

**HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2012**

The Board met at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Adams Middle School, 323 Woodland Street for a forum on the recent casino legislation. Present were Chairman Jay Marsden, Vice-Chairman Jay Leary, Clerk Kevin Conley and Town Administrator Paul Le Beau. Also present were State Senator Karen Spilka, Representative Carolyn Dykema and Representative Thomas Sannicandro. Vice-Chairman Jay Leary joined the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

Mr. Marsden welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the intent of the forum was to inform everyone about the details of the casino legislation and the procedure going forward. He noted that representatives of several area communities had been meeting for the last several months and had submitted a joint letter to the state expressing concerns about the legislation. Mr. Marsden said there were handouts available in the lobby. He said that the focus tonight is on providing information and that there would be follow-up meetings in the individual towns.

Senator Spilka said that the legislation came out of an agreement among the governor, the Senate president and the House speaker. She said she ultimately voted against it. The legislation authorizes one "slot parlor" and up to three resort casinos to be located by region. Revenues would go to local aid, transportation, tourism, and mitigation to the host and surrounding communities. There will be a five member Gaming Commission to be selected by March 21. It will probably be 12 to 18 months before the Commission accepts applications for casinos, another 6 to 9 months to complete the licensing process and then another year or more for construction. Applicants must secure a memorandum of understanding with host and surrounding communities, conduct a public hearing in the host community and secure a favorable vote at a referendum in the host community. Senator Spilka opined that there are better locations than Milford for a casino and noted that we are in the same region with Foxborough and Boston.

Representative Dykema noted that she had pushed to amend the legislation to give surrounding communities an opportunity to hold a referendum on a casino proposal but the amendment failed. She said she also voted against the legislation. She said the decisions on casino locations should be regional because of the significant impacts of these facilities. She noted that there are at least three potential competitors in our region.

Representative Sannicandro urged everyone to study the legislation, become familiar with the process and stay engaged.

John Ribeiro of Winthrop said that he was leading a petition drive to repeal the casino legislation.

David Bastille of Holliston said that we need to reach out to people in Milford because they will be voting on the proposal for that town.

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John Fetherston, Ashland Selectman, noted that we have the opportunity to work together regionally through the MetroWest Regional Collaborative. The process is just starting and we should band together to express our concerns.

Mr. Faramelli of Holliston said the focus should be on the impact to property values and quality of life rather than infrastructure and mitigation funds.

Mr. Patel of Holliston asked about judicial appeals of casino siting decisions.

Mr. Schneider of Holliston said that casino impacts continue well beyond the first five years and questioned how those impacts will be addressed.

Mr. Marsden thanked everyone for attending and urged everyone to stay engaged and participate in the individual community meetings.

The Board discussed the request of Lt. Edison for payment of \$25,000 of his unused sick leave.

MR. LEARY MOVED, MR. CONLEY SECONDED AND IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OFFER NO MORE THAN \$20,000.

AT 10:05 P.M., MR. LEARY MOVED, MR. CONLEY SECONDED AND IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Paul D. Le Beau
Town Administrator