

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 17, 2013
7:30 P.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall

Present Jay Marsden, Chairman; Jay Leary, Vice Chairman; Kevin Conley, Clerk and Paul Le Beau, Town Administrator.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

13-43	GENERAL WARRANT	\$206,581.79
	VOIDS	\$ (24.86)
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030) HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 9,475.83
	MEDICARE (001)	\$ 661.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	\$ 299.34
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,021.08
	GENERAL PAYROLL WARRANT	\$ 89,965.68
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$ 90,986.76
	TOTAL WARRANT	\$301,979.86

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID	\$ 26,417.62
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TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST	\$ 15,805.23
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THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Conley said that what happened on Marathon Monday was troubling to all. He said that he knew several people who were running that day. He said that we have to be more vigilant all the time.

Mr. Leary said that the 8th grade is in Washington DC for the annual tour and they were not able to go into every building. Washington DC was a scare with poison mailed in several letters to top officials. Mr. Leary said that the EMS along with the Police did a fantastic job getting all the injured medical care.

Mr. Leary said that Mr. Conley would be at Coffee Haven this Saturday April 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Marsden said that we all know someone who was there and his heart and prayers go out to all the injured.

There were no comments from the audience.

COMMITTEE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Frank Chamberlain the Chairman of the Committee was present. He said that he is replacing Sam Tyler after eleven years on the Board. He said that he knows that he has big shoes to fill. Mr. Chamberlain said that at Town Meeting they will have two proposals one to acquire property for the Open Space Committee for Warren Woods and property between Highland Street and Winter Street. He also said that there is a proposal for the Civil War Monument in front of Town Hall and the grave stones in Town owned

cemeteries. Mr. Chamberlain said that there are some grant funds available and they were hoping to get some so that they can fix up the head stones and the monument. He said that it would include cleaning of the stones and the re-pointing of the monument if it needs it. He said that at the last fall Town Meeting funds were approved to resurface the tennis courts and that project is ongoing. He also spoke about the Town owned condominium on Burnap Road he said that it was deeded to the Holliston Housing Trust and has been sold. Mr. Chamberlain said that the sale of this house is a good example of the use of CPC funds. Mr. Conley asked Mr. Chamberlain to explain how the CPC gets their funds. Mr. Chamberlain said there is a levy on the property tax of 1.5% and that amount is matched by the State from the Registry of Deeds. He said that with the funds they can build affordable housing, purchase open space and restore monuments. Mr. Chamberlain said that a few years ago they digitized the older Town records for the Town Clerk.

Mr. Leary asked how much money are you looking for to complete these projects this spring. Mr. Chamberlain said that they are looking for \$118,000. Mr. Leary asked if the tax surcharge was at the max of 3% would the State match that at a slightly higher rate. Mr. Chamberlain said yes.

The Board thanked Sam Tyler for all his many years of service to the Town.

7:45 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Cassidy was present to discuss the rate increase for the ambulance fees and the false alarm fees.

Chief Cassidy said the cost of operating the ambulance has gone up and if they want to replace an ambulance in the future it was recommended that he come before the Board to discuss raising the fees. Chief Cassidy said that the fee for ALS intercept has gone up 25% and that went into effect in February. Chief Cassidy said that it has been several years since we purchased an ambulance and when the time comes it could cost around \$175,000. Chief Cassidy said that he rotates the ambulances so that way they are switched out every week. He said that on any given time at least two ambulances are out at the same time and then several times a year all three are out at the same time.

Mr. Leary asked how, is the mileage calculated for a run. Chief Cassidy said that a few years ago Medicare said that they could no longer round up on the miles so now they go to the tenth of a mile. He said that when they arrive at a patient's location the mileage marker gets rolled back to zero and they bill from there to the hospital or a landing zone. Mr. Leary asked if this was a common practice. Chief Cassidy said yes. Mr. Leary asked about the difference between BLS and ALS he said that there is a difference of \$4.00 per mile. Chief Cassidy said that these rates have been based on a Medicare allowable.

Mr. Leary asked about the false alarm fees this is a dramatic increase. Mr. Leary asked how many false alarms, do we see in one year. Chief Cassidy said that in FY 2012 one location that had four responses and one location they had five. Chief Cassidy said that having the fee set in place is a good deterrent to have your alarm system fixed because every false alarm there would be a large fee. He said that the first two are free then after that it would cost.

Mr. Marsden asked about the false alarm fee is that by calendar year or fiscal year. Chief Cassidy said that that the clock starts ticking after the first response.

Mr. Marsden said that the ambulance rates would be going from \$575 to \$718. He said that is not the out of pocket charge to a patient but that is what we would bill and in the hopes that Medicare would pay it or a secondary insurance coverage. Chief Cassidy said that there has been on average 94% in the collection rate. Mr. Marsden said that the fees go back into a revolving account to purchase new equipment.

Mr. Le Beau said that with the billing service that we use the rates that they charge are much lower than we have seen in area communities. He said that a group in Natick suggested that all the surrounding towns band together and put together an RFP for the billing services. In the discussion some of those Towns were paying double what we are paying for services.

William Dowd, 95 Shaw Farm Road, asked when the rate would go into effect. Chief Cassidy said that if the Board approve tonight the new rate would go into effect immediately. Mr. Dowd asked when we go to the higher rate do you anticipate a higher collection rate. Chief Cassidy said maybe 9% rather than 6% uncollected. Mr. Dowd asked why are we not more aggressive in the rate process. Chief Cassidy said that when they first started charging the community it was thought that it should have been a service at no cost. That is why they wanted to keep the rate as close to the Medicare rate as possible that way they would not be taking advantage. Mr. Dowd asked is this the first time that the rate you are proposing the moneys to fund vehicle replacement. Chief Cassidy said no.

Mr. Dowd asked how much money do we have in reserve if we had to buy an ambulance tomorrow. Chief Cassidy said \$275,000. Mr. Dowd asked when is the next ambulance due to be replaced. Chief Cassidy said that he had that discussion this morning and they will be going before Town Meeting in the fall. Mr. Dowd asked when the next ambulance would be replaced. Chief Cassidy said in another four years. Mr. Dowd asked what would the difference in the amount that you will collect and the operation cost of the ambulance service what amount do you expect the contribution in the replacement fund in the first year to be. Chief Cassidy said \$70,000.

Mr. Dowd said that this is a public hearing and he knows that you are going to disagree but the public safety budget is not properly allocating costs of operation to the ambulance. He said that from reviewing the budget and a discussion with the Chief that the taxpayers are subsidizing the operation of the ambulance by not allocating costs of the ambulance service to the ambulance budget and from there building a rate of cost and contribution to vehicle replacement. Mr. Dowd said that you can look at building maintenance, utilities and dispatch and you can see that the ambulance is under budgeted. Mr. Dowd said that he thinks that there are ambulance costs imbedded into the fire budget. Mr. Dowd said that Chief Cassidy needs to look at his budget because he is missing an opportunity.

Mr. Leary asked what are we missing. Mr. Dowd said that the Fire budget is higher than it needs to be. He also said that we are not charging the full cost of running the ambulance. He said that the ambulance budget does not reflect to cost of running it and he thinks that it is under budget. He said the fees would be higher. Mr. Leary said that

not all residents who use or have used the ambulance are Medicare patients. So the users insurance would cover the cost of the transport. Mr. Dowd asked if the rate for the ambulance goes up how it compares with the surrounding towns. Chief Cassidy said that we are much lower than the surrounding towns. Chief Cassidy said that some of the towns are using the fee to pay for full time employees. Mr. Dowd said that he thinks that we should be charging a rate that will collect the real cost of the Town's ambulance service. Chief Cassidy said that he and Mr. Dowd do not think the same way. Chief Cassidy said that the Fire Department budget is not hiding costs for the Ambulance Budget. Mr. Dowd said if the Town wanted to be serious about recovering full costs it could charge higher rates.

Mr. Le Beau said that we are very serious about the rate structure and if the rate structure is approved by the board the revenue stream based on the projection would comfortably fund the operation and sets aside funds to replace ambulances every four years and if someone wants to suggest to allocate 25 thousand dollars a year towards the ambulance operating expenses this rate structure would absorb this as well. Mr. Le Beau said that this rate structure would cover the cost of delivery.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE ALL THE FEE INCREASES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE HEARING NOTICE DATED APRIL 17, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2013

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AND NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

EVENT PERMITS – BLAIR SQUARE FLEA MARKET, REACH THE BEACH RELAY, NEWCOMERS CLUB TOUCH A TRUCK AND THE WALK AGAINST HUNGER

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR A FLEA MARKET AT BLAIR SQUARE ON APRIL 27, 2013 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR REACH THE BEACH RELAY ON MAY 17, AND MAY 18TH FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 1:30 A.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR THE NEWCOMERS CLUB TOUCH-A-TRUCK ON JUNE 1, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENT PERMIT FOR THE WALK AGAINST HUNGER FOR APRIL 28, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

RESIGNATION – HOUSING COMMITTEE AND MWRTA

Mr. Marsden said that Barbara Gardner is resigning from the Housing Committee. The Board thanked Ms. Gardner for all her hard work on the Committee.

Mr. Marsden said that Carl Damigella is resigning as the Holliston representative for the MWRTA. The Board thanked Mr. Damigella for all his years of service.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT JAY MARSDEN AS HOLLISTON'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MWRTA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR MR. MARSDEN ABSTAINED.

**APPOINTMENT – AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION – JUSTIN BROWN
MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT JUSTIN BROWN AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

FEE WAIVER – MEMORIAL DAY PARADE TENT

Mr. Marsden said that the Memorial Day Committee is requesting a waiver of fees for the tent at the Historical Society on May 27, 2013.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE WAIVER OF FEES FOR THE TENT AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON MAY 27, 2013, FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

ONE DAY LICENSES – STEBBINS, HBA, HABA AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON MAY 3, 2013, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR A SURPRISE PARTY ON MAY 18, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR THE HBA FOR A MONTE CARLO NIGHT IN THE UPPER TOWN HALL ON APRIL 26, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR MR. MARSDEN ABSTAINED.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR HABA AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR A FUNDRAISER ON MAY 10, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

ENERGY AGGREGATION AGREEMENT

Mr. Marsden said that Global Energy has been in several times to talk to the Board. This was approved at an earlier meeting it only needs to be signed.

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Marsden said that the Senior Center has said that they would like to start doing passports. The Town Clerk's office did them for many years, but there is a new law that will not allow them to do it. Mr. Leary said that the Library has said that they would be willing to do them as well.

Mr. Leary said that he would like to talk to the Senior Center and the Library to see who has the best set up for it. This is for Article 10 to see if we should keep the revolving account.

Mr. Marsden said that Article 20 is about an OPEB Trust.

Mr. Marsden said that Article 21 is about creating a reserve for compensated absences so that we do not find ourselves all of a sudden having to come up with funds to address foreseen expenses. Mr. Leary said that it would be a separate fund that would accumulate. He said that it would take many years to do that.

Mr. Leary said that Article 23 is the Traffic Study. Mr. Marsden said that if we put up traffic lights then we have to do the study.

Mr. Leary spoke about the water discharge in the winter months and residents are pumping the water into the street and creating a hazard. Mr. Leary is suggesting that there be no pumping into the street the same as the overnight parking ban from November 1st to March 31st. Mr. Marsden said that it may be creating an issue the other months a year.

ONE DAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE – CASEY'S CROSSINGS

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR CASEY'S CROSSING FOR APRIL 27, 2013 FROM 9:00 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

WARRANT SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY FOR ELECTION ON APRIL 30, 2013

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY FOR THE ELECTION ON APRIL 30, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

AT 9:00 P.M. MR. LEARY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

	AYE	NAY
MR. MARSDEN	X	
MR. LEARY	X	
MR. CONLEY	X	

MR. MARSDEN SAID THAT A PUBLIC DISCUSSION MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON THE TOWN'S NEGOTIATING POSITION.

MR. MARSDEN SAID THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WOULD LAST ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

AT 9:10 P.M. THE BOARD EMERGED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND MOVED TO ADJOURN.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved_____