



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON  
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street  
Holliston, MA 01746**

**508-429-0608**

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL  
JUNE 10, 2019**

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

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator; Mary Bousquet, Treasurer/Collector

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

**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 non-union personnel. 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 7:03p.m.

At 7:04p.m. M. Ahronian called the meeting to order.

**2.) Warrant:** T. Hein read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-50) in the amount of \$1,173,991.65. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**3.) Public Comment:** T. Hein thanked and recognized the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students working on their science project.

J. Cronin also thanked and recognized the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students working on their science project.

J. Cronin said it was recently brought to his attention that some residents in Holliston objected to the placement of placard signs on utility poles.

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Some members of diverse Holliston were offended by the placement of these images. This is about black lives matter and blue lives matter. The Holliston Police Department is not affiliated with blue lives matter.

Utility poles are not the domain of the Town. The Board should consider a policy either we allow everything or nothing.

T. Hein asked if the group wanted the Board to adopt a policy. J. Cronin said they want the Board to take some action.

Robert Weidknect, 40 Hemlock Drive and Chairman of the Holliston Trails Committee said signs have also been a problem along the Rail Trail and that he would welcome a new policy.

M. Ahronian during his portion of public comment, said he wanted to make sure all boards, committees, commissions and staff treat each other with respect. He especially thanked A. Minihan, D. Muzzy and J. Ritter for doing wonderful work on behalf of the Town.

**4.) Report of the Town Administrator:** J. Ritter reported the Town has officially taken the property at 9 Green Street. He was thinking of getting an estimate to remediate the property and have the building removed. However, he plans to wait until the 9 Green Street Committee provides a recommendation.

The roof project at 1750 Washington Street is complete and the best information is the project will come at least \$20,000 under budget.

There was a meeting of the Department Heads last Thursday morning at the Senior Center. The next meeting will be at the Library.

Proposals for the solar field at the landfill are still be reviewed.

The Library ceiling project is nearing completion. The final inspection is complete and the staging has been removed. The books are being prepared to be returned.

There were two (2) meeting last week with the town's consultant regarding the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. This will be followed up with a public listening discussion on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 1750 Washington Street.

J. Cronin said it was his hope there could future funding for the sustainability coordinator position.

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The Board agreed to conduct police officer interviews on either June 20<sup>th</sup> or the 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 6p.m.

The windows and doors replacement will start tomorrow morning at the Senior Center.

Information about the new solid waste and recycling program have been posted to the Town's web site.

Work has started on the October Special Town Meeting Warrant.

**5.) Rail Trail Encroachment:** Ken Henderson and Robert Weidknecht from the Trails Committee were present and asked the Board to consider signing a letter to commercial property abutters who are encroaching on to Town property.

They worked with Town Counsel to develop the letter. The Town can enter into a license agreements between the Town and the property owner.

J. Cronin asked if this would be an annual renewal process. K. Henderson said yes but they are working out the details of the exact process they want to deal with it in a fair and realistic way.

T. Hein reviewed the license approval process and how the fees would be established. R. Weidknecht said they are working on how to establish value.

J. Cronin asked about the number of properties impacted. R. Weidknecht said there were about twelve (12) and they thought as a first step that a letter be sent to the commercial owners. A separate letter would be sent to the residential land owners at a future date.

K. Henderson said if non-compliance continues they might explore the feasibility of placing a lien on the property. However, in conversations with the commercial land owners there has been very little push back. They are to respond by December 2019.

J. Cronin said it is good to establish a dialog and that any fees for a license should go to the General Fund.

M. Ahronian asked who would determine the value of the license. J. Cronin said the license fee could be based on the tax rate.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve and sign the encroachment letter. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

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**6.) Class II Used Car Dealer License Hearing** – Blasius Enterprises, LLC: T. Hein read the legal notice of the Public Hearing and made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Fredrick Blasius, President of Blasius Enterprises was present and explained the operation of his business. They will be transporting vehicles from Connecticut to the Holliston location at 1286 Washington Street to be complete the repairs and sell the vehicles.

No public comments were offered.

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

J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant the Class II Used Car Dealer License to Blasius Enterprises.

**7.) Building Inspector Update and Fee Schedule:** Christopher Canney, Building Inspector was present and provide the Board an update regarding his staffing plans.

One result of the new permitting software is the need update the fee schedule. There needs to be a Public Hearing but he wanted to provide advance notice to the Board. Specifically, the plumbing and wiring fees need to be adjusted to reflect the actual expense to complete the inspections.

T. Hein asked about the amount of new revenue. C. Canney said it is not a large amount of money mostly a modest increase.

T. Hein asked when the last increase was. C. Canney said around 2016.

J. Cronin asked how our fees compare with surrounding communities. C. Canney said we are about in the middle not too high and not too low. The Building Department has completed a lot of research and we are in the middle.

J. Cronin asked if fees were waived for municipal and school project. C. Canney said yes but the permit still has to be applied for. Town projects are exempt.

C. Canney provided a general departmental update. The Department is still very busy. They are working to fill the Assistant Building Inspector position which would let him take a vacation and focus his attention on other matters there is a good sized back log of work to fill to the used cars and then.

**8.) Board Business**

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**Minutes from May 20, 2019 and June 3, 2019:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2019. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0-1 (Hein)

J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2019. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**Liaison Assignments:** J. Cronin agreed to take the public buildings budget and M. Ahronian agreed to take the Housing Trust budget.

**Donation Forms – Veterans and Auxiliary Police:** T. Hein made a motion to accept the following donations:

MetroWest Veterans Services \$50.00  
MetroWest Veterans Services \$100.00  
MetroWest Veterans Services \$20.00  
Auxiliary Police \$250

**Annual Appointments:** J. Cronin asked the difference between an annual reappointment and those employees working under a multi-year contract. J. Ritter he would look into it and place this item back on the Agenda next week.

**Fire Fighter Appointment:** Michael Cassidy, Fire Chief was present and explained the experience and qualifications of Andrew Carnes who is being recommended for appointment as an On-Call Fire Fighter.

J. Cronin asked about training and if a physical is required. M. Cassidy said training will be provided and a physical requirement is part of the employment offer letter so it is required.

J. Cronin made a motion not to object to the Town Administrator's recommendation to hire Andrew Carnes. Second, T. Hein. Voted 2-0-1 (Ahronian)

**Resignation – Community Farm:** The Board recognized the resignation Amine Benali from the Community Farm Advisory Committee.

**Solid Waste and Recycling Contract:** J. Ritter said there were a couple of items to iron out in the Contract with E.L. Harvey. So that action item will be on the Agenda for next week.

J. Ritter said it has been discovered there are some private small businesses placing their trash and recycling on the sidewalk and it is being collected. He is seeking direction from the Board if

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this practice is to be continued or discontinued. Direction from the Board would help future Selectmen if the question ever were to come up again.

The RFP and Contract documents are based on a residential collection program only.

J. Cronin said he would like to continue the existing practice. Businesses pay taxes just like residents. He read the RFP again and there are eight (8) references to a residential program. If we really want to support the business community the Town should provide this service.

M. Ahronian said the recycling and trash carts have been ordered based on a residential program. J. Cronin said he is looking at the value of the program these small businesses have enjoyed a public this public service and they should be able to continue to enjoy the service.

M. Ahronian said he certainly does not want to revisit a trash fee. J. Cronin said it is healthy to revisit the program.

T. Hein said if a resident could purchase a second recycling cart and we need to better understand the total number of businesses impacted and what cost would be. J. Ritter said yes a resident can purchase a second recycling cart.

J. Cronin said he would not vote in favor of discontinuing the service for the small business community at this time.

J. Ritter said this has become a custom that has developed over more than twenty (20) years and no one knows the scope of the issue. He would get a projected cost estimate from E.L. Harvey.

J. Cronin said if the decision is made to invite the small business community into the program why not include the condo as well.

M. Ahronian said the program must be fair and we need to treat everyone the same. We need to better understand the information. Perhaps we can invite the Holliston Business Association to meet with the Board to review, discuss and determine the number of accounts impacted.

T. Hein said this matter might have to be dealt with at the October Special Town Meeting.

J. Ritter said he would look back to see if these small business were paying the trash fee before it was lifted about five (5) years ago.

**Summer Meeting Schedule:** The Board agreed to the proposed every other week meeting schedule for July and August.

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**Blair Square Sandwich Board Request:** T. Hein made a motion to approve the placement of sandwich board signs at the Senior Center and Blair Square advertising the new solid waste and recycling program. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

**One Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit – Roy Muse:** J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcohol Beverage Permit to Roy Muse for a bridal shower to be held on June 30, 2019 in the Upper Town Hall from 12noon until 6p.m. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

**Adjourn:** At 8:38p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator