

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

August 22, 2011
7:30 P.M.

Town Hall
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Present: Jay Marsden, Chairman; Jay Leary, Vice Chairman; Kevin Conley, Clerk and Paul D. Le Beau, Town Administrator. Andrea Minihan, Administrative Assistant, was absent.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANTS:

12-09	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 81,907.69
	VOIDS:	\$ (1,296.40)
	STUDENT ACTIVITY (8030)	\$ 17,392.79
	COMMUNITY PRESERVATION	\$ 25.45
	CONFISCATED TRUSTS (300)	\$ 60.00
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 2,431.25
	PAYROLL	\$ 98,910.18
	TOTAL WARRANT	\$199,430.96

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID
\$ 28,611.12

TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST
\$ 18,206.75

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Isabel Hines, 15 Winter Street, said that Winter Street has become a short cut for trucks to go to Ashland. She said that a few years ago, they had a police officer sit on the street monitoring the traffic, but she said that it was too hard to get the speeders. Ms. Hines asked if speed bumps would help. Mr. Marsden said that it would be harder to plow the street. Mr. Le Beau said that State Highway frowns on speed bumps on public ways. Mr. Leary said that they can mention this to the Police Chief and see if he can get an officer to keep an eye on the speed.

BOARD BUSINESS

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2011, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.

PLANET AID BUILDING PERMITS

Mr. Marsden said that Planet Aid is on Cross Street and they are looking for approval of permits on the property owned by Axton Cross. Axton Cross owes the Town several year's of back taxes. Mr. Marsden said that Planet Aid can't get a permit for improvements without the Boards approval.

Mary Bousquet, Treasurer, was present. She said that Axton Cross owes the Town \$533,000 in back taxes. She said that there has been a lien on the property since the early 1990s. She also said that they are in land court with Axton Cross. She said that in the past they have tried working with Attorney Michael Healy who is their Legal Counsel, to get on some type of payment plan. She said that Planet Aid is paying nothing to the Town, Axton Cross in paying nothing to the Town. She said that it is the Town Attorney's opinion to leverage ourselves and try and get them to the table to work with us and try to get something towards what they owe the Town. She said that in a meeting with Planet Aid, they would be willing to make payment to the Town, but they have to go through Axton Cross. She is asking for more time from the Selectmen to get a meeting set up with their Attorney and the Town, and get everyone together for a meeting. She has asked that the permits be put on hold until there is some payment made. Mr. Leary said that the rent payment that Planet Aid makes should be going to the Town and then Axton Cross should finish their cleanup. Ms. Bousquet said that Axton Cross has said that they will pay for some of the renovations on Cross Street. She said that if they can do that, then they should be able to pay some of the back taxes.

Mr. Conley asked if Axton Cross was in Chapter 11. Ms. Bousquet said that they were before. Mr. Conley asked what the value of the property is. Ms. Bousquet said that the Assessors have it valued at \$855,000. Ms. Bousquet said that Planet Aid is paying \$13,000 monthly in rent. She said that the taxes on the property, without interest, is about \$16,000 per year. Mr. Leary asked if the D.E.P. could put more pressure on Axton Cross to clean it up. Ms. Bousquet said that they have met with the D.E.P. several times and it was her impression that they would like the Town to step in and clean-up the site. Ms. Bousquet said that we do not have the resources to do that. Mr. Leary said we should not have to.

Mr. Le Beau said that about eight or nine years ago, all the income that Axton Cross received in rent would be going to clean-up costs. Mr. Marsden said that they have done some clean-up. Mr. Le Beau said nothing too recent. Ms. Bousquet said that they stopped clean-up when we filed a foreclosure notice. Mr. Le Beau said that he had a meeting with the Planet Aid Representative and they would like to have the renovations completed by winter. They would like to start the project the end of August. Mr. Leary said Axton Cross are digging a bigger hole by not making any kind of payments. Ms. Bousquet will call Attorney Healy to set up a meeting.

**DISCLOSURE FORMS – MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM
MR. LEARY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DISCLOSURE FORM FOR MARY
BOUSQUET AND PAUL LE BEAU FOR THE MUNICIPAL HEALTH
INSURANCE REFORM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY.
TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN ABSTAINED.**

WEB SITE COMMITTEE

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT CHIEF MICHAEL CASSIDY, CHUCK CORMAN, GRETCHEN PRIEVE, WILLIAM MCCOLL AND KERRY CONLEY TO THE WEB SITE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

There was a brief discussion about long term and short term goals.

Mr. Marsden said that the first meeting in October will be at the Senior Center on October 3rd.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A SELECTMEN'S MEETING ON OCTOBER 3, 2011 AT 1:00 P.M. AT THE SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 150 GOULDING STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mr. Marsden said that Mr. Smith, Highway Superintendent, said that there will be some paving of streets the week school starts.

Mr. Le Beau said that the Agricultural Commission would like to place yard signs advertising their Farm Days on September 11, 2011. They would like to put them up two weeks before there event.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE YARD SIGNS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION IS FARM DAYS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2011. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

AT 8:13 P.M., MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

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