

## HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 28, 2011  
7:30 P.M.

Town Hall  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

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:**

12-23	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 40,043.17
	TOWN PAYROLL	\$ 87,453.10
	TOTAL WARRANT	\$127,496.27

### ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID:  
\$ 28,391.41

### TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST:  
\$ 18,199.96

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

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Conley said that the Holiday Stroll was a huge success. He said that downtown was packed with people. He also said that business in town is picking up.

Mr. Conley congratulated the High School Football team on their win over Westwood on Thanksgiving. He said that they will be playing for a playoff position on Tuesday November 29, 2011. Mr. Conley said that John Shanahan will no longer be writing for the Holliston Patch. Mr. Conley said that Holliston will be having a tire recycling day on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Marshall Street Recycling Center. Residents may bring up to 12 tires, car and small truck tires only. He said this would be from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Conley said no rims on the tires.

Mr. Marsden said that the Holiday Stroll was a great night. He said that there was a PA system all over Town. He said that music was playing throughout the night. He also said that there was live music being played. Mr. Marsden said that after 40 years of service as Veterans Agent, Tony Mastroianni is stepping down and John Givner will be taking over. He will work out of the Ashland Town Hall but he will cover Hopkinton, Medway, Ashland and Holliston. Mr. Marsden said that he will be starting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Marsden said that Mark Ahronhian, Tree Warden has been going around town marking trees that need to be removed. Mr. Marsden said that Mr. Ahronhian would like to get these trees down before winter.

There were no comments from the audience.

**MINUTES**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2011, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2011, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR. (MR. LEARY SAID THAT THIS WAS A HCAT TAPING).**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2011, AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.  
(MR. MARSDEN SAID THAT THIS WAS THE MEETING AT MISSION SPRINGS).**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE, BUT NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2011,. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AND RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR APRIL 14, 2008. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AND RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2010. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE AND RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2011. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS – CENTRAL STREET**

Mr. Le Beau said that the description of the changes is that now there will be parking on Meader Row. Mr. Le Beau said that the signs that the business owners requested do not need to be part of the Traffic Rules & Orders.

Mr. Leary said there is no need to vote on this, only to sign this Order.

**INDIAN RIDGE SOUTH ROAD ACCEPTANCE PLAN**

Postponed

**APPOINTMENTS – ASSISTANT TREASURER, COUNCIL ON AGING AND INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT STEPHANIE FOLEY AS THE ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT LORRAINE BOLES AS THE RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPOINT ELIZABETH RIPLEY TO THE COUNCIL ON AGING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**BURNAP ROAD CONDOMINIUM**

Mr. Marsden said that he has a letter from Bryan Clancy Chairman of the Housing Trust. He said that at Town Meeting, it was voted to transfer 44 Burnap Road, unit #3, to the Housing Trust. Mr. Marsden said that CPC allocated funds to allow the Housing Trust to renovate the unit so that it could be sold at a lottery, so that it could be part of the 10% of the subsidized housing in Town. Mr. Marsden said that the Housing Trust has been working with the Condominium Trust and is trying to reduce the debt that comes along with the condominium fees.

Mr. Leary said that he would like to see the legal fees be paid back.

Mr. Conley said that the Housing Trust is looking for the most that they can get, and they need assistance. Mr. Conley said that if the Housing Trust could get the obligation lowered it would make their job much easier to get this property ready to be sold at lottery.

Mr. Marsden said that he was hoping that the Condominium Association was going to come down more on the outstanding balance. He said that there are only a hand-full of units on Burnap Road. Mr. Marsden said that if they covered half of it, it would help.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE 44 BURNAP ROAD CONDOMINIUM UNIT # 3 TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,039.14 TO THE HOUSING TRUST. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**LAND TRANSFER TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Le Beau said that this just needs to be signed by the Board.

**HOLIDAY DISPLAY**

Mr. Le Beau said that the Lions' Club has put in an application for Holiday lights around the down town area. Mr. Le Beau said that the Lions' Club has been putting up lights for the past ten years.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR THE LIONS' CLUB TO PUT UP HOLIDAY LIGHTING IN THE DOWN TOWN AREA. THE**

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MARSDEN. TWO IN FAVOR. MR. CONLEY ABSTAINED. (MR. CONLEY IS A LIONS' CLUB MEMBER)**

More Comments from the Board

Mr. Leary congratulated Christopher Bajdek, of the Conservation Commission who just completed a Conservation Commission Certificate training program. Mr. Leary said that there are a lot of rules and regulations concerning wetlands.

Mr. Conley said that he has spoken with a few of the Medway Selectmen and he has been comparing the numbers. Mr. Conley said that the total budget for Holliston is fifty million and the total budget for Medway is forty-six million. Mr. Conley said that Holliston is ten percent higher in budget. Mr. Conley said that Holliston is six percent higher in population. In dollars spent per person, we, are four percent higher. Mr. Conley said that for the education budget for the schools, we spent 54.15% of the budget. He said that Medway is 52.55%. Mr. Conley said that Holliston spent 14% more than Medway. Mr. Conley spoke about benefits and insurance. He said that Holliston is at 12.89% and Medway is 14.8%. He said that Holliston spends less than Medway in benefits and insurance. Mr. Conley spoke about debt service and said that Holliston is at 10.9% and Medway is at 6.45%. He said that public safety Holliston is at 5.6% percent and Medway is at 5.93%. He said that Highway and water Holliston is at 4.69% and Medway is at 7.23%. Mr. Conley said that solid waste in Holliston is at 2.4% percent and Medway spends 2.85%. Mr. Conley also spoke about revenue. He said property tax levy, that Holliston is at thirty three million and Medway is at twenty eight million. Mr. Conley said that Holliston raised nineteen percent more. He then went on to state aid. He said that Holliston gets eight and half million and Medway gets eleven point two million. Mr. Conley said that Holliston is a bigger Town and we get less state aid than Medway. Mr. Conley said that this should be investigated and see if we are missing something.

Mr. Leary said that this number is misleading, because if you look at other towns in our area, they are not getting what Holliston gets.

Mr. Conley said that as far a benchmarking as performance indicators he said this is what he started with. He said that he would like to add some towns around us, Millis, Hopkinton, Ashland and Norfolk. Then put it all together and see where we are in comparison.

Mr. Leary said that you have to put the numbers in prospective. He said that on the education budget he would like to see how MCAS compares to scoring on a percentage of the budget.

Mr. Conley said that everything would have to be verified and then analyzed.

Mr. Conley said that this is just the start and he is going to pursue it.

Mr. Le Beau said that on the state aid figure in, addition to the 8.5 million, we also get about 2.2 million in school building assistance reimbursements. He was not sure if Medway gets those reimbursements and if they do is it rolled into that figure.

Mr. Le Beau said that if we add our figures it is much closer to Medway's figure.

Mr. Leary asked if the Board wanted to get together early some morning, before work? He said that they could just get together for about 1 hour. Mr. Leary also said that they should have a monthly coffee hour.

Mr. Conley said that C&R Hot Dogs has offered to host.

### **TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING**

**AT 8:00 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO OPEN AND READ THE TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING NOTICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Kathryn Peirce, Principal Assessor; John Cronin, Chairman of Board of Assessor; Peter Barbieri and Brian Loughlin, joined the Board

John Cronin passed out an informational package. Mr. Cronin said that on one of the pages there is a error under the single tax rate, he said that the multiplier of .01828 should be .01832. Mr. Cronin said that the Board of Assessors recommends the factor of one (1) for the tax rate. He said that the new rate will be \$18.32. He said that this rate is an increase from \$17.24. He said that there were a few factors. Mr. Cronin said that the single tax rate has been in place for many years. Mr. Cronin said that there are multiple discounts available. He said that the first one is an open space discount. He said that this is a common discount for properties that have a large agricultural footing. Mr. Cronin said that Holliston has 7% of commercial property. Mr. Cronin said that there are 108 commercial properties in Town. Mr. Cronin said that Kathryn Peirce has done a wonderful job with adapting to the commercial side of taxes. He said that commercial is very different than residential property.

Mr. Cronin said that they evaluate properties, and this is the first time since 2007 that properties values have not dropped. He said that they have gone up a small amount. Mr. Cronin said that residents are putting more into their property with improvements.

Mr. Leary asked how quickly, are the Assessors picking up on the new growth from home improvements.

Mr. Cronin said from home inspections and from the permits that are pulled.

Mr. Leary asked what the average value home. Mr. Cronin said \$377,499.

Mr. Cronin said the rate is a reflection of the town's need to raise and appropriate more revenue. Mr. Cronin said that the average homeowner will pay \$200.00 more in taxes.

Mr. Leary asked about abatements, had they seen more? Mr. Cronin said that they look at the exemptions. He did say that they saw a few more.

Ms. Peirce said that she is still waiting to have the single rate be certified by the DOR.

There were no comments from the audience

**AT 8:15 P.M., MR. CONLEY MOVED TO CLOSE THE HEARING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LEARY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADOPT A RESIDENTIAL FACTOR OF ONE AND VOTE NO ON ADOPTING A RESIDENT EXEMPTION ALONG WITH VOTING NO TO ADOPT A SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION AND ALSO NO ON THE OPEN SPACE DISCOUNT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

Mr. Leary said that in a memo from Mary Bousquet, Collector of Taxes, the Selectmen are required to levy and to collect from residents a solid waste fee. Mr. Leary said that the total is \$540,640.

**MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SOLID WASTE LEVY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$540,640. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**AT 8:20 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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