

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2023**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Stephanie Mulroy, Richard Bates (participating remotely), Geri Herlihy

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Steven Madaus, Town Counsel
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (Participating remotely)

Not Present: Anthony Renzoni, Thomas Curran, Stephanie King

Chairman Mulroy called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Mulroy stated that Sel. Bates was participating remotely this evening and all votes would be taken by a roll call vote.

1. Citizens Address

Janice Wilber, 142 Jackson Street, was present at the meeting. She stated that other than all the road work being done in Town her concern was that she lived by Princeton Street and there was water across the road that has been there for over a month. She stated that they were fixing it but stopped and it was not being taken care of and winter was coming. She wanted to bring attention to this.

2. Appointments, Licenses, Permits

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPOINT BRYAN DIEHL TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AS AN ALTERNATE FROM 11/6/23-11/6/26 AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO REAPPOINT JIM DUNN TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FOR THE DATES OF 11/2/23-11/2/26 AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

3. Tax Classification Public Hearing

Rosemary Scully was present at the meeting. She provided the Board with a presentation of findings from the year. She thanked her staff for their hard work all year.

She stated that the Board of Assessors was recommending that the Board vote for a residential factor of 1 which gives the Town a single tax rate. She stated that the excess levy capacity is \$924,195 and if they go with single tax rate it will drop to \$14.15/ thousand which is what will be submitted to the state.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ANNUAL TAX CLASSIFICATION.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Chairman Mulroy asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak.

Gordon McFee, 428 Salisbury Street, was present at the meeting. He stated that this is a great town to live in, but there is no commercial business to offset the residential numbers. He stated that he was in favor of the single tax rate for all classes of property.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ANNUAL TAX CLASSIFICATION.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO SET A RESIDENTIAL TAX PAYER RATE OF ONE.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

4. Recreational Facility Update

Mr. Lukes stated that he met with the Committee last week and they were going through permitting with the Conservation Commission. He stated that cost estimate has increased as everything else has increased because of inflation over the last year plus. He stated that because of that the estimates seem to be higher than originally expected, but they won't know the actual prices until the bidding. He stated Weston and Sampson is historically high but they won't know those final numbers until the project goes to bid. He stated that because of that change, the committee is working to take what was originally spoken about with the original project and incorporate some aspects of that in additions and alternatives. He stated this would mean some parts could be picked and chosen as the project moves forward. He stated that this gives some flexibility to the project. He stated right now the Committee is working to see what can be shaved off and what can be added to the addition/alternative part of the bid.

Mr. Lukes stated that the timeline is to release the bid about the first of the year. He stated late winter/ early spring they should see some movement. If the Committee decides they need supplemental funding they will put together a proposal and bring it to Town Meeting in May and the voters will decide.

Chairman Mulroy asked when the project would be playable.

Mr. Lukes replied stated that he would guess the spring of 2025. He stated permitting and bidding takes some time and then construction. He stated that the Town is seeding and trying get the current fields ready for spring, but there is only so much that can be done.

5. Town Manager Update

See attached

6. Response to Citizens Address

The Citizen was still present and indicated that the Town Manager answered her question.

7. Selectmen Minutes

None

8. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Chairman Mulroy stated that she was at Colony Retirement Home and they had a lively conversation about getting more information out to the senior community. She stated that they were trying to begin a council that included a representative from each of the communities in Town to help with communication. She stated anyone that would like more information could reach her via email.

Chairman Mulroy reminded everyone of the election tomorrow.

Sel. Bates thanked the Town Manager for the update on the ECC; he asked if they could fence off the property.

Mr. Lukes stated that the EPA equipment on site was vandalized overnight. He stated that it stemmed from the fact that the schools had a day off and there were kids on the roof and in the building. He stated it was boarded up but the fact that there is live security now is great. He stated that fencing was not feasible based on the size and scope of the property and they were excited to reach a point when they can demolish the building.

Sel. Bates asked for the information and communication to be as good as possible going forward for the add/alt piece of the Recreational Facility Project.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 6, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:10PM.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

APPROVED: 1/22/24

