



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 23, 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 7:00p.m.

1.) Warrants: T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-13) in the amount of \$1,708,277.98 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0.

2.) Public Comment: T. Hein thanked Police Officer Maguire for her twenty-five (25) years of service to the Town of Holliston and Officer Ward for his thirty (30) years of service to the Town of Holliston.

She recently attended a regional meeting with other Selectmen in Lakeville.

T. Hein asked that more information be provided from State Senator Karen Spilka and State Representative Carolyn Dykema regarding the "Housing Choice" legislation along with recommendations from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.

T. Hein said she is looking into traffic safety issues and if you look at the number of crashes fifteen (15) percent cause injury to pedestrians. Which is above the national average. She would like to have a debriefing with public safety officials to receive their comments and get direction.

M. Ahronian said most of the complaints he hears from residents is about speed.

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J. Cronin said regarding traffic safety he had no problem asking the Police Chief questions and he supports the idea of a Traffic Advisory Committee. People need to slow down. He would like to see data collection over a five (5) year period.

M. Ahronian thanked everyone who participated in the Celebrate Holliston activities over the weekend. It was very well attended and vendors ran out of food and water. The parade was great and it was good for the Citizens of the Year to be recognized.

3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter announced the details of a new Green Communities grant in the amount of \$216,245. He noted the Town will have received over the last three (3) years \$619,472. He thanked Andrea Minihan, Fire Chief Michael Cassidy and Technology Director Chris Meo for making it happen.

There will be a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program training Westborough on October 10th from 2p.m. – 4:00p.m.

The Board is scheduled to meet with the Sherborn Selectmen on Thursday, October 10th at 7p.m. about the Sustainability Coordinator position.

There will be a tour of the Thistledeew Farm this Thursday, September 26th starting at 8:30p.m.

J. Cronin said regarding the Sustainability Coordinator position he thought it would be a good idea to have a discussion in advance of meeting with Sherborn. J. Ritter will place the topic on the Agenda for Monday, September 30th. J. Cronin asked to invite State Representative Carolyn Dykema.

4.) Public Hearing – Boynton Road Conduit: M. Ahronian opened the Public Hearing. T. Hein read the Public Hearing Notice. No one from Eversource Energy was present. T. Hein made a motion to continue the Public Hearing until someone from Eversource Energy was present to explain the project. Second J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

9.) School Committee & Capital Requests: Stacey Raffi, Chair of the School Committee and Ann Louise Hanstad, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee were present.

J. Cronin and T. Hein both attended the Finance Committee presentation so they have already heard what was to be said again.

M. Ahronian reviewed the list of capital requests. A. Hanstad said she would like to focus on the specific capital requests for this Fall which include technology, curriculum, and infrastructure.

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The technology request is for more access points, upgrade of cabling, increase bandwidth, and central office technology replacements.

The curriculum request includes literacy materials. A. Hanstad said this is a k-5 literacy program as a two (2) step process about how reading is taught. Also, there is a need for new playground equipment including replacement mats.

It was also noted that not this year but most likely next year the High School HVAC unit will have to be replaced.

A. Hanstad said they are continuing to work closely with the Finance Committee and their asset management plan.

S. Raffi said also included are thirty-eight (38) vape sensors at the High School.

A. Hanstad said the wireless aps will enable the teachers during a time of a crises.

T. Hein thanked the School Committee for their work in taking on the important public health issue which vaping is.

A. Hanstad said this will not be the 1st step the School Committee has taken. We are already taking on important education but it takes a long time to change student behavior.

With a new alarm system in place students will not be afraid to go to the bathroom.

J. Cronin said the sensors would have a dual function and those wanting to vape will go someplace else.

A. Hanstad said the goal is proof of concept, you place a few around but that would just push the students to a bathroom with no sensor so they must be wide-spread.

J. Cronin asked if smoke detectors would work. A. Hanstad said no. T. Hein said what happens if we do not respond.

A. Hanstad agreed and noted the High School can be a very loud place.

J. Cronin thanked them for attending this evening and asked if they were to prioritize their requests what that look would look like. A. Hanstad said they have not done that yet.

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J. Cronin asked about the cameras at the schools. Keith Buday, Business Manager, said the School Committee received \$100,000 last Spring for the installation of thirty-six (36) cameras including monitoring equipment. A. Hanstad said they would be returning about \$60,000 to the Town.

J. Cronin said he was in favor of placing cameras on all public buildings. T. Hein made a motion to accept the capital requests to the Finance Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

5.) Police Sergeant Interviews: Officer Todd Hagan was present and reviewed his qualification the sixteen (16) years of experience with the Department.

J. Cronin said with your experience what would you like to emphasize. T. Hagan said his skill set and his continual training.

J. Cronin about the most pressing issue for Holliston. T. Hagan said traffic.

J. Cronin asked what he would do about it. T. Hagan said the assignment of more officers during heavy traffic times.

J. Cronin asked about his leadership style. T. Hagan said he is a team player and that is his management style. The work the Department does requires a team effort.

J. Cronin asked about discipline and how do you get the best out of the officers. T. Hagan said you need to stay focused and keep on task. Generally, that results in a good work force.

J. Cronin asked about his role model. T. Hagan said his father who was a carpenter.

T. Hein asked about how in this new role he would support the Chief. T. Hagan said the structure is a chain of command. He would pass along orders and information from the Chief to shift personnel.

M. Ahronian noted that he did a lot of training of new officers while in Millville. T. Hagan said yes that was mostly dispatchers. He was also involved with E911 updates.

T. Hein noted that two (2) of our more recent police officer hires had dispatching experience.

The Board thanked T. Hagan for his time and wished him well.

Officer Andrew MacGray was present and spoke about his experience and qualifications and about how he grew up in town. He also had work experience with the Town of Sherborn.

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J. Cronin asked about his leadership style. A. MacGray said it is important to understand the strengths and weaknesses in people. Strong communication skills leads to a good leadership style.

J. Cronin asked about what his first day in the new position would look like. A. MacGray said he would take the lead from the command staff.

J. Cronin asked what the Town could be doing a better job at. A. MacGray said downtown traffic enforcement is important. J. Cronin asked for him to be more specific. A. MacGray said backing up traffic enforcement.

J. Cronin asked the Department has a progressive policy what would the next three (3) to five (5) years look like. A. MacGray said most likely there will be more mental health responses.

J. Cronin asked how do you get the most out of employees. A. MacGray said good communication skills and meetings are good motivators.

J. Cronin asked who his role model is and why. A. MacGray said that would be his father. He ran a family business.

T. Hein asked about training of officers. A. MacGray said he has worked in training situations both nights and days it is important to have specific guidelines.

M. Ahronian asked about the difference between Sherborn where he worked previously and Holliston. A. MacGray said there was an emphasis on traffic enforcement and there seemed to be domestics than what Holliston has.

M. Ahronian asked what he had learned in Sherborn. There are not a lot of neighborhoods in Sherborn. Holliston has many.

M. Ahronian asked how many years of service he had. A. MacGray said eighteen (18) years this Spring.

M. Ahronian asked if he liked the Chief's style of management. A. MacGray said Chief Stone is great at social media he is outstanding and is moving the Department in the right direction.

6.) Community Farm Advisory Committee – Farm House: Kristine Westland was present and outlined the vision for the Community Farm and the house on the property.

The Conservation Restriction is now done. The [property has been cleaned up, the beehives are active, the house is now the focus of the Committee.

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7.) Golf Course Advisory Committee & Pinecrest Clubhouse Committee: J. Robinson, Chairman of the Committee provided a summary and overview as to what the Committee has done. He presented a report and said he has asked for input from the Finance Committee.

Deb Moore, Chair of the Golf Course advisory Committee was also present and said her Committee has voted to recommend option #2. They reviewed the revenue from 2012 – 2015 and on average the golf course returns about \$60,000 to the general fund annually. The money covers the bonds which will be paid off in 2021.

Option #2 will include renovations to the kitchen, a storage room, and bathroom improvements.

T. Hein said there needs to be a consistent view with the stakeholders.

J. Cronin said it is still not clear because it does not show the revenue. He cares most about the golf experience and asked if the Golf Course Advisory Committee voted to support option #2. D. Moore said yes the Committee voted to support option #2 people would like to see more but we need money to invest in the golf course.

T. Hein said regarding the golfer's experience. In general people have less time today to be playing golf. It takes at least five (5) hours to play a round and two (2) for nine (9) holes. The rates remain reasonable.

J. Cronin said under option #2 600 s/f would be added to the kitchen, there would be 300 s/f of additional storage. J. Robinson said to expand any larger the golf course would have to double the revenue. So the options are 1.) do nothing which is not an option; 2.) double the size of the kitchen storage and bathroom work.

M. Ahronian said it would be nice to have the facility open year round. It can get crowded when there are two (2) events going on at the same time.

D. Moore said when that happens golfers should use the downstairs bathrooms. J. Robinson said it boils down to a better use of the space.

T. Hein said it would appear there is a lot of deferred maintenance at the golf course. D. Moore agreed we need to look at the pump station and the netting. T. Hein said option #2 appears to be the way to go. J. Cronin agreed and said he did not see the revenue stream under option #3.

J. Cronin made a motion to go with option #2 at projected \$550,000 upgrade with several internal improvements including bathrooms, storage and kitchen.

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9.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2019: T. Hein made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from September 16, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License – Bon Fete, Inc.: T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant a one day alcoholic beverage license to Bon Fete, Inc. for an Holliston High School Class Reunion to be held on October 12, 2019 upper Town Hall. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Resignation – 9 Green Street Committee: T. Hein made a motion to accept the resignation from Matthew Coletti from the 9 Green Street Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Cross Street Signs: No action taken.

Expand the Affordable Housing Committee to 9: The Board will seek further clarification.

Special Town Meeting Warrant: The Board reviewed the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Town Hall Septage Committee: Hold for further information.

10.) Any Other Business: T. Hein said she would have more information next week regarding the Traffic Advisory Committee.

T. Hein said regarding the solar powered speed sign limit sign on Washington Street at School Street if that could be moved to Pine Street and if two (2) crosswalks could be painted one (1) at School Street across Washington and one (1) at Pine across Washington. J. Cronin moved approval. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Adjourn: At 9:40p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted



J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator