



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
AUGUST 26, 2019**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order at 6:10p.m.

1.) Executive Session: At 6:10p.m. J. Cronin made a motion under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21A (3) & (6) to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and the lease of real property if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

The Board will re-enter open session at approximately 7:00p.m. Second, T. Hein.

Roll Call Vote: Hein – Yes; Cronin – Yes; Ahronian – Yes

The Board returned to open session at 7:01p.m.

2.) Warrants: T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-09) in the amount of \$1,509,307.71 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 2-0-1 (Hein)

3.) Public Comment: T. Hein noted that the schools will reopen tomorrow morning and encouraged students to use the Safe Route to Schools along the Rail Trail.

J. Cronin said last week he and Ben Sparrell a member of the Finance Committee had a very productive meeting with School Department staff regarding the proposed Facilities Manager.

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They received very good feedback and it was a productive discussion. He further noted the Superintendent of Schools said the Facilities Manager should report to the Town Administrator and not the DPW Superintendent.

Last Friday the Board met and reviewed the status of the trash and recycling services being provided.

The Board is exploring the feasibility of providing services to the small business community and condos on public ways and are gathering cost estimates. He further noted that the service is not a residential collection only it is a trash contract.

M. Ahronian said they are exploring providing a second 35 gallon trash cart and that all four (4) family units are to be picked up on public ways.

Sean Reese, DPW Director, provided an update on the Mudville water main replacement project. He also noted the Westfield culvert replacement project will start tomorrow.

J. Cronin asked regarding the Mudville water main replacement project how many bids were received. S. Reese said approximately eighteen (18). The project should be completed next Spring with paving, loam and seeding in place.

T. Hein asked about the status of the School Safety Zone lights and the replacement of them. S. Reese said there will be a crosswalk placed at Prentice and Highland. The new lights should be installed within the next two (2) weeks.

J. Cronin asked about the status of the water treatment plant. S. Reese said the engineering firms are working together to develop a design. Last May \$600,000 was approved for this work but we hope it will be completed within two (2) years.

T. Hein asked if the plans would be available for public inspection. S. Reese said yes they are all public documents.

M. Ahronian asked about his work as Tree Warden. S. Reese said they receive about one (1) question per day if a tree is in the public way or on private property. They recently completed work on Maple Street and Brook Street.

M. Ahronian asked if they were able to locate a Tree Supervisor. S. Reese said they are planning to train someone internally for that position.

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J. Cronin asked about the status of hiring someone for the Marshall Street recycling center. S. Reese said there might be an internal solution but the hourly rate would have to increase.

Stacy Raffi, Chair of the School Committee was present. There was a recent meeting of all School Department staff where all of the new and returning teachers and staff were welcomed back. Tomorrow school opens.

Mark Frank, Director of Recreation, provided a departmental update. They had an excellent Summer Camp this year. No incidents at the beach and they received lots of good feedback.

The Department is working to make the connection from 1750 Washington Street to the Rail Trail.

M. Ahronian suggested that he look into creating a “Friend of the Parks” as a non-profit fundraising tool. M. Frank said there are ongoing discussions and some communities develop a “Friends” group in neighborhoods to support a specific park.

T. Hein asked if there will be a bike rack at 1750 Washington Street and will children participating in your programs use the Rail Trail to get there. M. Frank said yes, but it is not there yet and that is the overall objective to link the Rail Trail to the Parks programs.

M. Ahronian noted that Celebrate Holliston is coming up in September it is a great family event and thanked all those working to make it a success.

Steve Bradford, 159 Marked Tree Road, said there were many residents who observed the Rolling Wall that passed by the Town Hall recently and he thanked all the Vietnam veterans. He also requested a waiver of the rental fee for the use of the Upper Town Hall for an event to remember 9-11. The Board will take that up later in the meeting.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter said he received a message from Leslie McDonnell at the Library that all construction is now complete and done.

T. Hein said she was at the Library just before closing and there were thirteen (13) people there. The facility is used a lot and the reconstruction came out very nicely.

The Landfill solar project interviews with firms will be held on Thursday, September 12th starting at 6p.m.

9 Green Street, the locks have been changed and the building is now insured.

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Work continues of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

5.) Public Hearing – Cable Licensing Renewal – Verizon: T. Hein read the Legal Notice (attached).

Barry Sims, 67 Dunster Road, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee introduced Special Counsel, Bill August.

B. August said right now the Town is operating under a fourteen (14) year cable license. The license will expire in October 2021. This is a very important Hearing. It is a good opportunity for the public to provide input as to what has not worked well and what they would like to see in the future.

M. Ahronian read a statement for the record (attached).

T. Hein said she had a recent personal experience in working with HCAT while running for election. She watched interviews and learned a lot from watching Town officials being interviewed and what they do. HCAT was instrumental in this education process.

J. Cronin asked about other providers. B. Sims said there are currently two (2) licenses in Town Verizon and Comcast. B. August said the licenses are non-exclusive.

J. Cronin asked about the rates. B. Sims said the Town has no control over rates or programming.

B. August said the new License could be up to ten (10) years and Verizon is only doing five (5) year licenses at the moment because of the changing technology.

J. Cronin asked where is the cable technology going. B. Sims said it is moving to the Internet and we do not get any money from the Internet.

J. Cronin said, so the License has nothing to do with utility poles or cell phone coverage. B. August said that's correct but there could be an impact on work in the right of way or a grant of location and the restoration of streets.

M. Ahronian said HCAT might get hurt if there was a reduction in revenues by new regulations from the State or Federal governments.

B. Sims said, that shows how important this Hearing is and what they will be seeking from Verizon, in that they sustain the current level of funding at a minimum.

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B. August said the License allows in kind benefits of up to five (5%) percent of gross revenues to offset tangible assets.

T. Hein asked if there is a list to bring us up to five (5%) percent. B. August said the Town is already at five (5%) percent but equipment is not included and they even tried to place a value on the HCAT channel.

B. Sims said they are seeking a level playing field with the License.

Mary Greendale, President of HCAT provided a summary statement and later provided a copy in writing. HCAT productions have doubled from 150 per year to 300 per year over the last four (4) years. HCAT is working with more than thirty (30) community based organizations.

HCAT would like to expand the studio. But most importantly they want to make sure changes to the regulations by the Federal Communications Commission do not negatively impact HCAT.

HCAT would love to have high definition. B. Sims asked how much that would cost. M. Greendale said around \$96,000 and all at HCAT are very proud of what they are doing.

T. Hein said HCAT recently won an award. M. Greendale said yes it was a national award for Heartbeat of Holliston that was received four (4) years ago. HCAT is becoming very creative.

A brief video was shown demonstrating all the community based support HCAT have provided over the last year.

Mark Frank, Recreation Director read a statement of support from the Park Commission.

Linda Marshall, Senior Center Director, said HCAT is instrumental in getting messages out the senior citizen community, parents and children. For example, there will be a new program this Fall with an elder law attorney. More and more seniors are watching television.

Stacy Raffi, Chair of the School Committee, said the School Department and the PTO have developed an important relationship with HCAT and parents have come to depend on HCAT for information, view events, and watch School Committee meetings. HCAT is an extension of our community.

Steve Bradford, representing the Holliston Food Pantry and the Veterans Community said that HCAT is a good public relations tool and the services they provide demonstrate community support. A good example, was the Veterans Corner program.

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Chris Meo, Technology Director, said in 2003 and 2004 revenues from Verizon were used to connect various town buildings.

However, the Senior Center and 1750 Washington Street are not connected. So, recently, there was a community listening session as part of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program since the event was held at 1750 Washington Street it had to be taped and rebroadcast.

As part of the new License it would be most helpful to extend the fiber network to these two (2) buildings. The Town should seek another capital infusion.

Bob Malone asked about double poles, by law they must be removed within ninety (90) days but there is no penalty if they are not removed.

B. Sims said that is correct there are no penalties. B. August said it is up to the pole owner to schedule the transfer.

B. Malone asked if the cable company could transfer their wires first.

Jay Leary, 146 Karen Circle, spoke about service. Generally, Verizon is pretty good in providing service. However, one example was when a wire came down on Karen Circle.

Verizon was slow to respond. It took Verizon two (2) to three (3) days to respond. Once they did respond it was fixed in like five (5) hours. They have a poor internal communications system.

J. Cronin asked if we could leverage a fine. B. August said the main leverage a community has over Verizon is public relations. Their image is very important to them. Got to get them into a good faith relationship, money is not that important to Verizon.

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

6.) Driveway Opening Permit: S. Reese, DPW Director was present. A sixteen (16) foot opening is normal and the DPW can go as far as twenty (20) feet. The opening at 145 Marked Tree Road is forty-eight (48) feet.

J. Cronin said S. Reese should send the property owner a letter explaining the process and tell him to undue what he has done.

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T. Hein said she was concerned about service to the group home for those with disabilities and if this would limit service. J. Cronin said it all starts with the application. They need to complete the application.

T. Hein asked if the Board of Health should get involved. J. Cronin said no.

It was agreed that S. Reese would write the owner a letter telling the owner to restore the driveway to the way it was and tell the owner to complete the application.

7.) Special Town Meeting – Capital Requests – Senior Center, DPW, and Fire: M. Ahronian reviewed the list of projects and invited **S. Reese to present on behalf of DPW.**

S. Reese said they have the following:

Highway

- 1 Dump Truck
- 1 Skid Steer (20 Years Old)

Water

- 2 Pick-up Trucks
- 1 Emergency Generator for Well #4

T. Hein asked about the water rates and how long the water replacement plan would take to develop. S. Reese said about one (1) year.

J. Cronin said he views the list of capital items as two (2) buckets with a top priority and a lessor priority. S. Reese said the generator would be his top priority and the asset management study for \$125,000 as a lessor priority.

J. Cronin said the asset plan is what the Department should be doing over the next five (5) ten (10) and fifteen (15) years.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the capital requests. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Linda Marshall, Senior Center Director, was present. She requested new carpeting, painting, kitchen and grand hall ceiling tiles that are fire proof, in the total amount of \$48,200. T. Hein asked if that would include any work to the exterior. L. Marshall said no.

M. Ahronian said there are external building structure issues that need to be addressed. J. Cronin asked L. Marshall to get an estimate to address the exterior building issues perhaps from the contractor who did the windows and doors.

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J. Cronin made a motion to approve the \$48,200 request. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Mike Cassidy, Fire Chief was present. M. Cassidy is seeking \$440,000 to replace the twenty (20) year old Engine #1. J. Cronin asked if there was any trade in value. M. Cassidy said yes but very little.

M. Cassidy presented a request to replace the Chief's car in the amount of \$50,000. The Chief explained the vehicle rotation schedule. T. Hein asked if he considered the use of an electric vehicle. M. Cassidy said the Chief's car has to be reliable and accelerate to a very high speed in a very short time.

M. Cassidy said every volunteer have these small fire tone/voice pagers. They are used to call out personnel and are an essential tool to the department. They are good for about five (5) years.

M. Ahronian asked about the Opticom system. M. Cassidy said this is a joint proposal from police and fire. That would be \$55,000 for the Opticom system and \$40,000 for cameras in the Town Center.

They are still gathering information for the intersections and lights at Cole Court, Washington/Concord and Washington/Highland.

J. Cronin made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

8.) Special Town Meeting Warrant Article – Land Acquisition – Thistle Dew: Lixy Carey, 37 Green Street, Chair of the Open Space Committee and Christa Collins, Land Acquisition Specialist, Sudbury Valley Trustees were present.

T. Hein asked about the public benefit if the Town were to contribute to the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR). Holliston is also a Right to Farm community.

L. Carey said there are planned trails for the property and they have contacted the MAPC for assistance.

J. Cronin asked about the status of the APR.

C. Collins said it is before a Federal agency and a decision is anticipated on September 4th

J. Cronin asked if there was any legally binding agreement between the buyer and the seller.

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C. Collins said not yet, once the APR is approved, the property can be sold.

J. Cronin said the Town would be purchasing a portion of the APR.

M. Ahronian said he was approached by a few people who thought the \$500,000 price was too high. The Town currently owns about twenty (20) percent open space or protected land in Town we need to look at this as a whole picture.

L. Carey said the Committee has been pretty good at acquiring open space but many of the parcels could also be used for other purposes.

J. Cronin made a motion to support APR and the use of public funds for this purpose subject to the approval of the Community Preservation Committee and Special Town Meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

9.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2019 and August 14, 2019: J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from August 12, 2019 and August 14, 2019. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Affordable Housing Committee Appointment: T. Hein made a motion to appoint Malini Rao to the Affordable Housing Committee for a three (3) year term. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

On-Call Fire Fighter/EMT Appointment: Fire Chief Michael Cassidy was present and reviewed the qualifications of the two (2) applicants.

T. Hein made a motion to confirm the Town Administrator appointment of Andrew Fitzsimons to the position of On-Call Fire fighter and Owen Palmatier to the position of On-Call Firefighter/EMT. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Town Forest Appointment: T. Hein made a motion to appoint Michael Fowler to the Town Forrest Committee to fill a vacant position the term would expire on June 30, 2020. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Traffic Advisory Committee: T. Hein reviewed a proposed draft Committee Charge and Profile for a Traffic Advisory Committee. It was agreed to place this item on a future Agenda for further discussion.

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Event Permit – Senior Center Fall Fair: J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant the Event Permit from the Senior Support Foundation to hold the “Annual Fall Fair and Yard Sale,” scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 7, 2019 starting at 9a.m. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Quit Claim Deed: T. Hein made a motion to accept and sign the Quit Claim Deed on approximately 2.72 acres as open space known as “Maplewood Estates Definitive Plan of Land in Holliston, Massachusetts.” Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

10.) Any Other Business: T. Hein acknowledged and made a motion to approve a late request from Steven Bradford, Commander, American Legion Post 47 to waive the fee for the use of the Upper Town Hall on Sunday, September 8th for the Annual 9/11 Awards Ceremony. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Adjourn: At 9:53p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator

TO: Local newspaper legal advertisement dept.
FROM: Town of Holliston
RE: Newspaper notice for publication (see below text of notice)
DATE: August , 2019

Please publish the below legal advertisement in two consecutive weeks, once on or before August 12, 2019 and once on or before August 19, 2019. Thank you.

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HOLLISTON CABLE TELEVISION
LICENSE RENEWAL PROCEEDING

The Town of Holliston Board of Selectmen, as cable television license Issuing Authority under MGL 166A, s. 1, and/or its designated Cable Advisory Committee will hold a public ascertainment hearing on August 26, 2019, 7:30 p.m. at Holliston Town Hall, 703 Washington Street, Room 105, Holliston, MA, as part of the Town's Verizon cable television license renewal process. The Verizon license is due to expire October 21, 2021 and the federal Cable Act, 47 USC 546, requires a public proceeding to ascertain the community's cable-related needs and interests as part of the license renewal process. Public comment is invited regarding cable license renewal needs and interests of the Town and the general public. For further information and copies of renewal records available for public inspection, contact Barry Sims, Chairman, Cable Advisory Committee c/o Town Hall. If and when Verizon files a license renewal application a copy shall be available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk. By order of the Board of Selectmen as Cable Television License Issuing Authority.

Draft

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HOLLISTON
PUBLIC HEARING ON VERIZON CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE RENEWAL
August 26, 2019

Good evening. Welcome to the Town of Holliston's public hearing on Verizon's cable license renewal. This hearing is part of the Town's process to hear from the public and hear from interested persons to ascertain the community's cable-related needs.

I am Mark Ahronian, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. The Board is the cable licensing authority under Mass. General Laws chapter 166A. With me tonight are Select Board members John Cronin and Christina Hein; and Bill August, the Town's cable counsel. Also with us tonight are the members of the Holliston Cable Advisory Committee, including Chairman Barry Sims. We are sincerely grateful to the Committee for its diligent work to assist the Town.

Copies of the legal notice of hearing as read by the Town Clerk are here entered into the record as Ascertainment Hearing Exhibits 1 and 2.

Before proceeding to accepting public comments I note for the record and background purposes: Verizon's cable television license expires on October 21, 2021. Federal and state law require the holding of public ascertainment proceedings, including this hearing. Ultimately, these proceedings will result in either a renewal of Verizon's license or a denial of such renewal.

We will proceed to receive comments and testimony about what cable-related needs and interests are important to the public and about how Verizon has performed under its existing license. Members of the Committee, Verizon and other attendees may also have questions or comments. We are open to accepting comments about all cable-related matters of interest to the public, including but not limited to customer service; license administration; the Town's needs regarding the local studio, community programming and public, educational and governmental access; and

maintaining support for the Town's video origination capabilities. The process of ascertainment of community cable needs will remain open until further notice so this hearing is not in any way the only opportunity to submit comments to the Select Board.

Verizon has communicated to the Town that it will not be in attendance for this hearing, as is its common practice with other towns with respect to ascertainment hearings; however Verizon has responded to notice of the hearing by offering to be otherwise available to work with the Town moving through the renewal process.

Alright, let's get started with public comments and hearing from the public. If a sign-up sheet was used tonight, let's proceed and follow the order of speakers on the sign-up sheet, otherwise let's just proceed with folks coming up to the microphone. Please keep your comments to no longer than four (4) minutes. Thank you.