

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 2020**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Robert Lavigne, Anthony Renzoni, Chiara Barnes

Not Present: Tyler Gibbs, 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 6:35PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Citizens Address

None

2. Appointments, Licenses, Permits

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE ELECTION WORKERS, SARAH SURVELL, DENISE DEGABRIELE-LINDBERG AND ALLISON MURPHY TO EXPIRE 8/31/2021 AS PRESENTED.**

3. Town Manager Update

See Attached

4. Tax Classification Public Hearing

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING AS PRESENTED.**

Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor, was present at the meeting.

She stated that they were there to speak about the tax rate and whether to vote in a single tax rate again this year. She stated that year over year Holden had submitted a Single-Tax Rate, and we are still mostly residential at 95%. She stated that the Board of Assessors was recommending a single tax rate for this year.

Chairman Lavigne opened it up for public comment.

Gordon McFee, 428 Salisbury Street, was present at the meeting. He stated that he pulled information out about the medium sales in Holden, which is up 18.7% over the previous year. He stated that days on the market was 32.9 days. He stated homes are selling very quickly and over asking and that on behalf of the chamber and his own feelings he would like to see a single tax rate remain.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ANNUAL TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADOPT A FACTOR OF 1 FOR FY 21 AS PRESENTED.**

5. Cemetery Sub- Committee Discussion

Chairman Lavigne stated that Sel. Herlihy was the person that originally bought this up and suggested that they table this until she was at the meeting.

6. MMA Position

Sel. Renzoni stated that he knew they had spoken about this a little at the last meeting but he wanted to suggest having the Chair send a letter to the MMA outlining the Boards concerns with the MMA taking positions on major items without reaching out to get the Boards opinion or surveying them. He stated the item they were speaking about now was police reform but that this has been a growing concern for several years. He stated that they were members of the MMA and they could withdraw; he said he does think MMA has some value but he has an issue with this.

Chairman Lavigne stated that as background, there was a piece of legislature proposed that was about 12 pages of amendments about police reform and the MMA sent a letter strongly endorsing it on behalf of the member towns but did not reach out to Holden or other member towns to gauge our interest and get our feedback.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he understood not everything could be surveyed but that for major issues the members opinions should be taken into consideration. He stated that he does not want to debate police reform at this meeting but that there were several amendments and that if they are adopted, Holden would have to change how it does business.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO PEN A LETTER TO MMA ON THEIR BEHALF.**

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

Sel. Renzoni stated he would be happy to take on this Committee. He stated that he knows the Board has not discussed committee representation but that he would also like to stay on with Fin Com and the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Chairman Lavigne stated that he would go through the Committees and they could revise who was representing what boards and committees.

8. Ratification of Town Manager's Contract

Chairman Lavigne stated that he received a draft from council and it was missing a few things, he stated that he anticipated it at the next meeting.

Sel. Renzoni stated that a vote has been taken and there is an agreement they just need to ratify and publically release it.

9. Brian Bullock, Help at H.O.M.E

Mr. Bullock was present at the meeting along with two other members, Pastor Marty Holmann and Joe Sullivan. Mr. Bullock gave an overview of Help at H.O.M.E and he stated that it was to give immediate relief on a small scale to residents. He stated that Help at H.O.M.E had raised over \$200,000 from the generosity of Holden residents. He stated that the annual fund drive was being sent home in the November billing cycle and you can write a check or donate on line as well.

Pastor Holmann stated that there is a need in Holden and that one of the things he wanted to touch on was the stigma surrounding asking for help. He stated that Help at H.O.M.E had the ability to help people if they needed it.

Mr. Bullock stated that in addition to financial help they also could provide educational resources that can guide a person to assistance that they could not handle locally. He stated that he appreciated all the help that the residents at home do and that yearly they see donations in the \$50,000 range. He stated that every dollar is spent locally and goes to a neighbor in need.

Sel. Renzoni thanked the members of Help at H.O.M.E for all the work they do.

10. Selectmen Minutes

None

11. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Barnes: none

Chairman Lavigne stated that the DPW ground breaking was going to be on Friday with the real ground breaking next week. He stated that he appreciated everyone that came out in the snow and thanked the residents for reinvesting in the town.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the OPM was the same one that bought the town in under budget and time for the police and the middle school. He stated that this was good use of the tax payer money and they returned what was not used.

Chairman Lavigne stated that this Friday, Seven Saws was doing a fund raiser for the Collins family, and Abby's Army. He stated it was a great cause and hoped there was a good turnout.

12. Selectmen Subcommittee

None

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 2, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:17PM.**

APPROVED: _____12/7/20_____



TOWN OF HOLDEN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Peter M. Lukes
Town Manager

October 29, 2020

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter M. Lukes,
Town Manager

SUBJECT: *Town Manager Update*

1. **Capital Budget FY 22**– Department Heads were sent the documentation for assembling and submitting their FY22 capital budget requests last week. We expect a dismal fiscal situation for the next year, primarily due to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the economy and the expectation that local aid will be decreased significantly by Governor Baker and the legislature. Our primary initial action for cutting the budget without reducing services will be to keep capital expenses to a minimum. All departments have also made great efforts so far this year to keep expenses down, in the hope of supplementing our free cash that may be needed in the near future.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

2. **Gale Free Library Opening** – The Gale Free Library opened by appointment to the public on November 2. This announcement was immediately well received and we hope to accommodate as much public interest as possible during this time, until we can open fully and return to normal. All other town buildings remain open by appointment only.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

3. **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution** – The Board of Health has initiated a virtual meeting with various stakeholders, myself, and town staff for Emergency Dispensing Plans (EDS) for the COVID-19 vaccination. There are still several unknowns as to when exactly and how much vaccine will be available, but it is essential that we are prepared and part of the distribution process. Most parties believe that a vaccine will be cleared and available shortly, which will require methodical distribution and a plan to be in place at all levels prior to the announcement. We will be meeting next week to begin the planning process which will include:

- Possible collaboration with regional communities
- Demographics for Phase 1 and 2 of distribution

- Drive thru versus in person administration
- Identifying possible locations
- Storage/administration requirements
- The registration process
- Resources for volunteers
- Necessary supplies
- Follow up contact for second vaccine administration.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

4. **Early Voting** – As of the time of this writing, close of business Wednesday, October 28, out of the 14,750 registered Holden voters- 7,142 ballots have been returned. Of those, 4,032 were returned by mail, and 3,110 were submitted in person. That number amounts to almost 50% voter turnout, with three days remaining to vote early and election day on Tuesday, November 23. Additional updated numbers will be provided at the BOS meeting on 11/2.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

5. **Halloween Recap** – Follow up and report regarding trick or treating and Halloween activities in Holden.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

6. **Open Space and Recreation Master Plan** - The Executive Action creating the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan committee is attached as per your request at the last meeting. The committee membership is now full and we will be contacting the members to set up their first meeting and elect a Chairman shortly.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

7. **Veteran's Event** – Holden Veteran's Agent Brad Sherblom will be sponsoring a small event outside the senior center to honor our veterans on Friday, November 13 from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. Coffee and donuts will be served. All local veterans are invited to attend.

Information ☒ [X]

Vote ☐ []

Signature ☐ []

8. **Free Legal Consultation for Seniors** – Arthur Bergeron from the law offices of Mirick O'Connel will be offering free fifteen minute legal consultations through the Senior Center. Traditionally, this service was offered by appointment on site but due to COVID restrictions the appointments will be done over the phone. The attorney will call those who sign up at a

Town Manager's Update -10-29-2020

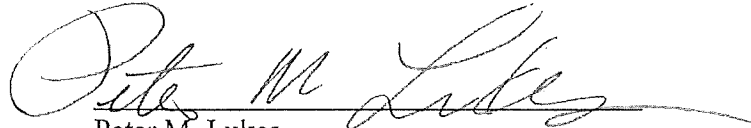
specified time. For more info or to register for a consultation please call the Senior Center at (508) 210-5570.

Information ☒

Vote ☐

Signature ☐

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter M. Lukes", written over a horizontal line.

Peter M. Lukes
Town Manager

Cc: Department Heads