

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2020**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Robert Lavigne, Anthony Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Geri Herlihy, Chiara Barnes

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.

1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT FOR GINA MARIE WOOD TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, PRESIDENT TRUMP, AND AMERICA, ON 11/1/20 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO REAPPOINT JAMES DUNN TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM 11/2/20 TO 11/2/23 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE ELECTION WORKERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 8/31/21 AS PRESENTED. (Attached Memo)**

2. Citizen Address

Dan Marrinome, 37 Village Way was present at the meeting. He stated that at the Annual Town Meeting there was a Warrant Article passed. He stated that they stressed to their 1053 Friends of Eagle Lake that it merely authorized, not forced the Board to acquire the dam. He stated that they understand that this is a complex matter. He stated that this has remained one of the towns most used resources and on any given day you could see people swimming, picnicking, kayaking, fishing, hiking and more. He stated that DPW tested the water every week and there were only two failed water tests. He stated that they wanted to thank the Town Manager for including them in the Open Space and Rec Committee and he appreciated the Town looking forward.

3. Help at H.O.M.E – Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund, Charitable Donation

Chairman Mark Smyczynski and Chancellor Antonio Maria Wendland were present at the meeting. They presented Help at H.O.M.E with a donation of \$400.

The Board thanked them for coming in and for their charitable donation.

4. Discussion with Wachusett Food Pantry

Kim McCarthy was present at the meeting.

She stated that the Wachusett Food Pantry was located in Sterling and they were facing a desperate need to find a new location. She stated that they are currently in a building paying rent and the building had been placed on the market for sale. She stated that the Food Pantry was not closing but that they did want to get the word out that they were looking for a new space. She stated that they need to be in one of the five towns and preferred to be in Holden/Sterling. She stated that they would like to have space for about 25 cars and that they do currently rent and are able to continue doing so. She stated that they were looking for a lease of about 3-5 years so that they were not constantly looking for new space and that the building did need to have electricity and heat. She stated that additionally they need a space with restrooms and would prefer to be on the first floor. She stated that if anyone knew of a commercial space, they would love to speak to them about it.

Chairman Lavigne asked what the time frame for the new location was.

Ms. McCarthy replied that they were not sure. She stated that they had been told they were able to stay at least until the end of the year and there was no p & s but they needed to think ahead.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he remembered six years ago working to find space. He stated that he thinks that if they are committed and the communities work together they will be able to find space. He stated that this is a town asset and the community could not lose it. He thanked Ms. McCarthy for all her work and for coming in.

5. Treasurer/ Collector, Sharon Lowder, Bond Approval

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE GENERAL OBLIGATION MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY BOND AS PRESENTED. (SEE ATTACHED).**

Chairman Lavigne called a recess at 7:00PM in order to sign the bond.

Chairman Lavigne called the meeting back to order at 7:12PM.

6. Town Manager Update

See attached dated October 16, 2020

7. Open Space Recreation Plan Committee, Board of Selectmen Representative

Chairman Lavigne stated that now more than ever there were more kids and more need for open space. He asked any Selectboard member that was interested in serving on the Committee to reach out to him.

Sel. Renzoni asked about the charge.

Mr. Lukes stated that the Board member would work as a liaison and reference and did not need to attend every meeting.

8. Town Manager Contract Ratification

Chairman Lavigne tabled this matter until they heard back from counsel.

9. Response to Citizen Address

Chairman Lavigne thanked Mr. Marrinome for coming to the meeting. He stated that he did receive his email and would make time for them to get together to speak.

10. Selectmen Minutes

None

11. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Gibbs: none

Sel. Barnes: none

Sel. Herlihy asked to add an agenda item to establish a Cemetery Commission. She stated that she spoke with a woman and she had a lot of great ideas.

Mr. Lukes stated that they should speak with Town Counsel and have him weigh in.

Sel. Renzoni stated that in the past there had been a Veterans Grave Officer where the oversight of Veteran Graves would be kept and someone would be responsible for upkeep.

Mr. Lukes suggesting having this as a goal for next session.

Chairman Lavigne asked the Board to send him all goals so he could compile them.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he wanted to bring up the MMA taking positions on the Boards behalf. He stated that surrounding communities were upset that the MMA had taken positions on legislation about police reform without asking their opinion. He stated that he has had issues with the MMA doing things like this in the past and wanted to discuss it further.

Chairman Lavigne stated that the MMA says they represented all member towns but they did not reach out to him or the Town Manager to gauge their feelings but they endorsed something on the Towns behalf.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he recognized the challenge of reaching out to all member towns for everything however for big issues like police reform it should be done. He stated that he is finding less and less reason to be involved with the MMA.

Chairman Lavigne stated that the Rec Department was still doing the Halloween Décor contest. He thanked everyone for being involved and the Rec Department for their work.

Chairman Lavigne congratulated Sel. Gibbs for his upcoming wedding in the next week and wished him luck.

12. Selectmen Subcommittee

None

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 19, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:38PM.**

APPROVED: _____12/7/20_____



TOWN OF HOLDEN MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Jeanne M. Hudson

jhudson@holdenma.gov

phone: 508-210-5532 fax: 508-829-0281

October 15, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter M. Lukes, Town Manager

FROM: Liz Monahan, Assistant Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Appointment of Election Officers

Attached is a list of proposed Election Officers. We are able to appoint people to fill any election worker position that are still vacant without regard to political party, voter registration status, residency, or inclusion on a list from the local party committees.

Please add this appointment to the Selectmen's agenda for the October 19th meeting.

**ELECTION OFFICERS – TO BE APPOINTED OCTOBER 19, 2020
TERM ENDING AUGUST 31, 2021**

PARTY	NAME/ADDRESS
Democrat	Richard F. Barron, 7 Fairchild Dr.
Democrat	Joan A. Moylan-Trigiano, 498 Bullard St.
Democrat	Jaclyn F. Biller, 120 Quinapoxet St.
Unenrolled	Pauline L. Dillon, 139 Jamieson Rd.
Unenrolled	James L. Christo, 80 Harvest Cir
Unenrolled	Bonnie B. Cassidy, 210 Cranbrook Dr.



TOWN OF HOLDEN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Peter M. Lukes
Town Manager

October 16, 2020

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter M. Lukes,
Town Manager

SUBJECT: *Town Manager Update*

1. **Emergency Management Grant**– Holden Fire Department was awarded a \$4,600 competitive grant through MEMA to fund emergency management training and supplies. Congratulations to Emergency Management Coordinator Chris Montiverdi and Chief Russ Hall for their work on securing this funding.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

2. **Gale Free Library Opening** – The Gale Free Library will be re-opening to the general public by appointment for browsing and general library services on November 1. We have instituted a number of physical and operational changes due to COVID restrictions and due to the physical structure and layout of the library, which is limiting what we can do and how we can do it. Although some libraries throughout the Commonwealth have not opened to the public yet, and many others have opened, we ask for the public's patience and understanding that rules for being open are limited based on the actual physical space, layout, and handicapped accessibility that we may or may not have due to the limits of the building itself. We are looking forward to opening as much as we can, as soon as we can, while insuring the safety of our patrons and employees.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

3. **DPW Facility** – A Notice to Proceed was issued to our general contractor for the new DPW facility at 18 Industrial Drive last week, with work to start on November 2. We will be holding a ceremonial groundbreaking at the site on Friday, October 30 at Noon.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

4. **Early Voting** – The Town Clerk's office has received 5,979 ballot requests as of last Friday. They had mailed 5,919. That's a participation rate of 41% of registered voters, prior to early in-person voting has even begun. Early in-person voting started on Saturday and will run

through Friday, October 30. Early voting is done at the senior center and the hours are the same as normal town office hours (Mon, Weds, Thurs 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM, Tuesday 8-7, Friday 8-Noon, and Saturday/Sunday 8-Noon). Considering the amount of ballot requests and the remaining two weeks for in-person early voting, it is conceivable that the Town could experience as high as 70% voter participation PRIOR TO election day. Many thanks to Town Clerk Jeanne Hudson, Liz Monahan and Sue Lucia in the Clerk's office along with all of our poll workers and volunteers. Many residents have stepped up to help out in a volunteer or poll working capacity this year and it has been very much appreciated.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

5. **Dawson Work** – There has been substantial construction work occurring outside of Dawson School and Dawson Rec area over the last week. The work has entailed curbstone upgrades and replacement as well as sidewalk and pedestrian improvements. This is all part of the work that will be performed as part of the \$165,000 grant that DPW was awarded earlier in the year. Crosswalks and new crosswalk/school zone signs will also be part of the improvements. Upon completion, the pedestrian areas in front of and around Dawson school will be not only aesthetically enhanced but safer as well.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

6. **Open Space and Recreation Master Plan** - I have reached out to our local youth sports league representatives as well as other interested parties to ask for volunteers to the Open Space and Rec Master Plan Committee. Citizen input is a large facet of creating the Master Plan, which will supplement the work that we have contracted with CMRPC to complete over the next several months. The response from the community has been outstanding and I anticipate finalizing a list of members prior to your next meeting. They can then begin work with Director of Planning and Development Pam Harding, CMRPC staff and others to craft a ten year roadmap for Holden's recreation and open space plan.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

7. **Worcester Business Journal Census Review** – The Worcester Business Journal recently published an article that examined 170 Central Massachusetts census zones based on data from 2010-2017 that included four key indicators for economic growth- Population growth, rising home values, increased household income, and residents with college degrees. Of those 170 census tracts, 13 went down in all four categories. Another 42 went down in three of the four categories. Sixty-eight were down in half the categories, and 42 were down in at least one category. Only five experienced gains in all four metrics. Holden sat atop the list with the greatest gains across the board in all four categories. Obviously we are very pleased to see this type of economic position for our town. Although at times we may feel that our increase in home values can be costly with respect to property taxes, it also proves that property ownership in Holden is an incredibly sound investment.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

- 8. Meeting with Wachusett Social Justice Alliance** - Last week I was able to meet with members of the Wachusett Area Social Justice Alliance. Chief Sherblom joined us as well. There was an excellent dialogue along with information sharing that was productive and worthwhile for all parties. Chief Sherblom and I discussed ways to address some of the concerns of this group and we will be making some announcements in the weeks ahead that I expect will be well received. Many thanks to Soudie Tahmassebipour, the Executive Director of WASJA and Chief Sherblom for their input and work on these issues.

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