



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
MARCH 9, 2020**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator
At 6:30p.m. M. Ahronian called the meeting to order.

1.) Executive Session: T. Hein made a motion under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21A to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing property acquisition (TD Bank Building). The Board will reenter 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 7:15p.m.

2.) Warrants: T. Hein made a motion to approve and sign the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-41) in the amount of \$2,919,231.31. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

3.) Public Comment: T. Hein read a recent press release regarding a house fire.

M. Ahronian thanked Barbra and Ralph Briggs for doing an inventory of trees in town.

Bob Malone said there was one open seat on the Council on Aging.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: None

5.) Garden Club Tree Donation: The Garden Club would like to plant some trees near the Cemetery and have the water turned on. J. Cronin made a motion to approve. Voted 3-0

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6.) School Committee – Statement of Interest: Stacey Raffi, Chair of the Holliston School Committee and Brad Jackson, Superintendent of Schools were present. I was noted the School Committee has vote in favoring of supporting the submission of a Statement of Interest (SoI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

Eleven (\$11) million will be needed over the next ten (10) years to address the septic system and other repairs and improvements. Plus inflation and interest payments. When the building was built in 1969 security was not an issue but in today's world it is and needs to be considered.

MSBA did a site visit last year and a decision needs to be made if the Town is going to invest in the existing facility or build new

Professional expertise is needed by completing a feasibility study.

T. Hein said looking at the core programs the application to the MSBA could very well lead to financing of renovations. B. Jackson said the accelerated program could address boilers, roofs and repairs. J. Cronin said we would have to have a quality boiler replacement.

B. Jackson noted the current boiler is not old enough to be replaced.

J. Cronin said we need to understand all the options.

B. Jackson said as a community we need to determine the future of the High School. The SoI is the first step in that process. Both the School Committee and the Select Board need to vote to support the submission of the SoI. The estimated cost of the feasibility study is \$750,000 and the MSBA will provide around 48.5% as a reimbursement. The community can always decide not to move forward.

T. Hein said infrastructure need good planning certain items on the list of improvements might impact the feasibility study.

B. Jackson said it is always a moving target. S. Raffi said the School Committee is using the strategic plan to develop a fair and reasonable budget. A. Hanstad said we don't really look at the list of improvements in terms of the SoI but we do need to determine when a project needs to be completed.

J. Cronin asked if there is a benefit to apply year after year. B. Jackson said the MSBA conducts a review based on the current pool of applications and a community needs to be ready.

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J. Cronin asked how many students will be accounted for in the feasibility study. B. Jackson said a 220,000 s/f building would accommodate about 850 students. The demands for special education have changed over the years.

M. Ahronian asked about the cost of a feasibility study. B. Jackson said the SoI is the first step. Next the School Committee would get a better understanding of the expense but this is the best way to proceed.

A detailed history of the High School was presented including its current conditions and future uses. Ann Louise Hanstad, a member of the School Committee joined the discussion and provided addition history and background information.

T. Hein read the following motion, “Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 9, 2020, prior to the SoI submission closing date, the Select Board of the Town of Holliston, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, have voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the State of Interest form date April 8, 2020 for Holliston High School located at 370 Hollis Street, Holliston, MA 01746 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority Area #5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers and ventilating systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and

Priority Area #7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range programs consistent with state approved local requirements;

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Holliston to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.” Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

7.) Board Business

Town Administrator Consultant Firm and Screening Committee: The Board will invite Bernie Lynch, Principal of Paradigm Associates to their meeting on March 16th.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: The Board reviewed the current version of the Warrant as prepared by J. Ritter.

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Traffic Rules and Regulation: This matter was placed on hold until a future meeting.

Donation – Police Department: J. Cronin made a motion to accept from Mark Ahronian for grounds beautification at the Holliston Police Department in the amount of \$582.29. Second, T. Hein. Voted 2-0-1 (Ahronian)

Event Permit: T. Hein made a motion to approve an event permit for the Friend of Holliston High School Class of 2020 and Friends of Holliston Police K-9 Designer Bag Bings to be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 starting at 6:30p.m. at the Christ the King Church, 600 Central Street. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License: T. Hein made a motion to approve a one (1) day Alcoholic Beverage License for the Friends of Holliston K-9 (wine and beer) for the Designer Bag Bingo to be held on March 12, 2020 at the Christ the King Church from 7p.m. until 11p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

8.) Any Other Business: T. Hein reviewed the budget guideline at one (1) percent increase from the Finance Committee. J. Cronin noted the Finance Committee is getting the budget together and asked if the one (1) percent increase applies to the School Committee as well it has taken years for the Department Heads to get some equality.

Adjourn: J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at T. Hein made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator