

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 19, 2021**

**6:35PM**

**Memorial Hall**

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Chiara Barnes, Geri Herlihy (participating remotely via phone)

Not Present: Robert Lavigne

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager  
Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager  
Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel  
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Sel. Renzoni called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Sel. Renzoni announced that Sel. Herlihy is participating remotely via phone.

**1. Citizen Address**

Chris Buck 2046 Main Street-was present at the meeting. He thanked everyone for pushing the issue of brown water along. He stated that he understood the theories but was disappointed that they did not have a long term solution. He stated that he also looked at the data that was collected and his issues started in March of 2013. He stated that he has had 20 separate incidents and all were documented with email and phone calls. Mr. Buck stated that with regards to the filtration system that was suggested, the problem with that was that there was an unknown expense and after 12 months the home owner would be on their own. He asked what the Town has done to let people know what the town would do if you were experiencing brown water

**2. WRSD Discussion**

Mr. Lukes stated that the Chair of Fin Com, the Board, and the Town Manager all met to have a discussion about FY 22 Budget. He stated that they spoke in generalities and they did not have any hard numbers which made it difficult for the school and town to budget. He stated that the School District had a significant increase that they were not anticipating and that they expected the full break down along with state aid by the end of the month. Mr. Lukes stated that he told the District that Holden would not be able to bare a significant increase and he expressed to the Superintendent that they could not go over \$1 million.

Mr. Lukes stated that the Town was maintaining the cost of living and that they set the pattern with setting non union raises to 1% and level funding other things. He stated that the town was looking to postpone capital purchasing and putting things on hold and that

they expected the District to do the same. He stated that there were other towns in worse shape than Holden and they would not be able to withstand the increase either.

Mr. Lukes stated that if the District comes in higher they will be in the red and will need to bring it down or may have a Prop 2.5% override. He stated he has no idea what the District will bring forward. He stated that the town is hitting the pause button this year because of Covid and the economy and he expects the schools to do the same.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he thinks that they need to work on messaging and explaining to the public what is going on. He asked if they have spoken to Representative Ferguson at this point.

Mr. Lukes stated that the initial indication has been that they will level fund us. He stated that the Town does not rely heavily on state funding and that if it is level funded he would be happy. He stated that property values have sky rocketed so taxes will rise and business generation is down. He stated that if they can identify something that they don't have to spend this year they will try to carry over to free cash.

Mr. Lukes stated that they made the effort to tighten the budget despite what they have in reserves. He stated that he has to deliver the budget to Fin Com and will do the Resource Profile on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN LAVIGNE TO PEN A MEMO TO THE HOLDEN DELINEATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE THE BOARDS INTENT TO LEVEL FUND.** (Barnes: yes; Gibbs: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

### **3. Town Manager Update**

Mr. Lukes stated that there was no formal memo. He stated that the Budget hearings were going reasonably well. He stated that certain things go up every year such as insurance and that they were looking in every corner to keep the budget low. He stated that they were also working with some legal issues with contracts and he would have an announcement next week.

### **4. Response to Citizens Address**

Sel. Gibbs thanked Mr. Buck for coming out. He stated that he knows that he has come to a lot of meetings and thinks this conversation was going to be ongoing. He stated that he wants to keep up with DPW and see what options could be explored.

Sel. Renzoni suggested to continue to work with DPW and he thanked him for keeping the Board apprised.

### **5. Selectmen Minutes**

None

**6. Selectmen Subcommittee**

None

**7. Selectmen Miscellaneous**

None

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJORN THE JANUARY 19, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

**APPROVED:** July 12, 2021