



**TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD**

**703 Washington Street
Holliston, MA 01746**

508-429-0608

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
HOLLISTON TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator and Jay Talerman, Town Counsel

M. Ahronian called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

1.) Warrants: T. Hein read the weekly expense and vendor Warrant (20-11) in the amount of \$1,374,857.42 and made a motion to approve. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0.

2.) Public Comment: T. Hein thanked Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant and Sean Reese DPW Director for taking the time to meet with her. She also recognized the School Committee and noted their hard work with all the needed work related to the start of the school year. As well as the work of the Finance Committee and all the work they are doing in preparation for the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

J. Cronin said the report on the facilities manager position will be on the Board's Agenda shortly. But for the first year he envisions the position falling under the DPW.

M. Ahronian thanked all the veterans and the American Legion and State Representative Carolyn Dykema and State Senator and Senate President Karen Spilka for recognizing eight (8) Holliston public safety personnel last week-end. It was a great event. J. Ritter will prepare proclamations and invite the eight (8) to a future meeting.

Oksana Vidmych, 682 Norfolk Street was present and thanked T. Hein for having a dialogue regarding the possibility of a community center.

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3.) Report of the Town Administrator: J. Ritter thanked the Board of Health and the staff in the Health Department for taking effective and aggressive steps in protecting the public from the EEE virus. Holliston is listed as a critical condition community.

He said shortly there will be an announcement that Holliston for the third year in a row has been designated a Green Community. He will have details in about two (2) weeks after the State House official announcement.

Regarding the Municipal Vulnerability (MVP) program the best information he has is that Holliston will be designated an MVP community this week which will allow Holliston to apply for Action Grants.

Work will be completed this week on the deck and railings at Pinecrest. Next we will move on to the doors. J. Cronin asked about how that would be paid for. J. Ritter said he was waiting for the final invoices for the deck work but there should be money in the revenue account to pay for the doors as well.

McMahon will start "Phase II" of the downtown traffic study tomorrow with a new traffic count.

He has assigned the Building Inspector to complete the Town Hall door replacement project.

The Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow evening.

4.) Solid Waste and Recycling: T. Hein said they have a family of six (6) and since the new program started in July they have made it work they recycle and compost.

J. Cronin said the new program is now a couple of months into it and wants to remain flexible with the small business community and residents. There approximately 5,000 accounts it was a big project.

M. Ahronian said at the start he had misgivings about using the thirty-five (35) trash cart. It can be difficult to move the six-four (64) gallon recycling cart.

Regarding including the small business community and condos on public ways M. Ahronian asked J. Ritter to provide a financial summary.

J. Ritter said he received an estimate from E.L. Harvey to provide collection services at the condos on public ways at approximately \$133,000 and for the small business community (75) estimate at sixty (60) dollars per business per week at \$54,000 for a total estimate of \$187,000 additional expense.

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Michael Lavin, Chair, of the Sustainability and Recycling Committee said that would be the subscription rate not the municipal rate.

M. Ahronian asked how long it would take to bid the service. M. Lavin said approximately six (6) months it took a year to prepare the bid that was ultimately awarded to E.L. Harvey and ninety (90) percent of the residents are living within the program as it was rolled out.

Paul Faramelli, 80 Kim Place, said it does not make sense if a resident can only purchase a recycling cart and not another trash cart. The system is not working. T. Hein asked if there was anything about the service that is working.

P. Faramelli, said no in fact his cart was already damaged.

M. Lavin said Holliston has been a pay as you throw community for a very long time it is just residents have become lazy and the former provider Republic Services got into the custom of just picking up everything on the street. But the thirty-five (35) gallon carts should always have been used. The use of stickers vs. bags is fairly generous.

J. Cronin said he agrees with residents who want to customize the program we need options and build those options into the program.

Samuel Nashawaty, 84 Cheryl Lane said for a family of four (4) the current program and service is not working. The old program allowed a resident to place extra trash bags in a container with a sticker on the bag. Under the new program once you fill the trash cart you must place the bags alongside the trash cart this is not good for the environment. It is very hard to stay under the thirty-five (35) gallon limit.

Ron Graves, from Keystone Automotive said he has not had trash pick-up in months. He asked about a trash collection district and what that include.

M. Ahronian said the Board could vote to establish a "downtown trash district" as well as condos on public ways we need to create a rationale and a policy for each if that is the direction the Board would like to take.

We are here tonight to get feedback on the current service.

J. Cronin asked about the time line. He will update the Finance Committee tomorrow evening.

M. Lavin reminded those present that the Selectmen removed the trash fee about five (5) years ago. Republic Services was not following the Contract.

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T. Hein said the \$133,000 would be the subscription rate to provide service to the condos this is the market rate and not the municipal rate. M. Lavin said yes.

M. Ahronian asked Town Counsel if the new service would have to be bid. J. Talerman said the additional service would be outside of M.G.L. Chapter 30B.

The Board has the legal authority to determine who gets the service there just has to be a rationale he would be happy to work on this. Every town is different the decision just needs to be justified. Town Meeting would have to raise and appropriate the funds.

M. Lavin said he could speak to the current hauler to see if they would be interested in customizing the service by way of a Contract amendment.

J. Cronin said there appears to be four (4) major condo complexes Crestview, Turner Road, Burnap Road, and Windsor Place. M. Lavin should reach out to those condo associations to determine what they are paying now.

J. Talerman said there has to be a thoughtful process as to who you service. T. Hein asked what would be the reason to exclude small businesses in a certain area. J. Talerman the rationale could be the size of the business, location, or for example office buildings. The Board needs to understand what the Town can afford impacting the most people.

J. Cronin said that can be explored during negotiations.

Susan Woodrow, 136 Union Street said the smaller containers are working just fine for her. If the Board decided to provide solid waste and recycling services to the small business community that would send a positive message. It would be easier for them to stay in town. Trash is a big problem everyone should be learning how to reduce the waste stream.

Margaret Mozdiez, 131 Dalton Place asked about the five (5) day service contract and she could use an extra barrel and asked how many other towns are using the thirty-five gallon carts for trash.

Kathy Merzi, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection said there are currently twelve (12) communities some are much larger than Holliston some smaller.

T. Hein asked about the number of stickers being sold. M. Lavin said it will take some time to see the trend but with the automated system a truck can pick-up 100-200 homes per hour. A resident said they should be able to collect more quickly.

M. Lavin said E.L. Harvey would prefer to use a second trash barrel but that is not the program.

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T. Hein said a resident might be able to purchase a second trash barrel and pay an annual fee. M. Lavin said if the barrel is damaged E.L. Harvey will repair or replace.

Kent Kissinger, 130 Jennings Road said the new service is much better than the previous one and the communications very good as the new service was introduced. However, said there is a three (3) four (4) family unit at Windsor and Jennings who always leave their carts by the street. J. Ritter will try to contact the owner and have them moved.

Jay Leary, 146 Karen Circle, Holliston has always had a very high recycling rate. However, the recycling market is dead at the moment. M. Lavin said it has always cost money to dispose of recycling materials. However, Holliston is now paying forty (40) dollars per ton where other communities are paying seventy (70) dollars or even ninety (90) dollars per ton.

J. Leary said it is too early in the program to measure the results. Many people leave town for the summer. It was a mistake to go with the smaller trash carts the town should have gone with the larger carts. Residents are forced to figure out ways to dispose of their extra trash. It does not work for a family of four (4) or larger.

M. Lavin said regarding the five (5) day pick-up that was part of the bid and specifications and this has been the policy since the early 1990's.

J. Cronin said yes we had a thirty-five (35) gallon contract but Republic was not honoring it. He asked K. Mirza about the grant program for the carts.

K. Mirza said an announcement will be made shortly. J. Cronin said the sale of stickers should be going up and the amount of tonnage should be going down.

T. Hein said we need to work on defining the downtown district some businesses do not have room for a dumpster.

Jeanne Dowding, 168 Dalton Road said their previous pick-up day was Tuesday now it is Friday and when they go away she does not want to leave the carts out there over the week-end so she has to arrange with a neighbor to take them in. The recycling cart is too large and hard to manage. The carts are hard to fit into a garage. They work for the hauler but not the residents.

Sharon Weaver, 69 Woodland Street said the trash carts are too small and to pay \$100 for another recycling cart is too much she fills it up every week. T. Hein said she researched the cost online and found the price to be approximately seventy (70) dollars per recycling cart.

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M. Lavin said there is also a fee to service the carts which is built into the price. K. Mirza said the grants only apply to one of the carts.

Paul Faramelli, 80 Kim Place, said residents should be able to pick-up an extra barrel at E.L. Harvey.

M. Lavin said the Sustainability and Recycling Committee has recommended, to further reduce the waste stream, to explore the feasibility of introducing a curbside textile recycling program. There would be no cost to the Town.

This new program could reduce around six (6) percent of the waste stream and therefore the cost at Wheelabrator would be reduced. Further, he recommended the program be introduced in November.

T. Hein asked about Planet Aid and said under your proposal each resident would be provided a pink bag for clothes. M. Lavin said yes and you can use any vendor you like.

J. Cronin asked about the bidding process he believes this service should be sent out to bid and the Committee should develop the specifications.

M. Lavin said he was only aware of one vendor they are apparently a sole source and it is outside of 30B.

T. Hein said it is a good opportunity to reduce the solid waste stream. M. Lavin said we can explore other options such as Big Brother and Big Sisters. K. Mirza said she thought Waste Zero was the only vendor who provides curbside collection. M. Lavin said they will also provide public education as to the advantages to the program.

J. Cronin said he needs to understand the program better. Also, by bidding the work we will gain access to more information.

It was agreed to invite Waste Zero to meet with the Selectmen.

Utah Nickel a member of the Committee introduced the concept of Black Earth a curbside leaf and composting company. It was noted that E.L. Harvey already has this service in their Contract at \$14,000 per year which is done during the first week in December.

J. Cronin said again this service should be bid. The Committee should develop a scope of work, issue the bid, and recommend a contract for the Board to consider.

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The Board returned to the topic of expanding the solid waste and recycling services. T. Hein said we are two (2) months into the program more time is needed to better understand the impact. This is a change in behavior and it takes time to collect the data.

The Board thanked to the Committee for all their hard work.

5.) Board Business

Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2019 and August 26, 2019: J. Cronin made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from August 23, 2019 and August 26, 2019. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Proclamation: T. Hein read a Proclamation in recognition of Constitution Week and made a motion to approve the Proclamation and for the Board to sign it. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Constable Application: Pursuant to a positive recommendation from the Chief of Police T. Hein made a motion to appoint David A. Retalic to be a Constable. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Event Permit – Tim’s Trot: Pursuant to a positive recommendation from the Chief of Police T. Hein made a motion to approve an event permit for the Annual Tim’s Trot that is scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 29, 2019 beginning and ending at Holliston High School. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

Special Town Meeting Capital Requests: J. Ritter presented a list of prioritized capital items for the Board’s consideration. This document will ultimately be presented to the Finance Committee once approved by the Board. No action will be taken until School Department requests have been received.

Traffic Advisory Committee Draft Charge/Profile: T. Hein reviewed the draft charge and profile of the Traffic Advisory Committee. She drew on information from other communities who already have a committee in place such as Framingham and two (2) other communities.

J. Cronin said he liked the charge and thought it was a good idea.

T. Hein said she would like to get input from public safety personnel before the Board approves the charge.

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Stop Sign Request – Hanlon Road: Pursuant to a positive recommendation from the Holliston Police Department J. Cronin made a motion to approve the installation of a “Yield” sign at the intersection of Adams & Hanlon Road eastbound. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Handicap Parking Space – Central Street: J. Cronin made a motion to approve the creation of a “Handicap” parking space be created at the spot closest to the driveway at 36 Central Street. Second, T. Hein. Discussion: T. Hein noted that would increase the number of handicapped parking spaces in the downtown to eight (8). Voted 3-0

MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) Appointment: M. Ahronian noted that these meetings take place during the day and he does not have the time to attend and Carl Damigella has volunteered. J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Carl Damigella to fill an unexpired term until June 30, 2020 due to the resignation of M. Ahronian. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

On-Call EMT Appointment: J. Cronin made a motion to appoint Derek Logan to be an On-Call EMT. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit – Special Occasions: T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit, to Special Occasions Servers for a birthday party to be held in the Upper Town Hall on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 5:30p.m. until 10:30p.m. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

One Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit – Lookout Hard Cider, LLC Cycle for Life: Special Occasions: T. Hein made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Alcoholic Beverage Permit, to Lookout Hard Cider, LLC for a the Massachusetts CF Cycle for Life starting at the Fatima Shrine from 11:30a.m. until 3:30p.m. Saturday, October 5, 2019. Second, J. Cronin. Voted 3-0

6. Any Other Business:

Event Permit – Rolling Meadow Neighborhood Block Party – Rolling Meadow Drive: Pursuant to a positive recommendation from the Chief of Police J. Cronin made a motion to approve and grant an event permit for the Rolling Meadow Neighborhood Block Party that is scheduled to be held on Saturday, Sunday, September 14, 2019 starting at 2:30p.m.ending at 7:30p.m. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Cross Street Signage: There has been a problem with trucks parking close to the Upper Charles River Rail Trail therefore restricting parking for Trail users. The Trails Committee

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would like “No Truck Parking” signs installed. T. Hein said she is meeting with the Committee and would report back.

MEMA Grant: J. Cronin made a motion to accept an Emergency Management Planning Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for Emergency Management. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Adjourn: At 9:46p.m. J. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, T. Hein. Voted 3-0

Respectfully submitted

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator