

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2020**

6:30PM

Senior Center

Present: Robert Lavigne, Anthony Renzoni (via telephone), Tyler Gibbs, Chiara Barnes

Not present: Geri Herlihy

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

Chairman Lavigne called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Lavigne stated that Sel. Renzoni was participating via telephone for the record. He confirmed that Sel. Renzoni was able to hear him.

1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE ELECTION WORKERS FROM 9/14/20-8/31/21 AS PRESENTED.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes).

Mr. Lukes stated that with regards to Ms. Milliken; she was still eligible to serve on the Cultural Council. He stated based on the amount of work she had put forth she wanted to finish out the year even though she had moved out of Town.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPOINT JESS MILLIKEN TO THE CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF 9/5/20-9/5/2023.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes).

Ms. Lynch, Constable was present at the meeting.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPOINT KIMBERLY LYNCH AS CONSTABLE FROM 9/14/20-9/14/2023 AS PRESENTED.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes).

2. Citizen Address

Joe Sabato, 47 Bolder Hill Road, was present at the meeting. He stated that he was in Emergency Medicine and wanted to bring something up to the Board of Selectmen regarding traffic safety issues in Jefferson. He stated that there was not a speed limit sign in North Jefferson. He stated that it was very dangerous for people trying to use the roads for recreation. He stated that additionally there was no stop signs for the intersections from Wachusett to Princeton and he thinks that it needs to be posted before someone gets hurt. He stated that part of his background in emergency medicine was to be involved in Safe Communities and he thinks there is an opportunity in Holden to be safer.

3. Response to Citizens Address

Chairman Lavigne asked what the process was for the Town to review and approve street signs.

Mr. Lukes stated that signs were difficult to do because it involved engineering however enforcement was easy enough and they could ask the Chief of Police to have detail there to help the issue. He stated that they could look into signs but it would be a longer process.

Sel. Renzoni asked if the Town still had a Traffic Advisory Committee that was active.

Mr. Lukes replied that it is no longer active but when things like this happen, having police set up mobile signs or being present seems to be effective.

4. Town Manager Update

See Attached

5. Selectmen Minutes

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE MAY 18, 2020 AS PRESENTED.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes).

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE JUNE 1, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes).

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE JUNE 15, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: abstain).

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE JUNE 29, 2020 BOARD OF**

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. (Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes).

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE JULY 20, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN PRE MEETING- CULTURAL COUNCIL APPROVAL- AS PRESENTED BY A VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Gibbs: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes; Barnes: abstain).

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE JULY 20, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AS PRESENTED BY A VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Gibbs: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes; Barnes: abstain).

6. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Renzoni: none

Sel. Barnes: none

Sel. Gibbs: none

Chairman Lavigne asked if they had heard anything from the district about before and after school care.

Mr. Lukes replied they had not; he stated that Ms. Moreno had reached out and that they are in a place right now that they can not give the town any real information. He stated that the town would love to run some sort of pod program while maintaining Covid compliance as he sees a huge benefit to it however it has yet to be figured out and the principals of the schools have some say as well.

Sel. Renzoni suggested recognizing the Senior Center Staff for everything they have done through Covid. He stated that they have done a great job and that he wants to vote on an accommodation for them. He suggested putting it on for next meeting.

Mr. Lukes replied he would. He stated that the Senior Center runs the Help at Home program and that they do have some cash on hand to assist in light of Covid and economic problems and employment impacts. He stated that people could call the Senior Center for more information about any of the programs.

7. Selectmen Subcommittees

None

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:10PM.**

APPROVED: 12/7/20



TOWN OF HOLDEN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Peter M. Lukes
Town Manager

September 10, 2020

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter M. Lukes,
Town Manager

SUBJECT: *Town Manager Update*

1. **Primary Election** – The state primary election was held on September 1, with early, mail in and absentee voting providing a number of easier and more recent means of casting our votes. The Town Clerk's office did a magnificent job of keeping everything organized along with providing an ease of voting for our residents in light of COVID complications. The voter turnout was exceptional. The Clerk's office received 4,118 mail in ballot requests. We had 276 people vote in person during the week of August 22 to the 28th at the Senior Center. We had 233 absentee voters for a grand total of 4,627 before the polls opened on September first. We received 3,196 ballots back before the official opening of the polls which is a 76% return.

In-person voting at the poll produced an additional 2,242 voters for a grand total of 5,438 voters out of 14,300 registered voters or 38%. Many thanks to Jeanne Survell, our Town Clerk, along with Assistant Town Clerk Liz Monahan and Senior Clerk Sue Lucia. Additionally, our election workers and volunteers did a tremendous job.

Information ☒ [X] Vote ☐ [] Signature ☐ []

2. **Town Pool** – The Town Pool has closed for the season. The annual revenue report along with the three year comparison are included in your packet. Obviously, COVID restrictions had an extreme impact on our revenue this year. Our costs to operate the pool are a little over \$200,000, and our revenues this year were about \$86,000. As you can see, our inability to run any full day programs, and half capacity for classes and half day programs took their toll on revenue. An almost entire lack of day pass sales along with no parties made up a huge part of the deficit in revenue as well. Obviously, we could not continue to run the pool under similar circumstances next year if COVID restrictions are not amended or removed completely.

Information ☒ [X] Vote ☐ [] Signature ☐ []

3. **18 Industrial Drive** – We are in the process of finalizing the contract for the construction of the new DPW Facility on Industrial Drive. I anticipate that the General Contractor who was awarded the bid (M. O'Connor, Inc) will sign it and return it to the Town this week. Once I sign the contract, our timeline will begin for what we anticipate to be a fifteen month completion date.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

4. **Solar at DPW Facility** – We have always intended to use the property at 18 Industrial for solar electricity production in some capacity, as we have with other recent town projects. Because the market and the incentives have changed since we did the former projects, we will need to adapt our plans with the current options. I have discussed this at a theoretical level with the HMLD General Manager, and we have considered several possibilities. The probable course of action will be to create a Purchase Power Agreement with a private developer for solar panels atop the DPW Facility roof. We would also likely add a Community Solar Option.

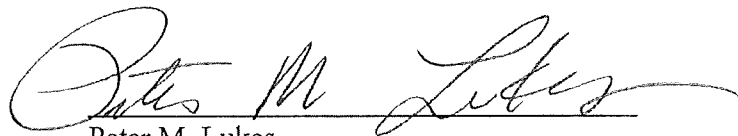
In this scenario, HMLD would create a Community Solar Rate and solicit our customers who would like to be part of a Community Solar Project. We would begin with soliciting residential customers and the initial estimate would be that we need 500 customers to join. If we failed to get 500 residential we could open the purchase up to commercial/industrial as well. There would be an initial up front cost to join, but the investment would be returned over time to the CSC customers as a function of what was being sold through the solar generation in the form of a monthly allocation.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

Should you have any questions regarding these matters, please feel free to contact my office.



Peter M. Lukes
Town Manager

Cc: Department Heads