

**HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 25, 2012**

The Board met at 7:00 a.m. in Room 105 at Town Hall. Mr. Marsden and Mr. Leary were present; Mr. Conley was absent. Town Administrator Paul Le Beau was present.

Mr. Marsden explained that the meeting was called at the request of the Water Department. Water Commissioner Jared Adams, Water Superintendent Ron Sharpin, Ian Mead of CDM Smith, Patricia Keating, Ken Szajda of the Finance Committee and Highway Superintendent Tom Smith were also present.

Mr. Adams, Mr. Sharpin and Mr. Mead said that there were about 90 miles of water pipe in the Town and about 60 miles of it is asbestos concrete material. An asset analysis provided by Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) in 2011 suggests that it will cost \$800,000 per mile to replace the pipe, including associated service connections and road repairs, and that the overall condition of the pipe infrastructure is rated at 59 on a scale of 100 with an estimated backlog of needed repair/replacement of more than \$5 million. The Water Commissioners have been working with CDM Smith and Echologics on a detailed analysis of pipe condition that has included 18 test locations and five pipe samples. They plan to apply for a grant from the EPA that could provide \$2 million to \$3 million for a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the infrastructure together with a 20 year improvement program. The grant decision may be made by the fall and the full analysis would take several months.

Mr. Leary noted that a current pipe replacement project on Route 109 in Medway is costing \$175 per linear foot or more than \$900,000 per mile. Mr. Marsden recalled that there had been discussions about coordinating pipe replacement with road improvements. Mr. Smith said his priorities over the next few years were the Church, Elm, Grove Streets area; Bogastow Brook Road and the Queens neighborhood. Mr. Le Beau said that as an example an \$8 million borrowing over 20 years at 3% would add \$520,000 to our annual debt service on average for those 20 years. The current debt load is at 10% of the tax levy and 7.5% of the Omnibus Budget. There will be a significant drop in the annual debt service in 2020 but that is exempt debt that will come off of the tax levy. The FST study suggested that no action would result in a backlog of over \$50 million in repair/replacement in 25 years; an \$800,000 per year capital program would still result in a \$21 million backlog after 25 years. He suggested that there are at least three elements to the pipe replacement pricing: water distribution, fire protection and road disturbance/repair. Mr. Szajda said that it appeared that even if the EPA grant did not come through there was sufficient information to identify areas of critical need. He said that it would be important to explore the extent of the Water Commissioners' authority to impose rate and assessment charges on users and taxpayers.

**AT 8:17 A.M., MR. LEARY MOVED, MR. MARSDEN SECONDED AND IT WAS VOTED TWO IN FAVOR WITH MR. CONLEY ABSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_

Paul D. Le Beau  
Town Administrator