

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2019**

6:33PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Chairman Geri Herlihy, Tyler Gibbs, Jeremy Kurtz, Anthony Renzoni

Not Present: Robert Lavigne

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

Chairman Herlihy called the meeting to order at 6:33. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. License

Mr. Lukes suggested holding the Common Victualer license for The Local Tavern (formerly Flip Flops) for the next meeting March 11 as they were unable to be present this evening.

2. Town Manager Update

Brush Burning Permits: The 2019 brush burn season begins January 15 and ends May 1, 2019. Residents can apply for seasonal permits online by going to the Holden Fire Department website (www.holdenma.gov) or in person at the Fire Headquarters from 8:30am to 4:30PM. Permit fee is \$20 online and in person. As a reminder, the burning of grass, hay, leaves, construction materials, stumps, branches in excess of 4" in diameter, and land clearing is prohibited. Holden Fire Department can be reached for questions at 508-210-5650.

HMLD Monthly Report: Enclosed is the monthly activity report for December 2018 prepared by Jane Parenteau, General Manager.

Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditure Reports: Attached are the Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditure reports for the period ending December 2018 and January 2019 prepared by Lori Rose, Town Accountant.

Recreation Department Summer Brochure: Enclosed in your packet is the Summer Recreation brochure. Resident can find it online on the Town of Holden website. www.Holdenma.gov or through a link on our Facebook page.

Town and School Building Assessment Survey: Gienapp Design Associates has completed our study report for the assessment of all Town and School Buildings. I have

begun reviewing the report and will provide a summary memo to the Board of Selectmen shortly. Two of the larger, immediate needs deal with the roof at the Starbard building and the roof/structure of the Fire substation at Adams Road. Most other projects fall within the 2-8 year range of time for recommended beginning or completion.

Sel. Kurtz entered the meeting at 6:37PM.

Chairman Herlihy asked if they would have an ambulance at the Adams Road location until it was rebuilt.

Mr. Lukes replied they would not on a permanent basis and if they want to move forward with that they would need to address it.

Economic Development: The former Blue Plate property has been transferred to the new owners and you may have noticed the protective fencing round the property. The new owners have obtained a permit for demolition of the existing building, and they intend to begin demolition shortly, weather permitting. The future building, along with the improved parking lot and landscaping will not only provide a new family restaurant for local residents, it should also brighten and beautify Main Street as we continue to develop our rare assets in the commercial zone. We expect more announcements in 2019 that will improve or add to our array of commercial and mixed- use parcels along the Main Street corridor.

Finance Committee Hearing: The annual meetings with myself, Department Heads, and members of the Finance Committee began on February 13 with my delivery of the Resource Profile for the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. We met again on February 2- to discuss Public Safety budgets, and we will meet every Wednesday at 7:00PM in the HMLD public meeting room through March into April. The hearings are open to the public although public comment is not part of the meeting.

Chairman Herlihy asked who was presenting to Fin Com on Wednesday.

Mr. Lukes replied General Government.

Mr. Lukes stated that additionally there had been some power outages due to the wind and there have been crews out there rectifying the issues and they would continue to work until every situation had been addressed. He stated that if anyone did have an outage that they should call the non emergency line to report it.

3. Holden Police Department Swearing-In Greg Sculthorpe to Police Department Sergeant

Chairman Herlihy invited Chief Armstrong to the podium.

Chief Armstrong stated that they were present today to promote Officer Greg Sculthorpe to Police Department Sergeant. He stated that he had been with the force since 1990

where he started as a part-time dispatcher and then continued to work up the ranks. He stated that he is a dedicated officer in the community and maintains the medical defibs as well as first responder training and more.

Chief Armstrong stated that these civil service tests are very costly and difficult and are a big sacrifice to do. Chief Armstrong invited Officer Sculthorpe up along with his wife and nephew to pin.

Chairman Herlihy swore Greg Schulthorpe in as Police Department Sergeant.

The Board stood to congratulate him and his family and paused for a photo.

Chairman Herlihy called a five minute recess at 6:47PM.

Chairman Herlihy called the meeting back to order at 6:50PM.

4. Selectmen Minutes

None.

5. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Renzoni stated that the recreational packet is out and that the Town was looking for summer help. He stated that they were always looking for high school and college kids to fill in these jobs if there was anyone interested.

Sel. Gibbs: none

Chairman Herlihy: none

Sel. Kurtz: none.

6. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Fin Com meeting had begun and that last week Public Safety presented. He stated that the Police Department came in with the largest department increase because Chief Armstrong was looking for two officers for pending retirement. He stated that this lead to a long conversation at the meeting because we don't know when people are going to retire. He stated that when that happens the department has to go out and hire and train a new officer and there is a lapse in coverage. He stated additionally staffing does not cover anyone out of work on short term disability so it stretches the department even more. He stated that he wanted to point all this out because when looking at the budget even though it appears that the budget increases two salaries, they will eventually fall off because of retirements.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Fire Department came in with a modest budget and standard things. He stated there was a lot of information given and two new hires as an issue.

Mr. Lukes stated that when they speak about new hires there is a 12-18 month lag from starting to being on the street which is why it needs to be preplanned.

Sel. Renzoni stated that Fin Com has a hard job to make recommendations and if you have not been briefed maybe reach out to understand what is being asked and how it impacts the Town.

Chairman Herlihy stated that she had received some emails about this but it was good to have the summary from Sel. Renzoni as well.

Sel. Gibbs stated that Ag Com had met Tuesday and they were discussing their next educational event.

Chairman Herlihy: none

Sel. Kurtz congratulated the Friends of Eagle Lake. He stated that they were making big strides and doing great work.

Chairman Herlihy stated that the DPW Building Committee was supposed to meet tonight but that it was postponed. She stated that there was not much to report on that Committee at this time.

Mr. Lukes stated that the site looked great and that they will do as much site work as possible before bidding.

Sel. Renzoni asked if they had looked any further with the back left piece of the property.

Mr. Lukes replied that they were just about to sign a contract for a flood plane delineation which will take some time to do. He stated if they are unable to have that changed then there is not much they can do with that property.

7. Citizens Address

None

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 25, 2019 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:01PM.**

APPROVED: _____ 4/1/19 _____