



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
APRIL 1, 2019**

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

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

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

J. Marsden noted that State Senator Karen Spilka is running about a half late.

2.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-40) in the amount of \$1,256,576.21. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

3.) Public Comment: M. Ahronian noted the stop signs have been installed in the Mudville section of town.

The Department of Public Works will start replacing the water mains this Spring in Mudville and will let the ground settle over the next year and start replacing the sidewalks and installing granite curbing next Spring. The crosswalks will be painted at a later date. He asked the public to be respectful of the workers and to seek alternate routes.

Wednesday hydrant flushing will start in the area of Goulding Road and Central Street.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter said stamped architectural drawings and a building permit application have been received for the 1750 Washington Street roof replacement project. This is a \$219,000 project. Work should start shortly.

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The Annual Town Meeting Warrant must be signed on Tuesday, April 16th for posting.

should be ready for signature in the next couple of weeks.

The Assistant Treasurer position has been posted.

The draft RFP and Contract for the solar field at the landfill project has been sent to Town Counsel for review. The anticipated response date is April 29th.

Regarding the Library ceiling project all books have been removed and stored from the second floor.

A \$15,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant application has been filed with the Commonwealth. Also, there will be a panel discussion this Thursday in Sherborn regarding sustainability coordinators. J. Cronin asked if the Board if posted. J. Ritter said yes.

A second pre-construction meeting will be held at the Senior Center tomorrow morning regarding the windows and doors replacement project. M. Ahronian asked about the steps and if they could be replaced. J. Ritter said if everything goes according to plan there should be remaining money for that project.

5.) Jon Evans – Keefe Tech Regional Agreement: J. Evans, Superintendent of Keefe Tech was present and reviewed the relationship and history between Holliston and Keefe Tech. In 1967 Holliston joined the District there were changes to the District Agreement in 1972 and 1987.

Now, in 2019 another change is required given last year the Town of Framingham residents voted to become a city. Therefore, the language in the agreement needs to recognize this and be voted at each of the member town meetings.

J. Cronin asked about the proportional representation and if there was any impact on the District Agreement or any changes. J. Evan said there are no changes with Framingham having eight (8) votes and member towns having two (2) votes each.

J. Cronin asked about the number of students from Holliston attending Keefe Tech. J. Evans said there are currently sixty-two (62) students from Holliston attending Keefe Tech. The current enrollment is two hundred and nine (209) students the maximum is two hundred and fifteen (215).

J. Marsden asked if there were any further comments there were none.

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M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the Article for the Annual Town Meeting. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

1.) Senator Spilka and Representative Dykema: Senator Spilka provided an overview of the state's revenue projections. The projections are below the benchmark previously established but overall the state's revenues are in a healthy position. The Legislature has consistently allocated revenues into the "rainy day" fund for future adjustments to the economy.

Other important issues they are working on are education funding formula, transportation and opioid abuse prevention.

Representative Dykema said her office is working on funding for Blair Square improvements and the MVP program. They are working to finalize letters of support.

She provided a handout and a summary of various affordable housing options.

We all hear about traffic and congestion. We are focusing on the commuter rail with better commuter platforms and fare collection systems. They are looking at adding additional parking lots in many cases if you are not there by 7:15a.m. the commuter can't locate a parking space.

We are seeking additional funding for police training, climate change and to reduce carbon emissions. The Speaker has proposed a \$1.0 billion bond bill that would allocate funds equally across the state to work on this issue.

Finally, they are working to expand the Green Communities program and the Community through a fee on real estate transfers.

J. Cronin thanked them for attending the meeting and sharing the information. He asked about local aid and if cities and towns could bank on the 2.7 percent increase as is being propose by the Governor.

Senator Spilka said the House and Senate might increase that amount slightly.

J. Cronin asked about the status of the Environmental Bond Bill and the needed work to be completed on several dams in Town. Senator Spilka said the Environmental Bond Bill starts with the Governor and every project is reviewed with a lense toward climate change. The Commonwealth is committed to taking action.

J. Cronin stressed that Holliston has four (4) failing or closing to failing dam structures and we do not have the ability to pay for these improvements.

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Senator Spilka confirmed there is \$1.0 million programmed for these improvements in Holliston within the Environmental Bond Bill.

M. Ahronian confirmed there are several high priority infrastructure projects on the list to be completed. He asked about the airports at Providence and Worcester if enhanced use of these might ease the congestion at Boston Logan.

Senator Spilka said Jet Blue was adding flights to Worcester and the commuter rail is being enhanced.

Representative Dykema said there is a commuter rail study underway including the possibility of "electrifying regional hubs." Young people are seeking enhanced hours of operation and availability.

J. Marsden asked if there were any questions from the Finance Committee or the School Committee. Ken Szajda, Chairman of the Finance Committee said he heard what he wanted to hear about local aid.

J. Marsden again thanked them for attending this meeting.

6.) Town Meeting Article – Zoning By-Law Changes: Karen Sherman, Town Planner and Chris Canney, Zoning Enforcement Officer were present and reviewed the three (3) Articles they are proposing for the Annual town Meeting Warrant.

Article 32, in the draft Warrant, Amend the Zoning By-Law, to Section I-C, Pre-Existing Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots: This Article is being proposed because there was a recent fire which was destroyed by fire.

Article 33, in the draft Warrant, Amend the Zoning By-Law: the new By-Law would address any structure that would exceed 50% of the gross floor area.

Article 34, Amend the Zoning By-Law, Section I-E, Definitions: as recommend by Town Counsel, as Special Permit would be required, and better defined by the height is more clearly defined for a Home Occupancy Permit as well as any corner clearance of shrubs to improve sight lines and a new section for wind energy and exterior signage is allowed but only with a Special Permit from the ZBA. Also, added is off street parking.

J. Cronin asked about the noise regulation and what would happen on Sundays. C. Canney said that adjustment would bring the By-Law into conformance with State regulations. K. Sherman said currently that regulation is in effect on Saturdays.

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K. Sherman said there will be a Public Hearing this Thursday regarding all the Zoning Articles.

7.) Board Business

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

Town Meeting Warrant: J. Ritter said as a follow-up to the meeting held last Thursday he has included a reference to including 18B under the draft Warrant Article number 29 speed limits allowing the Board of Selectmen to lower the speed limit to 20 MPH in certain areas that meet the qualifications.

Consolidated Personnel By-Law: J. Ritter said an e-mail from Special Labor Counsel has been shared with the Board regarding the Personnel Board. This was in response to a question from J. Cronin. The trend is for town's to move away from having a Personnel Board and that would be his recommendation.

M. Ahronian made a motion to remove Article 5 on advice of Special Labor Counsel from the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Cross Walk Request: J. Ritter noted there was a request to improve the pedestrian safety at Washington and Linden streets for school age children and other waiting to cross the busy Washington Street. A report from the Police Department is included in the back-up materials.

J. Marsden said the request from a resident appears to make sense. J. Ritter said he can explore the feasibility of using some of the school zone monies received from the Commonwealth for this purpose.

Appointments – Golf Course Advisory, Zoning Board of Appeals and 9 Green Street: M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint John Sullivan to the Golf Course Advisory Committee as an Associate member with a term to expire on June 30, 2020. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint Mark Bush as an Associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one year term to expire on June 30, 2020.

M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint Kevin Conley and Jay Marsden to the 9 Green Street Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Discussion: It was noted the Board is waiting to hear from the Parks Commission as to their designee. Voted 2-0-1 (Marsden)

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M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint Brian Moran to the 9 Green Street Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage License to Special Occasion Servers for a beer and wine license for the St. Michael's Spring Auction to be held in the Upper town Hall on April 12, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Senior Center Donation: M. Ahronian made a motion to accept a \$400 donation from Superette to support the Senior Center. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

8.) Any Other Business: J. Marsden read a letter of thanks to Jackie Dellicker for her service as Town Moderator.

The Board signed a liquor license for the Corner Market.

The Board acknowledged an upcoming Food Truck Festival to be held at the Historical Society.

M. Ahronian said the Board should take a look at establishing the position of Chief Financial Officer. This approach would help to coordinate the work of the Assessors, Treasurer/Collector and the Finance Committee. If one of these individuals were to retire or take another position this would place the Town at risk.

We are running a \$70 million dollar business and that is a lot of money we need someone dedicated to that agenda.

J. Cronin agreed and added the suggestion of an Assistant Town Administrator who might take on these responsibilities and oversight including the Human Resources function.

J. Marsden agreed people run systems and systems run people and occasionally people move on for whatever reason and we need systems in place. This is the right time to start the planning.

It was agreed that this would be future Agenda item for further discussion.

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Adjourn: At 8:27p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Cronin.
Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator