

HOLLISTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 10, 2012
7:00 A.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Town Hall

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

MR. CONLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WARRANT:

13-16	GENERAL WARRANT	\$ 240,253.08
	VOIDS	\$ (801.82)
	COMMUNITY PRESERVATION (265)	\$ 472.00
	HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST (701)	\$ 533.92
	PERFORMANCE DEPOSITS (801)	\$ 50.00
	AGENCY (890) VETERANS DISTRICT PAYROLL	\$ 1,021.08
	COMMUNITY PRESERVATION (265) PAYROLL	\$ 1,488.00
	GENERAL PAYROLL WARRANT	\$1,120,990.26
	TOTAL PAYROLL	\$1,123,499.34
	TOTAL WARRANT	\$1,364,258.52

ACCOUNTANT'S NOTE:

ACCRUED DEDUCTION LIABILITIES NOT PAID

\$ 177,107.06

TREASURER'S NOTE:

WIRE TO HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST

\$ 140,915.89

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

WARRANT FOR OCTOBER 29, 2012, SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Leary asked if there were any unpaid bills. Mr. Le Beau said yes, \$9,486.90. Mr. Leary asked what are they for? Mr. Le Beau said medical services, legal services, police supplies and the wastewater facility.

Mr. Leary said that he had a question on Article 10 (OPEB Trust). He said that it talks about a Board of Trustees, but does not say who. Mr. Marsden said the Town Administrator, Treasurer/Collector, Chairman of Board of Selectmen, someone from the schools and a citizen. Mr. Leary said that we should pinpoint who from the schools because it will be asked. The School Superintendent said that the decision from the schools is a decision by the School Committee. Mr. Marsden said that he would like to have a School Committee member as a Trustee. Mr. Conley said that the representative from the school should be a School Committee member or a school employee that lives in town. Mr. Marsden said that he would be in touch with Ms. Plunkett, the Chairperson of the School Committee. Mr. Leary also asked about the buy back sick leave amount. Mr. Marsden said that we have always been able to cover the amount. Mr. Marsden said that it has not been a big deal. Mr. Leary said that we can give the Finance Committee the amount of the retirees that get their sick time buy back but it is a different number every year. Mr. Le Beau said that there are about 100 town employees that do not work for the schools. He said as an example if everyone walked out the door at the same time,

it would be \$430,000, assuming that everyone had the same benefits. He said that on average it is about \$4,300 per person.

Mr. Leary also asked about health insurance for elected officials. Mr. Marsden said that they are waiting for information from Attorney Carey. Mr. Marsden said that when he reads the legislation it looks like you have to offer health insurance to elected officials if they put in a certain amount of hours. Mr. Le Beau said that his understanding was the Board could establish a policy that limits eligibility based on hours. He also said that the Board can institute a policy based on the amount of the stipend. He said that if we want to base it on the amount of the stipend, then they need to pass a special act. Mr. Le Beau said that Article 18 talks about the stipend amount for health insurance.

Mr. Le Beau said that the Selectmen could set their own policy that says if you are an elected official and work less than 20 hours per week, you do not get health insurance.

Mr. Le Beau said that chances are, that will not be challenged, but it is possible.

Mr. Conley said that this was brought up at Town Meeting and it needs to be resolved on Town Meeting floor.

Mr. Leary asked about Article 15. Is the money coming from water surplus? Mr. Le Beau said that the Water Department is proposing to transfer money from other special articles. Mr. Le Beau said that it is water funds. Mr. Le Beau said it is in the amount of \$155,000. Mr. Le Beau said that the funds will be transferred from three other water articles.

Mr. Leary asked if the article for the new Web-site is in the Warrant. Mr. Le Beau said yes it is. Mr. Conley said that they have two estimates. One is much higher than the other. Mr. Conley said that the Finance Committee wanted to see estimates. Mr. Leary asked if we should get a better package together before we give this to the Finance Committee. Mr. Conley said that if they use the vendor that is going to charge us \$7,500, that amount is for the first year. Then there is a monthly maintenance fee of up to \$350.00 per month. Mr. Leary said that it will cost about \$11,000 for the first year in total. Mr. Conley said that we could spread it out over three years for an additional \$7,500. Mr. Conley said that the maintenance for the first year is free. Mr. Leary asked Mr. Conley to go back to the vendor and get all the information so that they have everything together to give to the Finance Committee next week.

Mr. Le Beau said that the Water Department had a revenue short fall in FY 2012, so they owe money to the General Fund. Mr. Le Beau said it is in the amount of \$25,000. Mr. Le Beau said the Water Department was warned last spring that this was going to happen. Mr. Leary asked if we were going to go with Global Montello Group for electricity? Mr. Le Beau said yes.

Mr. Le Beau said that he will make the adjustments to the Warrant as amended.

MR. LEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

CHIEF CASSIDY

Chief Cassidy said that he is not on the agenda but he did have the answers to questions that were posed last week.

Mr. Le Beau said that the firefighter's stipend would be addressed in Article 2 for Town Meeting. He said that this is the Article that allows adjustments to this Fiscal Year budget. Chief Cassidy passed out an informational package.

Mr. Marsden said that they spoke about changes in the stipend for firefighters. He said that this looks like a modest increase. Mr. Conley asked Chief Cassidy how many "white powder" calls do you get a year? Chief Cassidy said that they had one in the early spring. He said usually they do not get many calls for that. He said that in 2011 there were a lot of calls. He said that they did at least 6 calls for white powder. Mr. Conley asked how many "hazmat calls" do they get? Chief Cassidy said about the same. Mr. Conley asked how many "suspicious calls" do they get? Chief Cassidy said that they get one or two a year. Mr. Conley asked how many "car accidents" do they go to? Chief Cassidy said that the Fire Department does not go to all accidents. He said that if there is a reported injury the ambulance will respond. He said that if there was a fire or entrapment then they send an engine. Chief Cassidy said that they use the jaws of life four to six times per year, and an equal amount of times for a smoking car.

Mr. Conley asked how many "structure" fires do they go to per year? Chief Cassidy said that they publish a log that is available, but they will go to eight to twelve structure fires per year. Mr. Conley asked how many "brush" fires does the Fire Department go to each year? Chief Cassidy said that it varies, he said that one year they went to three thousand or it could be six or eight. Chief Cassidy said that four out of fifty-five firefighters have national certification. He said that they should be paid a higher rate. Chief Cassidy also said this is a voluntary certification. He said that if it were available to them as a benefit, they probably all take the test.

Mr. Leary asked about the hourly pay. How did you get that number? Chief Cassidy said that it was the average of the 15 months from the responses. Mr. Leary said that he wanted to carve training out of the stipend. Chief Cassidy said that we discussed last week that in the past if the stipend was for meeting attendance and carrying the pager. He said that other departments are compensated for training. Chief Cassidy said that training is three hours. Mr. Leary said that the stipend is too much at this time. Mr. Leary said that we can argue the merits of the stipend, but it is still a 7% increase over the current stipend. Chief Cassidy said that there are bigger stipends for different Boards.

Mr. Conley said the stipend covers the meeting attendance. Mr. Leary said that the training is not covered by the stipend. Chief Cassidy said that he would like to see that his employees get paid for training, just like any other department. Mr. Conley said that for the proposed stipend they would have to carry the pager 24 hours a day 7 days a week. He said that meeting attendance is not covered by this projected stipend amount. Chief Cassidy said that the firefighters are leaving their full-time jobs making between \$60.00 and \$120.00 per hour. He said that they are all self-employed. He said that they are leaving a job that pays their bills to go to an on-call job that pays \$18.50 per hour.

Chief Cassidy said that it is a sacrifice for them to come to a call. Mr. Conley said that he is learning all kinds of things, but he still thinks that he needs more information. Mr. Leary proposed to increase the stipend to \$2,000 with training included and increase the hourly pay. Mr. Marsden said that he agrees. Mr. Conley said that it would be a 34% increase. Mr. Marsden said that he can't make the Monday evening meeting with the firefighters. He asked if it could wait until the November meeting. Mr. Leary said that he would like to see this done before Town Meeting. Mr. Leary said that they Selectmen will still meet with the Fire Department on Monday the 15th of October at 9:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the fire station.

LIAISONS

Postponed

SOLID WASTE FEE

Mr. Le Beau said that the Treasurer/Collector is going to issue the trash bill. Mr. Le Beau said that there was talk at Town Meeting about lowering the fee from \$140.00 to \$125.00. The Board will discuss the lowering of the trash fee at the next meeting. Mr. Le Beau said that there is still the question about senior trash stickers. Mr. Le Beau said that the solid waste fee and the senior stickers should all be discussed at the same time

TOWN HALL HOURS

Mr. Leary asked if they were going to make a change in Town Hall hours. Mr. Le Beau said that they will put it on the agenda for next week.

AT 7:59 A.M., MR. LEARY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. CONLEY. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Muzzy

Approved_____