



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
APRIL 27, 2020**

Present: Mark Ahronian, Chairman; John Cronin, Vice Chairman; Tina Hein, Clerk
(J. Cronin and T. Hein remote participation)

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

At 6:30p.m. M. Ahronian called the meeting to order.

1.) Coronavirus Community Update: Emergency Management Director, Michael Cassidy was present and provided a community update.

M. Cassidy said there are currently thirty (30) reported positive cases, thirteen (13) active and one (1) death.

Long term living facilities continue to be a challenge. However, the use of face masks is helpful.

Scott Moles, Holliston's Health Agent joined the conversation and agreed the use of face masks has proven to be very helpful.

M. Ahronian asked if there is a community supply of face masks. S. Moles said yes but limited. They are available at the Senior Center and Superette.

M. Cassidy said there are instructions on the Town's web site about how to make your own masks.

T. Hein asked if wearing masks was voluntary or mandatory. M. Cassidy said for now it is voluntary.

T. Hein asked about mobile testing at long term living facilities. M. Cassidy said it was his understand that S. Moles will be visiting all these facilities including group homes.

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J. Cronin said at the next Board of Health meeting the topic of face masks and face coverings will be discussed.

M. Cassidy said he understands the Governor will be recommending the use of face masks when in public.

J. Cronin asked about enforcement and penalties. M. Cassidy said enforcement would be through the Board of Health and the Police Department.

J. Cronin said he would not be supportive of any fines because it would be unenforceable.

2.) Warrants: The Warrant were signed last week.

3.) Public Comment: T. Hein said 140 families were served by the Holliston Food Pantry and encouraged residents to continue making donations.

M. Ahronian thanked residents for making those donations. Holliston is very community oriented.

T. Hein asked about the status of the pedestrian crossing signs at the Golf Course. J. Ritter said it his understanding that Sean Reese has ordered the signs. J. Cronin asked for the Golf Course Advisory Committee to make a recommendation as to the priority locations and made a motion to that effect. Second, T. Hein. Roll Call Vote, Hein, Yes, Cronin Yes, Ahronian Yes Voted 3-0

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: None

5.) Financial Impact of COVID 19: It was noted Department Heads received a Memorandum from the Finance Committee asking for a zero percent increase for FY21.

M. Ahronian reviewed the current status of local aid. Ken Szajda, Chairman of the Finance Committee warned a second wave of the virus might be on the way which could further impact local aid.

J. Cronin said he had not issue with the Finance Committee's approach to a zero percent budget. Any use of the Stabilization Fund must be done smartly.

K. Szajda said the Stabilization Fund is intended to be used as a bridge during tight budget times Holliston is in a better position than most towns. T. Hein said the Finance Committee Memorandum said that revenues are anticipated to be down 15% to 20% she would like a breakdown vs. the tax levy.

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K. Szajda said Holliston receives about \$49 million in total from the Commonwealth. We anticipate a 15% reduction in local aid but would more likely be 20%. There could be a one (1) million in lost revenue plus local revenue reductions.

J. Cronin agreed and further noted local receipts and new growth most likely take a hit in FY21.

6. Board Business

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant: J. Cronin said the Select Board might have to extend the State of Emergency and extend the date of Annual Town Meeting.

Town Administrator Screening Committee: J. Cronin asked if letters have been sent. J. Ritter said the Board made the appointments last Monday. Appointment letters went out on Tuesday as well as thank you letters to those not selected but volunteered to serve.

Year End Transfers: None

7.) Any Other Business: T. Hein said the 9 Green Street Committee will be meeting tomorrow and should be on a future Agenda.

The Police Chief is working on a Memorandum regarding truck traffic in the Lowland Industrial Park.

T. Hein asked the Sustainability Coordinator be invited to a future meeting of the Select Board. J. Ritter will coordinate.

M. Ahronian said regarding the Town Hall septic system that tests went well and plans are being developed. He asked that the Committee be invited to attend a future meeting and provide an update. J. Cronin thanked everyone for all their hard work in getting the Town to this point.

Adjourn: J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03. Second, T. Hein. Roll call. Cronin – Yes Hein – Yes Ahronian – Yes Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator