



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
MARCH 28, 2019**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator and Members of the Finance Committee

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

J. Marsden said the purpose of this meeting was to review the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant. J. Cronin said everything is subject to change and revisions.

Articles 1-3: No comments.

Article 4: Rescind and Adopt a New Consolidate Personnel By-Law: Special Labor Counsel has updated the Consolidated Personnel By-Law to bring into compliance with the Special Act creating the Town Administrator positions as well as other state and federal regulations.

Article 5: Amend General By-Law, Article XXXII, Personnel Board: J. Cronin said he would like to further discuss the need for a Personnel Board.

Article 6: Amend Consolidated Personnel By-Law, Section 29, Job Classification Plan: New updated charts should be available next week.

Article 7: Amend Consolidated Personnel By-Law, Job Classification Plan, Section 30: J. Cronin noted that new charts for seasonal and intermittent employees would be included.

Articles 8 & 9: No comments.

Page Two
Meeting Minutes, 3-28-19

Article 10: Authorize Board of Selectmen to Sell Surplus Equipment: J. Cronin suggested there might be a school van to be sold.

Articles 11 & 12: No comments.

Article 13: Property Tax Exemptions: Peter Barbieri, Chairman of the Board of Assessors was present. He noted they are studying the Hopkinton example to see what happens. Currently, as worded there is a twenty (20%) percent exemption. There are about 276 taxpayers who might be impacted by going to a one hundred (100%) exemption which would be spread out over all the tax bills.

New applications might be 25 or 30 which would equal a total of about \$40,000.

Ken Szajda asked if the Assessors are recommending 20% or 100%. P. Barbieri said there was a long discussion this morning but no vote was taken.

M. Ahronian said by going to 100% that would mean about \$40,000 into the overlay. This is not significant and not every senior is able to work.

K. Szajda asked about a cap. P. Barbieri said they would look at like \$1,800.

K. Szajda asked for a recommendation looking at 25% - 50%- and 100% like a one page slide.

M. Ahronian said he was under the impression from the meeting this morning there was agreement to go to 100%.

K. Szajda said the Assessors need to look at all the data and let everyone know what they decide to do.

Articles 14 – 16: No comments.

Article 17: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget: J. Cronin asked if Town Meeting could simply adopt the entire budget with one vote. K. Szajda said that is possible and Town Meeting could adopt approval limits. However, many come to Town Meeting to hear about the budget.

Article 28: Maintenance and Repair of the Upper Charles River Rail Trail: K. Henderson from the Trails Committee was present and explained there are three (3) parts to the Article. First, equipment. Second, safety. Third, Trail improvements. The Trails Committee is seeking \$1,000 to address these concerns.

Page Three
Meeting Minutes, 3-28-19

Articles 18 & 19: No Comments.

Article 20: Report of the Community Preservation Committee: K. Szajda said he thought there was one project. J. Cronin said there appears to be limited communication. J. Ritter said he had reached out several times with no response.

Articles 18 - 22: No Comments.

Article 23: Transfer Funds from Water Retained Earnings for Water Treatment Plant: J. Cronin said he thought the plant would be online at the end of 2020.

Article 24: Library Planning Consultant: J. Marsden said it was his understanding that the money would be used to map out the future of the Library going forward.

K. Szajda said \$10,000 is not a lot of money. The first response is to hire a consultant and he is not necessarily against the concept. He will follow-up with the Trustees.

Article 25: Solar Panels at Landfill: J. Cronin said he though information should be highlighted about the potential for the Town to save hundreds of thousands of dollars on our electricity accounts.

Article 26: No Comments.

Article 27: Blair Square Improvements: Vincent Murphy asked if Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Funds could be used to reduce the anticipated \$92,000 expense. If the Trails Grant is received these funds would not be needed other than fronting the funds and getting reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

K. Szajda said it was too late to use CPC funds for the spring but perhaps the fall would work if necessary but he also understands they work would like to be completed by this summer.

M. Ahronian noted there is some liability for the Town.

There was further discussion about including the project under the Capital Article.

P. Barbieri said in the Motion reference could be made that this amount could be reduced by any grant funds received from the Commonwealth.

Article 29: Accept Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 90 Section 17C: J. Marsden said the Board accepted the recommendation from the Town's public safety staff to start at 25MPH.

Page Four
Meeting Minutes, 3-28-19

J. Cronin said in order to have all the tools available if the Board recommended to include 18B that would provide a future option going forward. M. Ahronian made a motion to accept 18B as well. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Articles 30 – 31: No comments.

Article 32 – 34: (Zoning Articles): K. Szajda said the Planning Board should prepare a presentation and be prepared to answer questions.

Article 35 (Petitioners): J. Cronin said at the moment the Article is pre-mature there is work going on to engage a consultant to develop a plan. The timing is not correct.

Adjourn: M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator