

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

August 8, 2012
7:30 P.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall

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

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT

13-07	GENERAL WARRANT	\$151,518.64
	COMMUNITY PRESERVATION (265)	\$ 68,021.20
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT	
	PAYROLL	\$ 1,021.08
	COMMUNITY PRESERVATION (265)	
	PAYROLL	\$ 1,440.00
	GENERAL PAYROLL WARRANT	\$133,287.60
	TOTAL WARRANT	\$355,288.52

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID
\$ 30,542.34

TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST
\$ 19,038.37

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Conley said that he went to the concert at Goodwill Park and it was well attended. He said that the band that played will all be seniors at the High School this year. He also said that the Mudville Baseball team is heading to Denver, Colorado to play another game.

Mr. Leary said that the Police Department participated in National Night Out at Goodwill Park on the same night as the concert. Mr. Leary said that the Hazardous Waste Day was a great success. Mr. Leary also said that there will be a benefit for the K9 called Guns & Hoses on August 25th, at Damigella Field. He said that tickets are \$10.00. Mr. Leary said that there will be a RAD class starting August 21st for three nights. He said that this is sponsored by the Metrowest Woman's Alliance, through a grant written by Andrea Minihan.

Mr. Leary said that Mission Possible is selling bricks for the playground. He said that the last day to purchase one in August 15th, and they are \$100.00.

Comments from the audience

Elizabeth Bourque-Theiler, 17 Norland Street, said that she is concerned about the water quality. She said that she would like her statement to go into the minutes of the meeting.

“It is my understanding that the study committee on the DPW did not request town meeting to approve a DPW because there was no financial advantage to a DPW.

Will a DPW be more expensive for the Town then the present structure?

How do the Selectmen/Administrator find a DPW will benefit the residents of Holliston?

Will the Selectmen bring this proposed structure change to Town meet for a vote?

Since the Selectmen oversee the Highway Department and the Administrator as I understand it has weekly meetings with the various Departments, how will there be better coordination with a DPW?

What happens at department meetings with the Administrator? What are the responsibilities of the Administrator in Coordination of the Highway and Water Departments.

Holliston Water supply is very fragile and requires a scientifically knowledgeable Superintendent who ascertains water quality and plans for the future. We do not receive our water from the MWRA where they are responsible for water quality. Our water quality and supply should not be dependent upon a political move.

If it is a proposal then it is an apparent political move as it appears it would give the Selectmen and Administrator more power over the Water Department.

As a toxicologist who has been involved in town water issues for many years the town should be grateful that a study of water pipes was done although we do not like the price tag it shows future planning and protection of our resources. I urge you to remember that to maintain a good quality water supply is much more complicated and requires a skilled and trained scientist this is much higher level of training then maintaining our roads.”

Elizabeth Bourque-Theiler, PH.D.

Ms. Bourque-Theiler said that she hopes that those questions will be answered in the future, so that residents can understand what is going on.

Mr. Leary said that they were just talking about the idea.

Paul Saulnier, 29 Church Street, asked if the Board had done anything about the parking restrictions in front of the Police Station and the house next door?

Mr. Leary said that they spoke about restricting the parking by putting yellow paint down. Mr. Leary said that the Highway Department will be doing that next week.

Mr. Saulnier also asked about the gas problem on Pleasant Street, and if Dig Safe was contacted before the digging up of the road?

Mr. Le Beau said the Highway Department did not have a Dig Safe number for the area that they were digging up on Pleasant Street. He said they had Dig Safe numbers for other locations on Pleasant Street. Mr. Saulnier asked if the Town was responsible? Mr. Leary said that he did not know what the Town will be responsible for.

Leo Sullivan said he is with a Global Companies and he wanted to make a presentation. He said that this will provide lower rates for electric power. He said that this presentation would take about 20 minutes and he would like to do it at the next meeting.

Mr. Le Beau asked if this presentation would be on the Town side or for the residents.

Mr. Sullivan said all the information would help both residents and Town owned buildings.

Mr. Leary suggested that Mr. Sullivan speak with Mr. Le Beau first.

BOARD BUSINESS

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2012, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE – CENTRAL CAFÉ AND CONVENIENCE AND CELEBRATE HOLLISTON

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A COMMON VICTUALER'S LICENSE FOR CENTRAL CAFÉ AND CONVENIENCE STORE AND CELEBRATE HOLLISTON. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

EVENT PERMIT – TIM'S TROT

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AN EVENT PERMIT FOR TIM'S TROT ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2012, FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – SPECIAL OCCASION SERVERS AND HOLLISTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION SERVERS FOR AN EVENT IN THE UPPER TOWN HALL ON AUGUST 25, 2012, FROM 6:30 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR THE HOLLISTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ON OCTOBER 11, 2012, AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE BREW FEST FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

APPOINTMENT – REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT ELLEN GEORGE AS A REGISTRAR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE OCTOBER 2011 SNOW STORM

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE PAPERWORK FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE OCTOBER 2011 SNOWSTORM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS ABSENT.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – postponed

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE SERGEANT – DAVID GATCHELL

Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk was present to swear in David Gatchell as Sergeant. Sergeant Gatchell thanked all his fellow officers for coming to the ceremony. Sergeant Gatchell thanked his family for all their support. Kathy Gatchell pinned Sergeant Gatchell with his new badge.

POLICE CHIEF – DOWNTOWN STUDY

Chief Moore was present to discuss a crash analysis that was done in the downtown area which included Washington Street and Central Street, and Washington Street and Hollis Street, Washington Street and Charles Street, Washington Street and Green Street.

Chief Moore said that Judi Johnson and Scott Downey helped him with this report, and he thanked them for all their hard work. Chief Moore said that they compiled all the accidents from the last five years and they totaled one hundred.

He said that most of the accidents were at a slow speed. He said that most of the accidents were cars trying to take a left onto Central Street from Washington Street or taking a left from Washington Street to Hollis Street. He said that 96% of the accidents were human error: drivers were not paying attention, or misjudgment. He said that 4% of the accidents, were environmental issues. He said that in the one hundred accidents there were no mechanical failures in the automobiles. Chief Moore said that there have been a few pedestrian accidents and the serious victims were life flighted. The rest went to the hospital by ambulance. Chief Moore said that the top three hours of crashes were between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 15%, and between 11:00 a.m. and noon at 11% and between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. 10% of the accidents.

He said that the most crashes were on Fridays followed by Mondays and then Wednesdays. He said that 72% of the operators were Holliston residents.

Mr. Conley said that the report was very accurate. He also said that if we move traffic off Washington Street it will go through the small streets around the downtown area, trying to beat the light change. Mr. Conley said that we should have a professional traffic study done.

Mr. Le Beau said that he liked all the information that the Chief provided. He said that there could be a road safety audit done by the DOT. Mr. Leary said that he hopes that we can take advantage of it. Chief Moore said that since July 1st, there have been three more accidents. Chief Moore said that a road safety audit can be done at no cost to the Town. He said that there would need to be feedback from the Fire Chief, the Highway Department, the Planning Board and the Selectmen as well.

Mr. Leary asked about courtesy crashes. Chief Moore said for example that someone is at Hollis Street and Washington Street trying to take a left onto Washington Street and there is a car on Washington Street trying to take a left onto Hollis Street. The car on Washington Street waves the car from Hollis Street onto Washington and there is a car in the right travel lane and then they get hit. He said that it happens because they can't see them.

Mr. Leary said that they want to make the intersections safer. He said that in the past few years, the traffic has gotten crazy. Mr. Leary said that he did his own independent study of the downtown and he stood there for about two hours at the corner of Central Street and Washington Street. He then he moved to Washington Street and Hollis Street. He said that he saw lots of driver's texting while driving. He also said that many people complain about the pedestrian lights, he said that half the time people do not even use them. He said that a lot jay walk and other walk across in the crosswalk but do not hit the light button. Mr. Leary thinks we should put lights at the base of the lights to help bring attention to them. Mr. Leary said that the Highway Superintendent is going to look into a white strobe light as well. Mr. Leary also spoke about the parking space at the crosswalk and he thought we should get rid of it. He said that if a large car or truck is parked there, you can't see around it. He suggested that we make it a handicap parking spot just like we did in front of the Town Hall. He said that would limit the number of cars that can park there. Mr. Leary said that if lights do go in the downtown area, there could be a back up of 50 cars between lights. He said that cars will be trying to go around it by going through the neighborhoods. Mr. Leary said that the police have been in the downtown area making sure that things go smoothly.

Carl Damigella, 448 Underwood Street, said that when they did the traffic study in 2006, they did not have the assistance of the DOT until the last phase of the project. He said that he tried to reduce the speed of the traffic from Church Place to School Street to 20 MPH. Mr. Leary suggested that Safety Officer Matthew Waugh be involved.

Paul Saulnier, Church Street, asked if they did their report with age as a factor. Chief Moore said no. Chief Moore said that he was forwarded an e-mail from Bob Palmer and Chief Moore wanted it to be in the record. Chief Moore said that Mr. Palmer is concerned about the downtown area.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY
PERSONNEL – postponed**

**AT 8:20 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS
SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. MARSDEN WAS
ABSENT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

approved _____