk pick-up will remain the same at one (1) item per week per household.

J. Marsden said he was inclined to go with the 64 gallon for both recycling and trash.

Vincent Murphy a member of the Finance Committee asked about DEP grants. J. Ritter said the budget would be developed based on the assumption of not receiving grant money from DEP.

Christian Berrios, 87 Cheryl Lane said looking at the containers he thought the 64 gallon container would be best.

Bob Malone, 414 Central Street asked if stickers would still be available. J. Marsden said it was his understanding that they would be.

Kenneth Szajda, 676 Fiske Street, Chairman of the Finance Committee asked about the price difference the 35 gallon container and the 65 gallon container and with fewer stickers be sold what would be the price impact be of that. J. Horak said the price difference is really insignificant and E.L. Harvey would absorb the difference and hold the bid price

Warren Chamberlain, 16 Roy Avenue said he was in favor of the same size containers.

Jay Leary, 146 Karen Circle asked what would happen to the current green containers. J. Horak said they would be collected at the DPW facility and two (2) of the current green containers

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would most likely fill up one (1) 35 gallon container and four (4) would fill a 64 gallon container.

K. Szajda asked about the RFID technology and the possibility of missing containers. J. Horak said they had like only four (4) missing containers in the City of Lawrence and they would replace as needed.

M. Szczepan, Municipal Manager with E.L. Harvey said given the containers are Town property a lien could be placed on the private property owner's home.

M. Ahronian said the containers would be green and gray and asked about the size perhaps the 65 gallon container would be difficult to move. J. Marsden said he thought it was better to have too much room than not enough room in the container. He favored the 65 gallon for both recycling and trash. The 96 gallon container was too large for weekly collections.

J. Cronin asked about the difference in weight between the 35 gallon and 64 gallon containers. J. Marsden said it might be a bit of a physical challenge for some but we have to let the dust settle and let people get used to the new program.

J. Cronin said the bid document asked for 35 gallon trash container vs a 65 gallon container is there an additional expense for the larger container. J. Horak said they would absorb any extra expense. The 64 gallon container would keep trash off the street as well.

K. Szajda said there would be an impact on the tipping fees at Wheelabrator as well.

J. Leary said the larger the container the more trash there will be. Holliston recycles at a high rate and most towns collect recycling every other week

M. Ahronian asked if more trash was going to Wheelabrator how much would that cost. J. Horak said with the cost may actually do down because there is a 20-30 percent capacity for recycling and it is cleaner.

W. Chamberlain the use of bags and stickers would slow down the collection of trash.

M. Ahronian made a motion for the Town to use two (2) 65 gallon containers one (1) for recycling and one (1) for trash. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Regarding payment for the carts the Town and E.L. Harvey would divide the expense with the Town owning the carts after five (5) years. The life span of the carts are around 15 years.

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5. Community Farm Update: Kristine Westland, Chair of the Holliston Community Farm Committee was present and provided the Board with an update. Installation of the septic system is going very well. There are many events in support of the Community Farm are taking place this Spring. There is an event planned for the Saturday before St. Patrick's Days at the Senior Center from 10a.m. until 1p.m. The 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned.

Community outreach continues with many local contractors donating time and materials. The Committee has partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department for a program this Spring. Further, they are working with the School Department to develop an educational curriculum which will support the farm and the School Department.

The barn roof has been replaced. They had to expand and move the garden plots. They are also working with 4-H on a pilot program to introduce some animals to the farm.

J. Marsden asked about any revenues from boarding animals. K. Westland said it was more intended to be education and not to raise money.

J. Cronin asked about the soil quality. K. Westland said the soil has been tested and is tested routinely the cover crop has helped to improve the soil.

M. Ahronian thanked the Committee for all the work they are doing. He thought it is very important to reach out to the Schools and Parks so they can see all the positive things going on.

M. Ahronian made a motion for the Board to appoint Dennis Prefontaine to fill an unexpired position with a term to expire on June 30, 2021. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

6.) Fire Alarm Update – Chief Michael Cassidy: Fire Chief Cassidy was present. J. Cronin said while attending a recent meeting of the Pinecrest Clubhouse Committee he learned several municipal buildings did not have adequate fire alarm coverage.

J. Marsden asked if there was a fee to connect to the municipal system.

M. Cassidy said there is no fee just the connection costs. But there is no monthly fee. To connect Pinecrest would be approximately \$12,000 given it is close to the High School. To connect the Senior Center would be far more expensive given the distance.

J. Cronin noted that during a recent conversation with the Chairman of the Golf Course Advisory Committee she pull the alarm box but nothing happened. Many town owned buildings do not have a municipal connection and we need to make sure all of our assets are protected.

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M. Ahronian asked for an estimate cost to make the connections. M. Cassidy estimated the following:

Pinecrest \$12,000
Water Property (Finn) \$10,000
Foundry \$10,000
1750 Washington Street \$5,000
Mayflower Landing \$10,000
Senior Center he would need more time

J. Cronin said it appears there are three (3) options a.) Reserve Fund Transfer; b.) Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article; c.) Fall Town Meeting.

J. Marsden said it is a matter of timing and the weather as well.

M. Ahronian said he would be in favor of placing something into the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

J. Leary said this item is time sensitive and should proceed quickly.

C. Berrios asked why a sound alert system could not be used like an external speaker system. J. Cronin asked the Chief if these are available. M. Cassidy said they might work during some hours of the day but not other hours. So it would depend.

It was agreed that Chief would collect additional information. M. Ahronian made a motion to insert into the Warrant language to address this issue. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

7. Affordable Housing Discussion: M. Ahronian invited Mary Greendale, Warren Chamberlain and Bob Malone to the table. M. Ahronian discussed the need for more affordable housing in Holliston not just for senior citizens who are downsizing but also for young people looking for a place to live. There are fewer starter homes it is not only an issue for Holliston but across the state as well.

J. Cronin said perhaps an Affordable Housing Committee is needed. To look at all the options and what other towns are doing to address the issue. It has to be a multifaceted approach perhaps working with the Community Preservation Committee is another option.

M. Ahronian said he has asked the Town Planner to identify Town owned parcels of land that are not restricted in their use. He said the Housing Trust does a wonder job but there is more to the issue than just working on one home at a time.

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J. Cronin asked about the percentage of affordable housing in Holliston. M. Greendale said about 4.5 percent with an objective of 10 percent. There are some deed restrictions but it also depends on how much equity you have in the house.

J. Marsden said any Affordable Housing Committee charge would have to include a definition of affordability. Would it be forever or for a limited time frame? Perhaps pass along the benefit to protect the property.

M. Greendale also said the Town's zoning regulations would have to be reviewed. For example, would two (2) houses be allowed on one (1) acre?

W. Chamberlain said there are two (2) types of 40 B projects the lottery and market rate affordable age restrictions. Smaller homes are needed.

B. Malone said there is Cold Court and Mission Springs. Both are subsidized housing for seniors based on income and or disability criteria. These are very low income or for those living on Social Security.

The most expensive part of developing affordable housing is the land acquisition.

M. Ahronian said we need to start someplace. Culturally, it is a good thing to have diversity in housing options. M. Greendale there could be technical assistance funds through the MAPC.

W. Chamberlain said it is healthy to have a three (3) generation community.

J. Marsden made a motion to establish an Affordable Housing Committee and for J. Ritter to draft a Committee Charge. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

8. Board Business

Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and hold for release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

9 Green Street Committee Charge: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the 9 Green Street Committee Charge as prepared by J. Ritter. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

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Downtown Traffic Signals Police Recommendations: The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Police Department which included street painting and the installation of signage this spring. There were no objections with those two (2) items they did not support any changes to the timing of the street lights.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: J. Ritter reviewed a schedule of meeting dates for the Board to meet with individuals about non-recurring Articles.

Gift Acceptance Forms – Ambulance and Fire Department: M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a \$500 donation in support of the ambulance to the Ambulance Gift (Revenue) account from a Franklin Street resident. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a reimbursement for emergency protective measures for the March 13, 2018 storm in the amount of \$54,200.75 (FEMA 4379 DR MA) Emergency Management to account number 295291 45657. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – Haiti Fundraiser: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grants a One Day Alcoholic Beverage License (Beer/Wine) to the Haiti Foundation for an event to be held at the Upper town Hall on March 9, 2019 from 7p.m. until 11p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Appointments – Memorial Day Committee: M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint the following individuals to the 2019 Memorial Day Committee:

David DeGanne, 72 West Street, Holliston
Ronald Turcotte, 230 Hollis Street
Stanley Feinberg, 79 Hollis Street

Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Conservation Restriction – Highland Street: Nick Rossi, Conservation Restriction Stewardship Specialist with Mass Audubon was present and explained the partnership between the Town of Holliston, the Conservation Commission and Mass Audubon which has resulted in the Conservation Restriction in the area of Highland and Winter Streets.

The Conservation has reviewed and approve this Conservation Commission after comments were provided and answer by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

J. Marsden asked about the use of the property. N. Rossi said it would mostly be used as a wildlife refuge. There is also one small barn on the property.

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M. Ahronian asked if the land could be used for agricultural purposes. N. Rossi said yes and the soil is highly ranked.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant Conservation Restriction. Second, J. Cronin.
Voted 3-0

9.) Other Business: The Board signed several documents including a refined project needs list to Senator Spilka and Representative Dykema.

Adjourn: At 8:54p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Cronin.
Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator