

**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 30, 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 (20-14) in the amount of \$1,266,073.59 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0.

2.) Public Comment: T. Hein said she met with public safety officials, the Town Administrator and the DPW Director for the purposes of discussing traffic and traffic safety measures.

M. Ahronian said we have several proclamations to give out this evening. It is important to be recognized for the outstanding work of Town employees. Our State Representative and Senator recently presented proclamations to these individuals and the Board of Selectmen will do so as well.

3.) Proclamations: T. Hein read proclamations for Police Detective Maguire, Police Officer Coakley, two (2) for Police Sergeant Remkus, Police Sergeant Dalrymple, Police Officer Charette, Police Officer Filadelfo, Firefighter/EMT Mahoney, and Firefighter/EMT Kramer.

M. Ahronian noted there was a recent hit and run with a person on a bicycle. The person broke his fishing pole and the Police Department personnel bought a new one for the individual. This is only one small example of how they consistently go above and beyond what they are called to do.

4.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter reported that the Town received a letter from the Department of Conservation and Recreation notifying the Town of a grant award of \$92,122

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for various improvements around the Upper Charles River Rail Trail in the Blair Square area. He thanked Karen Sherman for preparing the grant application and he has asked her to take the lead in managing the grant.

The Economic Development Committee is seeking members they meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 8a.m.

There will a training session regarding the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program entitled "Making the Most of the MVP Program: From Planning to Action," on Thursday, October 10th from 2-4. The training will be held at the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough.

The Sherborn Select Board have invited you to attend their meeting on Thursday, October 10th at 7:00p.m. to discuss Sustainability Coordinator position.

There will be a free tire drop-off on Saturday, October 19th from 8a.m. until 12 noon at the Marshall Street Recycling Center. Only tires without rims from cars and small trucks tires only and is limited to 10 tires per resident.

The McMahon updated traffic study report for the Town Center should be ready for review in a couple of weeks.

T. Hein said the October 10th date is in conflict with a meeting with parents regarding changing the start time at the schools.

T. Hein asked about the status of the landfill solar field. J. Ritter said the field of providers has been narrowed down to three (3). Additional follow-up questions have been sent to the three (3) and their responses are due this week. So this item will be on the Board's Agenda in a couple of weeks.

5.) Police Lieutenant Interview: Police Sergeant George Leurini was present and reviewed his qualifications and experience. Twenty-two years ago he moved to the area. He has experience in Ashland, Randolph, Wayland and the Boston Housing Authority.

In 2006 he was promoted to Sergeant and received the 9/11 Award in 2018.

J. Cronin asked about the police accreditation process and what his understanding of that was, his goals, budgeting experience, and what it would be like to be second in command of a police agency.

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G. Leurini said he is accustomed to staying within budget he meets frequently with the town Accountant in working with the Auxiliary Police division and has appeared before the Finance Committee.

J. Cronin said so budgeting is still a work in progress. G. Leurini said he has learned it over the years. Technology is his strong suit he works well with the Town's Technology Director.

J. Cronin asked about his role in the police accreditation process and what his role might be with that going forward. G. Leurini said he is an assessor for other departments to get them accredited and recertified.

J. Cronin asked about the overall culture change in the Department. G. Leurini said it was important to hold people accountable we have developed policies and procedures and for the first time personnel are now asked to sign off that they have read and understand them.

J. Cronin asked about goals. G. Leurini said he wants to learn more and motivate officers to be their best now he will be able to assign personnel to tasks that match their interests and skills.

T. Hein asked how long the police accreditation is good for. G. Leurini said it is good for two (2) years.

T. Hein asked what were the strengths of the Department in Holliston. G. Leurini said staying ahead of the policies.

T. Hein noted that he was very visible in the community as a member of the Holliston Police Department. G. Leurini said that was his option he wants to be seen. T. Hein asked if that would change if he got the Lieutenant's position. G. Leurini said no.

M. Ahronian asked how he would approach the difference in duties. G. Leurini said you need to trust your training that you do the right thing. It is important to delegate.

M. Ahronian said you would be the right hand of the Chief, please talk about the Medal of Honor you received.

G. Leurini said he responded to a mutual aid call from Hopkinton where a resident wanted the police to shoot him. G. Leurini used a rubber ball gun to shoot the person in the stomach which saved his life.

J. Cronin asked if he had any outside employment. G. Leurini said no.

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J. Cronin made a motion to appoint G. Leurini as a Lieutenant with the Holliston Police Department. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

6.) Smart Recycle (Zero Waste) Discussion: Steve Lisauskas with Waste Zero was present and provided an overview of his waste reduction company. The objective is to reduce the trash stream and increase the textile recycling stream. This could translate in an eight (8) percent reduction for Holliston.

Simple Recycling is based in Ohio. There are 1.1 million participants in Massachusetts and there is no cost to the Town. Eight (8) nearby towns are participating in the program. Each resident will be provided two (2) bags to start. They will handle all the education.

J. Cronin asked what if a resident wants more than one (1) bag. S. Lisauskas said if a resident needs more than two (2) bags they will provide them. A resident can go to the web site and ask for more bags and they can be made available at various locations.

T. Hein asked about what is included. S. Lisauskas said there are four (4) categories based on the quality of materials all that information is on the web site.

J. Cronin asked about the market for example St. Vincent DePaul or Goodwill. S. Lisauskas said there are many drop boxes that can still be used some are for profit some are non-profit. The market is looking for wearable cloths.

T. Hein asked about the educational materials that will be provided and if the usual drop off location will be identified on a map for residents. S. Lisauskas said the goal is to get 85% of the textile out of the trash and recycling stream. The estimate is to get the average of ten (10) pounds (national average) annually vs. (Mass. 14 pounds) annually per average household out of the trash and recycling stream. This would translate to about \$1,000 per year to the Town.

T. Hein said the benefits to the Town are there will be a small reduction in the waste stream and there might be extra points from DEP and future grants. S. Lisauskas said they will do whatever possible to educate the public including social media, direct mailings and community events.

J. Cronin asked about competition. S. Lisauskas said there was none. J. Cronin asked for example Planet Aid is not a competitor. S. Lisauskas said no they are after a different product.

Ann Louise Hanstad, Vice Chair of the School Committee was present. She said the Schools started the program several years ago and they realize about \$800 per year and they use the revenue to go into green programs.

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M. Ahronian said the last thing we want to do is hurt the School program that are already into place and working. S. Lisauskas said they can look into those programs as well.

A. Hanstad in order to make sure the town is receiving top dollar perhaps we should compare the pricing with the vendor currently being used at the schools.

J. Cronin asked if the drop boxes could still be used and what about condos. S. Lisauskas said Simple Recycling will service exactly the same residents currently being serviced by your solid waste collection provider.

J. Cronin asked about the procurement process. J. Ritter said this activity would be exempt similar to trash collection. S. Lisauskas referenced the General Law for the exemption and there is no competition with forty-six cities and towns signing on. In order to get into the Winter schedule we would need a signed contract by October 18th.

By introducing this program the Town may receive extra points for recycling grants from DEP.

Richard Rosenberry, 66 Jarr Brook Road, asked what was the difference between Simple Recycling and Waste Zero. S. Lisauskas said Simple Recycling does the collection work and Waste Zero bring Simple Recycling and cities and towns together and works to get the program introduced.

7.) Board Business

Donations - Senior Center and Community Farm: M. Ahronian thanked Superette for the for the \$400 donation to the Senior Center they took it upon themselves to place a jar on the counter for spare change when it gets to \$400 they make a donation.

J. Cronin thanked the \$1,097.56 donation from the Downtown Marigold Project and the \$53,860 in kind donation from Mark Dellicker for various improvements at the Community Farm.

J. Cronin made a motion to accept the donations with thanks. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Event Permit – “Holliston Veterans Day Parade:” T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant the event permit for the Annual “Holliston Veterans Day Parade” to begin at 10:30a.m. on Monday, November 11, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Police Sargent & Lieutenant Appointments: Regarding the Sargent appointment. J. Cronin said both candidates were impressive. T. Hein agreed as did M. Ahronian.

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J. Cronin for him he thought Officer Hagan has a measured leadership style and his focus on traffic management is important. T. Hein said there were some standouts one being the test results. So for her Officer Hagan stands out.

J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Officer Hagan to be the next Police Sargent. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Regarding the appointment of the Lieutenant J. Cronin made a motion to appoint George Leurini to be the next Police Lieutenant. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Quitclaim Deed, Liberty Estates: J. Cronin made a motion to accept and sign the Quitclaim Deed for Liberty Estates. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Sustainability Coordinator Position Discussion: J. Ritter provided a summary in that in the State budget \$50,000 has been awarded to Sherborn to share a position between Holliston and Sherborn. Until we understand the return on investment he is recommend the person be a consultant.

M. Ahronian said there is a similar arrangement with the Animal Control Officer in that is a shared position with Ashland and there are some concerns we are not receiving our fair share.

T. Hein agreed we need to get it right from the start with a current job description. J. Cronin agreed that we need to the correct skill set which is not necessarily the Town Planner.

T. Hein said she recently attended a MVP training session in Boston. She is dedicated to helping to prepare the grant application.

J. Cronin said the Board was approached about a year ago by a local activist group and that's how the discussion started.

State Representative Carolyn Dykema was present. The funds have been earmarked for a shared position. Currently the money is resting in Sherborn. She is currently exploring the amount of flexibility in accessing the funds and the language in the legislation.

J. Cronin said the development an action plan as a guide which would be important, with an eye on FY21 for the full-time position for Holliston. He wants to work with Sherborn but also needs to better understand the hiring process, the job description, and the role of any MVP grant in that process.

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T. Hein said she did not think twenty (20) hours per week was enough. The MVP grants give regional approaches to finding solutions is a priority.

C. Dykema said it would still be possible for the towns to work together to find common solutions.

A. Hanstad said somehow she thought one person writing grants for both towns might be a conflict. J. Cronin said that would depend if the grant was a formula grant or a competitive grant.

J. Cronin brought up the Economic Development Grant legislation. J. Ritter said he wanted to give the opportunity for the Economic Development Committee to weigh in on the proposed change in wording. The topic will be on the Selectmen's Agenda shortly.

T. Hein asked about the status of the Carted Liquor License. C. Dykema said there was a Hearing that last week at the State House.

Special Town Meeting, Capital Budget Recommendations: The asked J. Ritter to prepare a spreadsheet showing the items, amounts, and funding source for next week.

J. Cronin said we need to look at a priority list and rank those items under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen. Also, perhaps we could use some of the balance for the downtown signals to fund the Opticom system. J. Ritter said those funds are committed to completing the project such as further fine tuning of the lights and payments to McMahon the traffic engineers.

J. Cronin noted the Warrant must be signed by Thursday, October 10th and we need to share the priority list with the Finance Committee.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Review: T. Hein made a motion to review from the Warrant the Article "Sidewalk Construction 300 Feet from Central to Church Street." Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Regarding the Blair Square Committee T. Hein requested they meet with the Board after Special Town Meeting to provide an update.

A. Hanstad asked the Board to consider striking the Article. J. Ritter said once an Article is received and the signatures are certified by the Town Clerk the petitioner article must be included in the Warrant.

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8.) Any Other Business: T. Hein made a motion to establish a Traffic Advisory Committee. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0


J. Cronin noted if possible there should be traffic engineer on the Committee.

J. Cronin said he would be doing an interview with Mary Greendale on HCAT tomorrow evening. The purpose is to review the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

M. Ahronian said he would like the Board to consider starting a new award from the Board. It would be called the "Select Board's Humanitarian Award." It would be for people helping people and presented in November based on compassion, consideration and caring. Each Selectperson would nominate one (1) person. There was no objection from the Board.

Adjourn: At 9:01p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Jeffrey Ritter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator