

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2022**

6:30 PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Robert Lavigne, Richard Bates (Participating Remotely), Chiara Barnes, Anthony Renzoni

Not Present: Geri Herlihy, Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager, Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Barnes stated that Sel. Bates was participating remotely; she confirmed that Sel. Bates was able to hear her.

1. Citizen Address

Dan Marinome, 37 Villages Way, Jefferson was present at the meeting. He stated that he wanted to let the Board know about exciting things that were happening at Eagle Lake. He stated that NE Canoe and Kayak would be there on May 14 and there will be both expert and novice kayakers on the lake. He stated that they would be working with the new Recreation Director to advertise the fishing, hiking, ice skating and more that was ongoing. He stated they were also working with Holden Christian Academy to bring some education about tree markings and wild life to the kids. He stated that Jefferson Mill was moving on nicely and that it was getting restored which was great to see. He stated that there was more to come and that it was all at no cost to the town. He thanked the Board for allowing them to give an update and they were looking forward to more to come.

2. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT FOR HCA FOR 5K RUN/WALK ON MAY 21, 2022 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes; Sel. Bates; yes; Sel. Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE JAMES AMORELLO FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR A PERIOD OF 3/31/22 TO 3/31/25 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

3. Polling Locations

Sel. Lavigne stated that this is first year six precincts were being used in town; he asked if we had updated the addresses on the town's website.

Mr. Lukes replied it was the Secretary of States website; not the towns but that it was updated.

Sel. Lavigne asked if there had been a lot of communication to the public on this.

Mr. Lukes replied that he would work with the Town Clerk to get more communication out to the public.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE POLLING LOCATIONS AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

4. FY 2023 Budget Discussion

Sel. Renzoni stated that he had asked for the budget discussion to be a reoccurring item on the agenda to keep the Board members informed. He asked about the offset that had come up with regards to the district.

Mr. Lukes replied that in the hearings that they had with the district it appeared that it was renewable funds and the only one that had to do with transportation stabilization was relatively small so Fin Com was fairly satisfied that it seemed stable.

Sel. Renzoni asked about the capital request from the school district for Dawson.

Mr. Lukes replied that it had not been put in front of Fin Com yet and that it was in front of the School Committee but as of yet there was not a lot of background, reports, or solid information that was provided to the town. He stated that prior to putting this in motion more information was needed.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Board needed to articulate to the District that they could not put a capital project on the Town Warrant without first explaining the need and studying it and then getting a proper cost estimate.

Sel. Renzoni stated that there were PTA members in the audience. He stated no study had been done and a number was thrown out to the district for the cost of the bathrooms.

Sel. Lavigne stated that the cost seemed high for the bathroom; he asked if it required all new plumbing.

Sel. Renzoni stated that they could potentially speak about allocating money for a study if the problem could be articulated and then next year they could speak about a warrant article. He asked if this issue was highlighted in the town's study of its buildings.

Mr. Lukes replied that there was a formula used that took into consideration the amount of boys/ girls and the population of the school.

Sel. Renzoni asked if this could be added to the next meeting's agenda and have someone come in and explain exactly what is being asked for. He stated that if there was a serious problem they need to take action but more information was needed. He stated that as per the Regional Agreement, anything over \$35K would be the town's responsibility wholly.

The Board discussed the budget. Sel. Lavigne stated that the way the school budget is run is problematic because it is not sustainable. He stated that you can not bank on offsets because it is not revenue. He stated to sustain that you need to have taxes go up.

Sel. Renzoni thanked the Town Manager for producing a budget that was close to 2.5%. He stated that he wanted to better understand the offsets with the schools and he wanted to discuss the budget at every meeting going forward.

Mr. Lukes stated that Fin Com had met four times and had already covered police, fire, EMS, Culture, and School Districts. He stated that DPW and Water/ Sewer were up next.

5. Town Manager Update

See attached

6. Response to Citizens Address

The Board thanked Mr. Marinome and the Town Manager for their work. They stated that Friends of Eagle Lake was doing a great job of keeping the lake relevant and while it was going to look different they were doing a great job.

7. Selectmen Minutes

None

8. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Lavigne asked about the snow and ice budget.

Mr. Lukes replied that we were now in a deficit because of the last storm.

The Board thanked the DPW for their great job with the handling of the storms.

Sel. Lavigne stated that Main Street had taken a beating this year with pot holes and he just wanted to remind the residents that Main Street was a state highway and that it was the states responsibility to patch them.

Mr. Lukes stated that there would be a complete resurfacing in the next year so the issue would resolve itself.

Sel. Renzoni asked if there were temporary patches that would be done.

Mr. Lukes replied that DPW reported issues to MA DOT.

Sel. Lavigne suggested that they add a traffic study to the Boards agenda. He stated that they maybe should discuss updates to Main Street again.

Mr. Lukes replied that the Shrewsbury Street project was moved up a year so that would be an improvement. He stated there would be a lot of road construction in Holden in the next few years.

Sel. Bates: none

Sel. Renzoni stated that that at the next meeting they would take a vote to freeze rates until further notice. He stated that with an increase in gas costs every bit helps.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he also had questions on the dog licensing fees and wanted to talk about that more so he asked for that to be added to the agenda.

Sel. Barnes: none

9. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Renzoni stated that the All Inclusive Playground Committee was ready to go.

Sel. Lavigne stated that EDC was continuing with their great work and had lots of big ideas to get the community back together.

Sel. Bates: none

Sel. Barnes: none

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO ADJORN THE MARCH 14, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:09 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

APPROVED: 8/29/22