

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 5, 2023**

**6:30PM**

**Memorial Hall**

Present: Stephanie Mulroy, Anthony Renzoni, Geri Herlihy, Richard Bates  
(participating remotely), Thomas Curran

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager  
Steven Madaus, Town Counsel  
Ms. King, Assistant Town Manager  
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (Participating remotely)

Chairman Mulroy called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Mulroy stated that Sel. Bates was participating remotely this evening and all votes would be taken by a roll call vote.

**1. Citizens Address**

Dr. Joe Sabato, 47 Boulder Hill Road, he stated that he was concerned with the safety of his neighborhood. He stated that he was very familiar with the concept of safe communities he was willing to loan his expertise in this area and get grant funding to work to get the community safer. He stated that he was the 911 director at UMASS and was known as the CPR guy because MA has the worst survival rate in North America for cardiac arrest. He stated it was because of the bureaucracy of 911 and the fact that we have not taught the people what to do in a cardiac emergency. Dr. Sabato stated that he started a program where they teach people what to do in a cardiac emergency; how to call 911, how to do CPR, and how to access a defibrillator. He stated that his plan was to save 500 MA residents lives by changing the cardiac arrest system.

**2. Appointments, License, and Permits**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE FOR THE HOLDEN SNACK SHACK AT THE HOLDEN POOL AS PRESENTED.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE CENTRAL MASS STRIDERS, FOR A PARADE PERMIT/ ROAD RACE- 5K ON 7/30/23 AS PRESENTED.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes).

**3. Vote: Trash and Recycling Fees**

Skipping over this item

#### 4. Order of Taking, Shrewsbury Street Roadway Project

Mr. Woodsmall, DPW Director, was present at the meeting. He stated that in front of the Board was the final vote that the Board would have over the project. It allowed them to complete the takings that the abutters were notified of. He stated that within 30 days they would make the recordings at the Registry of Deeds. He stated that they would send out letters that the takings were completed and they can come and get the damage checks at the town offices. He worked with federal and state engineers and town council to complete this correctly. He stated after this is done the state will advertise the project later in the summer for preliminary construction and then it will begin.

Sel. Herlihy asked if this was formality.

Mr. Woodsmall replied that it was. It was approved at town meeting and now as the Board they needed to vote to adopt the Order of Taking and then it would be finalized.

Sel. Curran asked if all the eminent domain settlements were approved and worked out.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that all the offers were sent out and they had 30 days to appeal and the Town had not received any appeals. He stated that there was one property owner that had some disagreements with the offer but there was not a counter offer provided.

Pat stated that they have 3 years that they could come back and appeal if an abutter needed as long as they did not cash the checks.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he was a no vote on this and had been all along. He stated that he did not have the support of the Board but he did want to know if the Board voted no at this time would it stall the process.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that without this vote he could not move forward at this time.

Sel. Herlihy asked if the Board approved this matter could the abutters still appeal.

Mr. Woodsmall replied they could.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE ORDER OF TAKING FOR THE SHREWSBURY STREET TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AS PRESENTED INCLUDING THE FINDINGS THEREIN TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN COUNSEL TO MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE REFERENCES LISTED IN EXHIBIT A AS THEY DEEM NECESSARY PRIOR TO RECORDING THE ORDER AT THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS.**

(Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Renzoni: no).

#### 5. Vote: Approval for MMWEC Representation

Barry Tupper, HMLD, was present at the meeting. He stated the Light Department was recognized for safety in the schools so that was an honor, in addition to brand new flags on Main Street. He stated that they were also involved with Mountview students about green energy.

Sel. Renzoni asked if any other streets should go under ground. Mr. Tupper replied that they would but right now with procurement it was not feasible, it could be something to look for in the future.

Selectman Herlihy asked for clarification on late payments and the Cromwell waiver.

HMLD replied that it allowed the balance owner to apply the balance to a new address once they move and to enter into a payment agreement that allows for termination of service if they agreement is not met.

Motion by Sel. Curran, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE THAT THE TOWN OF HOLDEN PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 3 SECTION 6 OF MMWEC BYLAWS AS REVISED AND AMENDED AND SECTION 3B OF CHAPTER 775 OF THE ACTS OF 1975 HERBY DESIGNATES BARRY TUPPER ITS MANAGER OF MUNI LIGHTING AS ITS VOTING REPRESENTATIVE TO VOTE AND REPRESENT WRITTEN INSTAMENTS ON ITS BEHALF RELATIVE TO ADOPTION, AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF MMWEC BYLAWS. THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE CORP AND OTHER ACTIONS BY OTHER TOWNS AND THAT CHRISTOPER MONSINI IS DESEGNATINED AS AN ALTERATIVE REPRESENTIVE (SEE ATTACHED VOTE).** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Renzoni: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes).

#### **6. Vote: Approval for NYPA Designated Representative**

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE THAT THE NYPA RECIPIENT TOWN OF HOLDEN PURSUIT TO SECTION 514 OF THE AGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MA DEPT OF TELECOM AND ENERGY AND MA MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRICAL COMPANY HEREBY DESIGNATES BARRY TUPPER AS ITS DESIGNATIONED VOTED REPRESENTATED TO VOTE AND EXECUTE WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS ON ITS BEHALF RELATIVE TO THE REVIEWING OF REPORTS AND REPORT OF CURRENT ISSUES AND PROPOSED LITITATION, TO ELECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, STAND FOR ELECTION AND TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY OTHER ACTIONS OF BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ISSUES EFFECTING THE DELIVERY OF PROJECT POWER TO MDTE AND MMWEC AND TO DESIGNATE CHRISTOPHER MANCINI AS ITS ALTERNATE FOR THE TOWN OF HOLDEN AS PRESENTED (SEE ATTACHED VOTE)** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

**7. Vote: Approval for Updated HMLD Terms and Conditions**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE THAT THE HMLD BOARD OF COMMISSION APPROVE THE UPDATED HMLD TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RETIAL SERVICE AS PRESENTED ON JUNE 5, 2023.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

**8. Town Manager Update**

See attached

**9. Boy Scout Recognition**

The Board called former Sel. Lavigne to the podium in order to honor John McMillan and his service to the Boy Scouts and the Town of Holden.

Mr. Lavigne welcomed Troop 180 and Troop 7180 of Holden. He stated that John McMillan had run the troops and when the Boy Scouts had asked to give a certificate to show their appreciation the Board had invited him in and the troops showed up in mass to show how much of a positive impact he has had.

Troop Leader McMillan thanked the troops and the Board for their assistance over the years and stated that this was a team effort.

Sel. Renzoni presented Mr. McMillan with a Certificate of Recognition.

Chairman Mulroy called a two minute recess.

The meeting was called back to order.

**10. Town Manager Review**

Chairman Mulroy thanked Sel. Renzoni and Sel. Bates with their attention to the back end process for the Town Manager Review.

The Board spoke about the pay increase for the Town Manager as well.

Mr. Lukes stated that the increase was a cost of living increase that all employees received and that if the review was a positive one then they could vote to increase the increase in pay.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE TOWN MANAGER REVIEW AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Curran: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Sel. Renzoni asked for clarification on the COLA for the Town Manager.

Mr. Lukes stated that it could be adjusted but it was based on the review that was just approved. He stated if it was a positive review they would presumably approve the 2% review but that it could be adjusted if they felt they should do so.

Sel. Renzoni wished to note that the 2% increase was held to that limit based on his contract and that he felt that the Town Managers worth was more than the 2%.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2% INCREASE TO THE TOWN MANAGERS CONTRACT AS PRESENTED.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

### **11. Selectmen Meeting Schedule**

Sel. Renzoni asked about the remote participation. Mr. Lukes confirmed the remote meeting laws.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE SELECTMEN MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

### **12. Massachusetts School Building Authority Resolution Support**

Mr. Lukes stated that in the packet the WRSD has sent a letter to the Boards. He stated that the MSBA decreased their budget and they wanted to have a better understanding of the buildings and there were some issues that they wanted to partake in the program. He stated that with it paused, it presents a burden to the district and they want to be clear that the Towns are untied to show support for the School Committees resolution that is attached.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONFIRM SUPPORT AND DRAFT A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD FOR THE MASS BUILDING AUTHORITY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE WRSD.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes).

### **13. Plastic Bag Discussion**

Chairman Mulroy stated that she assembled her thoughts with regards to the plastic bag matter in order to get ahead of this prior to the next Town Meeting. She stated that this seemed like something people were passionate about but needed the systems in place.

Chairman Mulroy stated that the proposed ban on single use plastic bags at Town Meeting was not able to gain traction because of the details in the plan, but that she did

feel as though there was merit to the conversation. She stated that people are protective of Holden and want to limit pollution. She asked if an outright ban was necessary or could they work on some sort of partnership to limit to local businesses on this matter. She asked if anyone had ever asked local businesses to switch to paper prior to being forced. She stated that the positive approach could be more effective and take less effort. She stated that she had worked with the EDC on ideas that could incentivize local businesses to offer different alternatives to single use plastic bags. She asked that the Board issue a proactive policy regarding single use of plastic bags by drafting a formal letter to Walgreens to request a good faith opt in.

She asked if there was Board support to move forward on single use plastic.

Sel. Curran stated that the cost of paper versus plastic is small and if the business chose to pass the cost on to the consumer it was a light lift. He stated he would support anything we can do to require or influence business in town to choose paper over plastic.

Sel. Curran stated that this matter at Town Meeting went even further than the matter at hand because the citizen did everything correct through the Town Clerk and yet still had the matter fail. He stated that he was sympathetic to the cause but that he thinks a better way needs to be had for Citizens to bring concerns forward.

Sel. Curran stated that he was in favor of a ban or to support businesses to move to paper.

Sel. Herlihy stated that if they were going to request this of Walgreens then it should be requested of all businesses in town.

Sel. Renzoni stated that it was bad policy to name businesses in town. He stated that we are nudging businesses to pass the cost to customers. He stated legislative was different than nudging. He stated that annually “just a dime” adds up. He stated that we should not target businesses either. He stated that if the Board felt strongly about this issue the Board could move forward with this process through Town Meeting and Town Warrant. He stated that this was outside the authority of Town Meeting in spirit and was opposed to this process.

Sel. Bates asked if there was a Town Retail Association.

Chairman Mulroy replied there is not.

Sel. Bates asked if there was someone that could work with the impacted businesses to see what their thoughts were.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the cost of paper bags was not put against the cost of plastic bags so there was not an actual pass through cost.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the plastic bag was less expensive and if you quantify it, the cost is an actual cost. He stated regardless, Open Town Meeting makes law not the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Mulroy stated that she wanted to get the conversation on track so the Board was not taken by surprise at the Town Meeting again.

Sel. Curran asked if the Chamber had overflow with the EDC. It was confirmed that there is overlap in members.

#### **14. ABCC 2023 Seasonal Population Increase**

Sel. Renzoni read the memo into record; The Board agreed to adopt the matter without objection and to sign the document.

#### **15. Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 4-0-1**(Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Mulroy: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: abstain).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 23, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTE TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 6, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.** Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 14 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A VOTE OF 4-0-1.** (Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: abstain).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 6, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.** Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 20, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.** Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE MARCH 27, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.** Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE APRIL 3, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.** Bates: yes; Curran: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

The Board held the May 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes as not all members had a copy of the notes.

Sel. Curran left the meeting.

#### **16. Follow up to Citizen Address**

Sel. Bates stated that Dr. Sabato has been coming to the Board for some time to discuss health and safety matters within the Town. He asked if the Board had done anything to work with him or to steer him in the correct direction. He stated that he seems to bring a lot to the table and he wondered what the Board could do to explore how he could help the community.

Sel. Renzoni stated that Dr. Sabato has been coming to the Board for a number of years offering his advice and his expertise. He stated that the programs that he has bought forward have all been vetted and to the best of his knowledge did not have potential in Holden. He stated that the cost/benefit analysis would not work for our particular town.

Mr. Lukes stated that he is well known to the public health experts in Holden and while some of his comments have been taken to heart, some of his comments are inaccurate and that it was made clear that if/when the Town was able to find a place for him to volunteer they would contact him directly.

Mr. Lukes stated that with regards to the traffic studies there are procedures that are in place and need to be used if there was a request for sidewalks/signs to be added into neighborhoods.

Sel. Renzoni stated that there was time taken in the Master Plan to ensure that the roads that needed and were able to be improved were addressed.

#### **17. Selectmen Miscellaneous**

Sel. Renzoni thanked the Town Manager and his staff for their work on the Memorial Day Parade. He stated that the VA Committee had not been meeting for some time and he was going to relook at that Committee. He thanked former Sel. Kurtz and his son,



Tyler for their work along with the citizen volunteers. He stated that they were always looking for volunteers and work to make it a bigger and better event. He also thanked DPW for the flagging at the cemeteries.

Sel. Herlihy wanted to circle back for the capital request from the school district to stand where we stand to get the project through fruition.

Mr. Lukes stated that a good direction is to have a goal set for the Town Manager so that they can do a full analysis as to what we have for securities in the school buildings and others so we have a broader context of not only a single camera but are other things required or is it just a simple need.

Sel. Herlihy asked if it could be started this year.

Mr. Lukes replied that it remained to be seen and that maybe public safety officials could help handle it in house.

Sel. Renzoni stated that if there is a special town meeting coming maybe we could have this prepared for a goal in last summer/ early fall so if money was needed the process could be in place to request it. He stated that there was also grant potential.

#### 18. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Renzoni stated that all four of the Boards were going to Mayo for a third grade field trip.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he also wanted to mention the Town Manager's contract. He stated that the Board gave him authority in the past to work with the manager on his contract. He stated that he is happy to continue to do this work but he was also happy to relinquish this to the Chair if she wanted to take it over. He stated that in the next two weeks the Board should have something in front of the Manager regarding this matter.

Chairman Mulroy replied that she did want to be involved in this conversation.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 4-0 TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 5, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 8:17 PM.** (Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes).

APPROVED: 1/22/24