



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

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

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.) Warrant: J. Cronin read the Warrant and made a motion to approve the weekly vendor (expense) and payroll Warrant (19-12) in the amount of \$341,213.67. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

2.) Public Comment: J. Cronin said last Thursday he and J. Ritter went on a tour of Mayflower Medicinal, at 89 October Hill Road. It is a very impressive operation. He was most interested in the security measures at the facility. He thanked the very professional management team.

M. Ahronian thanked the Celebrate Holliston Committee for all their hard work in preparing for all the event. He also noted there would be a parade on Saturday morning starting at 9a.m.

J. Marsden said that would be confirmation day and he would not be able to attend.

Jason Santos, 183 Marshall Street said there were ongoing issues with Holliston Youth Soccer (HYS) and the use of the playing fields, especially as it relates to parking. They should consider expanding the parking lot and or closing the gates in the evening.

J. Cronin asked if this was a daily occurrence or on week-ends. J. Santos said the problem is mainly on Saturday and Sunday and showed the Board a brief video to demonstrate his concerns. He was concerned about public safety and children walking in the street and around cars.

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M. Ahronian asked if a sidewalk is needed along Marshall Street. J. Santos said the neighbors like the country feeling and sidewalks most likely is not the solution. HYS recently went before the Planning Board to install lights on the playing fields. The Planning Board denied that request.

As resident (did not get name) said the police are there but they refuse to ticket vehicles and will not enforce the no parking regulation.

M. Ahronian asked if the signs are visible. J. Santos said they can be seen.

J. Cronin said the issue appears to be around enforcement but also HYS should consider a shuttle bus program allowing for off-site parking. J. Marsden agreed that this can be an issue on any given Saturday and asked if any thought was given to a gravel berm.

J. Santos said they liked the appearance of the road and did not want to make it appear wider because that could most likely contribute to another problem, which is speeding traffic. However, the tree lined sound barrier helps.

William Tomasetti, 141 Marshall Street said when he has guests on week-end and there is a game on it is very challenging to back out onto the scenic way.

J. Cronin asked if anyone has spoken with HYS. J. Santos said he sent a letter to Town officials outlining the issues and HYS should have received a copy.

J. Santos said the primary concern are around parking, public safety and noise especially the Sunday morning tailgating. M. Ahronian agreed we need to enforce the rules and regulations of the Town.

Tina Hein, 141 Union Street said her research regarding traffic safety regulations is ongoing and noted that already there have been thirty (30) pedestrian deaths in Massachusetts.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter said he too attended the tour at 89 October Hill Road and found it to be very enlightening.

The second round of the Green Communities program is wrapping up with the Library lighting now complete. Staff is working on the Energy Management System (EMS) and we are awaiting the final state inspection of the boiler at the Town Hall.

There will be a follow-up meeting and discussion with Special Labor Counsel this Friday morning at 10a.m. with Selectman Marsden.

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The trash and recycling collection Request for Proposals will be on the Agenda next week for a review and to hear input from the Board before it is published

The new Building Inspector will start next week.

4.) Washington Street Corridor Improvements – Bob Smith, McMahon: J. Marsden said he thinks he understands the issue and concerns of some residents about the apparent increase in traffic. So everyone has to understand where we are at with the project, if there are impacts, if so what are the possible but we are not there yet.

Susan Woodrow, 136 Union Street said she has lived there for forty (40) years. She asked about the timeframe for the DPW to start work in Mudville. She also asked if it would be possible to reduce the speed limit from 30 to 25 or even 20 MPH and asked about the timetable for the traffic count to start by McMahon.

Sean Reese, DPW Director said the water line replacement should start in April 2019 and the roadway/sidewalk work in April of 2020. J. Marsden said the speed limit reduction is not on the Agenda for this evening. McMahon needs to figure out the impact on Mudville and what the new traffic patterns look like.

J. Marsden asked Robert Smith and Maureen Chlebek both from McMahon to provide a summary of the project to date. R. Smith said the traffic lights were up in June and activated. There have been some low voltage issues that Larusso has addressed. So the project is mostly complete.

R. Smith noted that in 2016 McMahon, at the request of the Board, completed a traffic analysis in Mudville which can be updated to reflect the new traffic patterns. He noted that traffic has slowed down going through the intersections and it is now much safer.

M. Chlebek said it was always about public safety the crosswalks now allow 26 seconds to cross the intersection by a pedestrian.

J. Marsden said we can revisit the traffic study and count most likely sometime in during the middle to late October. After that step is completed the Board will be able to review solutions.

R. Smith agreed, we need the time to get the data, understand the issue, and look at various options and tools to fix the problem if any.

J. Cronin said so McMahon can start the project around the first of October and asked what are the likely days for the traffic count.

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M. Chlebek said the best days to count traffic are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for a 24 hour period. Typically, speed is not measured only traffic counts.

J. Cronin said McMahon would then take that data and compare the new data to the baseline data in the previous report and report back to the Board with a recommendation(s).

Jean Spera, 88 Water Street said she is a school crossing guard in the area and she has measured between 7a.m. and 8a.m. 25 children walking or riding their bikes. Between 8:15a.m. and 9a.m. there many young parents with pre-school children walking the trail, on the roads or sidewalks. Wednesday is not a typical day in Mudville. Mondays and Fridays are typically much more busy days for traffic.

Pamela Gibbs, 28 Pleasant Street asked why the speed limit can't be reduced now.

M. Chlebek said McMahon needs to understand the road layout and traffic patterns before any recommendations are made.

Thomas Evans, 22 School Street asked about stop signs. R. Smith said people have to have a reason to stop.

Elizabeth Newlands, 40 Spring Street noted this section of Holliston has the highest density and said in talking with other residents traffic has shifted to other neighborhoods as well we need progress sooner vs. later.

J. Marsden said the second baseline study will be completed around the end of October. At that time we can discuss any solutions along with possible enhanced police enforcement. J. Cronin noted the police are continuing their enforcement in the area.

M. Ahronian asked the Police Chief if Washington Street has a speed limit of 30 MPH is it not reasonable to have a lower speed limit in Mudville.

Chief Stone said we do not like to write tickets but we are receiving good feedback from area residents. M. Ahronian asked the Chief if 30 MPH is appropriate in Mudville. The Chief stated there are many residential neighborhoods who would likely ask for the same consideration.

M. Ahronian said he was in favor of a lower speed limit in the area.

Robert Weidknecht, 40 Hemlock Drive, Chairman of the Trail Committee, asked about a car count vs. a pedestrian count. As Mudville is connected to the Rail Trail he wants to make sure it is safe for those accessing the Trail from Mudville.

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Lesley Kennally, 32 Spring Street said the sidewalks are not walkable now and the 30 MPH speed limit is not safe for those walking in the street.

M. Ahronian made a motion to proceed with McMahon to complete a second baseline study. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

7.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2018: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2018. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Executive Session Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2017, April 19, 2017 and October 23, 2017: J. Marsden made a motion to approve and release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2017; April 19, 2017 and October 23, 2017. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 2-0-1 (Cronin)

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – Xaverian Missionaries, Casserly Wedding, Oktoberfest, and the Senior Center Anniversary: J. Cronin noted there were several requests from the Xaverian Missionaries and he would be in favor of issuing these in groups or quarterly. J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant a one (1) day Alcoholic beverage license (beer/wine) for September 28, 2018; October 26, 2018; November 30, 2018; and December 28, 2018; and not to waive the fee. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant a one (1) day Alcoholic beverage license (all alcoholic) for the Casserly wedding to be held on September 22, 2018, Upper Town Hall. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant a one (1) day Alcoholic beverage license (all alcoholic) for the Oktoberfest event to held on October 19, 2018; and not to waive the fee. Second, M. Ahronian. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant a one (1) day Alcoholic beverage license the Senior Center Anniversary Celebration to be held from 4p.m. until 7p.m. 150 Goulding Street and not to waive the fee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Fee Waiver Request – Historical Society: M. Ahronian made a motion not to approve the request. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Event Permit – Holliston Business Association Holiday Stoll: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve and grant the event permit. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

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Appointments – Blair Square Committee and the Golf Course Clubhouse

Committee: M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Parks Commission to designate Shaw Lively to serve on the Blair Square Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion to appoint Robert Nemet to the Golf Course Clubhouse Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0 It was noted at this time R. Nemet is the only appointee.

Re-Appointment – Community Farm: M. Ahronian made a motion to re-appoint Amine Benall to the Community Farm Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

5.) Sean Reese DPW Director – Tree Warden Appointment, Plowing Rates and Special Town Meeting Articles: S. Reese said he was recently certified to be a Massachusetts Tree Warden. There is a need to replace M. Ahronian as Tree Warden and he would be willing to assume the additional responsibilities the estimated time commitment is about on average ten (10) hours per week. He would be willing to divide out his hourly rate for the additional compensation.

The Town needs to complete an urban tree inventory. There are twenty-eight scenic roads in Holliston and the Tree Warden needs to be available 24/7, attend hearing of the Planning Board, meet with residents during early morning and late afternoon hours. Also, work with the Planning Board on future plantings and to be in compliance with the Shade Tree Act. It is really a public safety issue in determining if a tree is dead and within the public right of way or on private property.

M. Ahronian said there is a lot involved with the position. He worked closely with the Planning Board regarding the Grove Street project. The Tree Warden also has to make a determination if a new tree planting is too close to the road.

J. Cronin asked if the Town had a previously compensated Tree Warden. M. Ahronian said yes but when he was the Tree Warden he donated his time.

J. Cronin asked if there would be any conflict of interests. M. Ahronian said this is simply an additional responsibility that S. Reese would like to be compensated.

J. Cronin asked about the public notification regarding the open position. J. said he thought the opening had been posted but would have to check that.

J. Cronin said he liked the concept.

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J. Marsden asked if S. Reese had the time. S. Reese said he did and would be available 24/7.

The Board asked for additional information which S. Reese will provide next week.

S. Reese asked the Board to consider a small increase to the hourly rates for private snow plow operators and presented a survey of area towns that show Holliston is below area towns. The small increase would allow Holliston to retain good operators. The Board asked for additional information. S. Reese will provide next week.

S. Reese briefed the Board regarding his decision to move from the use of rock salt to a treated rock salt to be applied to town roads during the winter months. J. Cronin asked about the cost difference and the impact on equipment. S. Reese said the use of treated rock salt is less corrosive and there would be minimal impact on the budget and many area towns are using the treated rock salt and it is working well.

J. Cronin said the roads need to be more passable during the winter months and the goal should be to keep the new application cost neutral. S. Reese said the use of treat rock salt is a small investment with a good impact and should help make the roads more passable.

J. Cronin asked about the environmental impact.

S. Reese said everything has an environmental impact but by using the treat rock salt we should be using less material.

J. Marsden asked if this new application have a greater environmental impact. S. Reese said no because we will be using less material.

S. Reese said they have three (3) articles for the Special Town Meeting to be held on October 29th.

The first is the replacement of a 1996 truck. This item is in the Capital budget article and will be approximately \$141,909. J. Cronin asked about a five (5) year plan. S. Reese said he recently reviewed his five (5) year plan with the Capital Improvement Committee.

The second Article is to fund about 6,100 liner feet of water line, road reconstruction and sidewalk work in Mudville.

The final Article is to fund a service agreement for the Water Department's water meter in the amount of \$25,000. J. Cronin asked about going out to bid for another vendor. S. Reese said at least for now this is the vendor the Town selected many years ago, so we need to stay with them

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and we do not have the estimated million dollar expense to introduce a new water meter program.

The Board decided not to vote on these items at this time but to vote the entire Warrant at a future meeting.

6.) Police Special Town Meeting Requests: Chief Stone was present as were Lieutenants Denman and Thompson. The Chief reviewed with the Board his Articles and requests for Special Town Meeting.

First, there is a request for a radio replacement project at a cost of \$13,827.

Second, two (2) vehicles, one (1) would a standard replacement vehicle and the other one is a proposal for a police motorcycle. He presented a written explanation regarding the benefits of motorcycle program in Holliston.

M. Ahronian said he understood the benefits to the community. The motorcycle could be used on the Rail Trail, for traffic enforcement in Mudville and in and around several of the Town's parks.

J. Cronin said he did research about the motorcycle program. There is an added risk to the Department but in the use of the asset he is supportive of the concept. However, he would favor a lease and asked about training.

Chief Stone there is about 40-80 hours in training.

J. Marsden said there have been previous discussions around this topic and he has no interest in moving in that direction. He understands the rationale but believes we should use the current equipment being provided and there is a concern about equipment creep he is not sold on the motorcycle program.

J. Cronin said he was not far off from the position of J. Marsden, but what comes to mind is how to measure a successful program.

J. Marsden questioned if we even want a motorcycle on the Rail Trail but said children really love the bike.

Chief Stone said he would consider all the comments but also said the Board needs to consider all the benefits to the community and the Department. He said the program is similar to the K-9 Unit.

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J. Cronin asked what would happen if we do not add the motorcycle to the Capital Article. Chief Stone said he would then ask for an additional vehicle.

Robert Weidknecht, 40 Hemlock Drive, said having the police on the Rail Trail is important the Department needs the speed which a bicycle can't provide. Lt. Thompson said a UTV for the Department does not make sense.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the request for the radio equipment. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion for one (1) police vehicle. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

M. Ahronian made a motion that hopefully will be considered at the Special Town Meeting to lease the motorcycle and revisit the program at the end of the lease. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 2-1 (Marsden)

7.) Board Business (continued)

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town and the Brockton Vet Center for 1750 Washington Street: J. Ritter briefed the Board. Previously there was a lease agreement between the Worcester Vet Center for counseling services for active veterans. This service has been transferred to the Brock Vet Center. They are present a couple of days per week.

J. Cronin asked if this would be in addition to the Worcester Vet Center. J. Ritter said it was his understand that the Brockton Vet Center is simply replacing the Worcester Vet Center and there is no expansion of services.

M. Ahronian made a motion to approve the Lease. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Vacancies: J. Marsden will provide the list of openings on various Town Boards and Committee to the Holliston Report.

Special Town Meeting Warrant: Stacey Raffi, 20 Arthur Street, Chair, School Committee was present and reported the School Committee last week approved \$218,000 in capital spending for consideration and inclusion in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The following was approved: \$100,000 for an energy management system; \$40,000 for the exterior auditorium wall repairs; \$30,000 for a cleaning machine; \$28,000 for a maintenance vehicle; and \$20,000 for various materials.

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M. Ahronian asked about the exterior gym wall. He said he asked S. Reese to take a look at it this morning he said water is getting in and he is concerned about mold and many bird's nests. He said he heard the school is cold during the winter and this could be due to the lack of insulation.

M. Ahronian said the estimate to replace the entire wall was provided by the Superintendent of Schools at around \$73,000.

S. Raffi said the exterior wall is not connected to the interior coldness.

M. Ahronian said we have a problem that needs to be addressed we don't want to wait on the repair. The peeling paint in the gym is not linked to the exterior wall. At least three (3) schools have been cited in Massachusetts for mold in the schools and we do not want to be cited for that.

S. Raffi said she was unsure if this item should be included as part of a capital request it is more of a repair.

J. Cronin said he admires the passion of M. Ahronian regarding this issue but it would appear the School Department is not taking care of their assets the failure of the exterior wall is symbolic of a large issue. I would move forward with the repairs if you can find the money in your budget if not it should be included in the capital article.

J. Marsden said we are offering the assistance of S. Reese to work with the Business Manager to implement the repairs this is a standing offer to the School Committee and the School Department.

Adjourn: At 10:06p.m. M. Ahronian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator