



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
APRIL 8, 2019**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator and Chief of Police Matt Stone

At 6:30p.m. Chairman J. Marsden called the meeting to order.

1.) Executive Session: J. Marsden made a motion at 6:33p.m. under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21A (3) to enter into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining. The Board will return to open session at approximately 7:00p.m. Second, M. Ahronian.

Roll Call Vote: Marsden – Yes; Ahronian – Yes; Cronin - Yes

At 6:57p.m. J. Marsden made a motion to exit Executive Session. Second, J. Cronin

Roll Call Vote: Marsden – Yes; Ahronian – Yes; Cronin - Yes

J. Marsden called the regular meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

2.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-41) in the amount of \$1,672,998.73. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

3.) Public Comment: M. Ahronian noted that hydrant flushing will take place over the next four (4) to six (6) weeks. If residents have questions they should go to the Town's web or the Water Department's web site.

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Tina Hein, 142 Union Street asked if there was a Phase II planned for the downtown signalization project and wondered about the status of the Linden Street and Washington Street crosswalk.

M. Ahronian said there are concerns about further backing up traffic if anything is done with that intersection.

Utah Nickel, 129 Locust Street thanked J. Cronin and J. Ritter for attending Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness training seminar in Sherborn last Thursday evening.

Several members of the Holliston Youth Sports organization were present and asked about the playing conditions on various ball fields.

Jason Israel, 104 Mohawk Path said the fields are dangerous and unsafe to play on.

J. Cronin said he has discussed this with the Parks Commission and they are working on a master plan for all the parks and playing field. But the school fields fall under the jurisdiction of the School Committee and they should discuss their concerns with them.

M. Ahronian noted that the Parks Department and the DPW both play a large role in helping to make sure all the fields are in good shape.

J. Cronin said the DPW will maintain the fields but the larger improvements such as engineering work would be taken on by the School Committee. So it is a fine line or balance between maintenance and longer term improvements which are beyond the ability of the DPW.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter said the \$188,000 Contract for the roof replacement project at 1750 Washington Street has been signed. There was an onsite project meeting with the Building Inspector, Russo Barr and the Contractor this afternoon. The purpose of the meeting was to review the scope of the project.

The is a letter in the to be signed folder to the Governor and Secretary Beaton asking they release the one million (\$1.0) dollars programmed to improve Holliston's several dams.

He received information from the Fire Chief that the Fire Department received their new rescue truck today. However, it will be about thirty (30) days before it is in full service.

J. Ritter reviewed the Amendments to the Traffic Rules and Orders: No Right Hand Turn signs along Washington Street into Mudville specifically spring, School and Pleasant Streets. The

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Board previously approved this change on January 14, 2019 and now the Order is ready to be signed. The Board signed the Order later in the meeting.

Further, the following streets or highways or parts thereof Stop Signs are to be installed.

By adding the following paragraph(s):
Westbound drivers on Union Street at School Street.
Eastbound drivers on Union Street at School Street.
Eastbound drivers Mechanic Street at Pleasant.
Southbound drivers on Pleasant at Mechanic.
Northbound drivers on Pleasant Street at Mechanic.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the installation of stop signs as read. Second, J. Cronin.
Voted 3-0

J. Ritter reported there will be a regional meeting of the Board of Selectmen Thursday, April 18th in Medway. He will make sure the Board is posted in the event there is a quorum present.

Regarding the Senior Center windows and doors project there will be a project meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00a.m.

5.) Dog Hearing – Colonial Way: J. Marsden opened the Public Hearing.

Dona Walsh, Animal Control Officer for the Towns of Holliston and Ashland was present and provided a summary of several dogs running loose at 10 Colonial Way. Fines have been issued and only paid today.

M. Ahronian asked if an electric fence would work. D. Walsh said most likely not. The doors keep getting out the house and electric fences are not always a good solution.

J. Cronin asked about the number of dogs involved. D. Walsh said there are three (3) dogs at 10 Colonial Way, Nina (Pit Bull), Ramone (Chihuahua) and Max (Terrier).

J. Cronin asked which ones are going of the property and are they considered aggressive. D. Walsh said Nina and Max adopt a pack mentality so when they are together they can be considered aggressive. There have been reports of the dogs going after children and others with at least one dog bite last March. They tend to go after people and not other animals.

J. Cronin confirmed they are licensed. D. Walsh said yes.

M. Ahronian said he did not like the fact the dogs are going after people.

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J. Cronin said there was a citation issued in September 2017 what that was for. D. Walsh said that was for Nina and Max running at large and failure to have them licensed. J. Cronin asked if they are now current. D. Walsh said yes.

J. Cronin said you told the owners Mr. & Mrs. Cellitti to control their dogs on at least two (2) occasions (9/17 & 2/18). D. Walsh said yes.

M. Ahronian asked if there were other issues when Max and Nina are together or are there individual complaints or this could be viewed as one (1) complaint.
D. Walsh said they operate with a pack mentality and do not go after other animal's just people.

J. Marsden said he is looking seventeen (17) citations and or complaints and they were all outstanding until last Friday is that correct. D. Walsh said yes.

Toney Cellitti said they had some challenging financial time and just not able to pay the fines. Max likes to chase things that run and the doors for whatever reason have been known to get out of windows and open doors.

Craig Cellitti, said we watch Max for over a month as a favor the previous owner never returned. They have taken lots of steps to control the dogs and they would even consider a fence.

T. Cellitti said they would even consider a five (5) foot dog fence including behind the house.

C. Cellitti said his wife is starting training this Friday and all medical records are up to date.

J. Cronin asked C. Cellitti if he had any knowledge of the previous citations. C. Cellitti said he works 24-7 and leave those matters to his wife.

M. Ahronian asked if they would be willing to install on four (4) sides around the house. T. Cellitti said yes this week-end.

M. Ahronian said the objective is to make people feel comfortable walking on the street.

Attorney David Nickerson provided the Board additional information including a proposal to install a temporary fence. D. Walsh said a temporary fence would not work because it is not strong enough to restrain the dogs. They need a stockade or chain length fence at five (5) feet or six (6) feet high.

J. Cronin said he was troubled with the history of these events and said he thought this was more of an owner issue instead of dog behavior. The owners have been given many opportunities to address the issues and they have not.

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He would support the dogs be removed (impounded) and housed at another location until the fence is installed.

J. Marsden reviewed possible actions the Board could take including doing nothing, determine the dogs are a nuisance, and or the dogs are deemed dangerous.

M. Ahronian asked which dogs are subject to the decision. D. Walsh recommended Nina and Max and both could be impounded.

J. Marsden made a motion to impound Max and Nina off site until a fence until a stockade or chain length fence could be installed at five (5) or six (6) feet to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer. Second, J. Cronin. Discussion: J. Cronin added this action would not be at any cost to the Town. Voted: 3-0

J. Cronin made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Second, J. Marsden. Voted 3-0

D. Walsh said she would follow-up later tomorrow afternoon with the owner.

6.) Animal Control Operational Management Plan: No action was taken.

7.) Mederi Marijuana Faculty, 44 Boynton Road – Host Community Agreement and Letter of Non-Opposition: Meredith George, Chief Financial Officer for Mederi, Inc. was present and review the reasons why they are seeking a Host Community Agreement and a letter of non-opposition.

Mederi will lease an existing 15,580 s/f building with the option to purchase and build an addition.

J. Cronin asked about security. M. George said they have a security plan and will closely with the Police Department and others including veterans to ensure the building is secure.

J. Cronin asked if they would be operational seven (7) days a week and about their other experiences and backgrounds.

M. George said yes their plan is to work seven (7) days per week and she outlined her educational and work related experiences. She reviewed the benefits of medical marijuana and mentioned the movie Charlotte's Web. They are working with GLM Engineering to refine their design plans.

J. Marsden confirmed this is a grow only facility.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and sign the Host Community Agreement and the Letter of Non-Opposition. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

8.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2019: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Town Meeting Warrant: J. Cronin asked about the pay grade and compensation plan for Department Heads.

J. Ritter said it was his understanding that the Board was moving in the direction of one (1) year Contracts and at least for now there was no need for a managerial chart to be included as part of the updated by-laws.

J. Cronin said he was seeking a long term solution and he was looking for the missing management chart.

J. Ritter said we are not really ready and we need time to work out the details and the impact of adopting a management chart perhaps in October or next spring that was why we moved toward a one (1) year contract.

M. Ahronian noted the Board of Assessors have adjusted Article 11 from a 20% tax exemption to a 100% tax exemption and that this is estimated \$40,000 is a small amount of money to provide some additional assistance to senior citizens. This will make a difference.

J. Cronin asked about Article 17 the Capital Expense Article and why the Fire Protection reference was dropped. J. Ritter said we do not have hard numbers but the Fire Chief is working on getting those numbers. J. Cronin said that was disappointing.

Fire Chief, Michael Cassidy was present and said he would work to get the hard estimates before next week.

J. Marsden said he agreed with this approach and the Board can sign the Warrant next week.

Reimbursement Policy: Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant was present. J. Marsden asked if there were any questions from the Board. There were no questions.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and sign the Reimbursement Policy. Second J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

On a related note S. Emerick asked if there was a holiday on a Monday would the Board like the Warrant ready for Friday so it can be signed over the week-end and checks can be issued immediately Tuesday morning. The Board decided not to change the current schedule.

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9.) Any Other Business: None

Adjourn: At 8:30p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Cronin.
Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator