

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2021**

6:20PM

Memorial Hall

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

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

Chairman Lavigne called the meeting to order at 6:20PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT/ROAD RACE FOR THE ANNUAL TURKEY TROT 11/25/21 FOR THE BE LIKE BRIT FOUNDATION AS PRESENTED WITH THE FEES WAIVED.**

2. Citizen Address

None

3. Town Manager Update

See Attached

4. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Renzoni stated that he wished to acknowledge Sel. Gibbs for his service to the Board and the Town. He stated that Sel. Gibbs is potentially moving out of town and that he wanted to thank him for his service.

The Board thanked Sel. Gibbs for his service.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he was up for reelection and he wanted to thank his supporters and his fellow Board members; he stated this was one of the best Boards he had served on and he thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Chairman Lavigne stated that May 10, 2021 was Town Election and May 17, 2021 was Town Meeting.

Sel. Gibbs thanked the Board, the Town Manager and the Assistant Town Manager, along with his family and all those who supported him.

5. Public Hearing- Street Layouts

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR STREET LAYOUT SHAYS LANE AND OAK HILL SUBDIVISION, JORDOAN ROAD AND STANJOY ROAD.**

Pam Harding, Town Planner, was present to answer any questions.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENTER THE PUBLIC HEARING MOTION INTO RECORD AS PRESENTED.**

Ms. Harding stated that there was one change to the Street Acceptance amending the vote from April 9th to April 27th. She stated that it was on the Planning Board's agenda for May 11th.

Sel. Renzoni stated he did not want to take the vote on this without the Planning Board's recommendation.

Ms. Harding stated that there were a few minor items outstanding on the punch list but she did not think it would hold up the vote.

Mr. Lukes stated that all taxes were paid as well.

Chairman Lavigne asked if any members of the public wished to speak about the street layout; no members of the public stepped forward.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STREET LAYOUTS/ SHAYS LANE AND OAK HILL SUBDIVISION.**

Chairman Lavigne called a recess at 6:47PM. He called the meeting back to order at 6:50PM.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO LAYOUT SHAYS LANE AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO LAYOUT JORDAN ROAD AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO LAYOUT STANJOY ROAD AS PRESENTED.**

6. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Renzoni stated that he was waiting on final notices with regards to the Memorial Day Parade. He stated that it was his understanding that these events were able to be held at

50% capacity so if they double the parade route they would be in good shape. He stated that he does not think the Girl Scouts were able to sing and they were going to eliminate the key note speaker. He stated that he was close to confirming a tank and a fife and drum band. He stated that he believes it will pull together and Holden will be able to honor our war dead. He encouraged anyone that wanted to be involved to reach out as the committee was always looking for volunteers.

7. Selectmen Minutes

The Board passed over the minutes

Chairman Lavigne called a recess at 6:56PM; he called the meeting back to order at 7:00PM.

8. Public Hearing- Water/Sewer Rates and Fees

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR WATE/RSEWER RATES AND FEES AS PRESENTED.**

John Woodsmall, Director DPW and Ryan Mouradian, Water/Sewer Superintendent were present at the meeting.

Mr. Lukes stated the Board should have received an extensive briefing email/ paper.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that what they were presenting was a variety of changes to water/sewer rates as well as water sewer application fees and misc. fees for the division. Mr. Woodsmall and Mr. Mouradian discussed the information and tables presented in the brief.

He stated that overall they were looking for a 2.9% increase in the average rate increase for combined water and sewer. He said the overall budget only increased about .59% but because of the way the costs are broken out they were trying to hold back use of free cash. They still balance the system even though expenses stay flat they still needed the rate increase to cover the cost.

Ms. King left the meeting at 7:58PM.

The Board asked if there were any public comments; there were none.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR WATER/SEWER RATES AND FEES.**

Mr. Woodsmall stated both rates would be effective tonight if the Board voted to support the rate changes.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he thinks that the Board should have further discussion about the water side regardless of what was decided today. He stated that when looking at the Town's Master plan, all of the feedback indicates that people want to slow growth. He stated that we are constantly comparing ourselves to Shrewsbury and they have a \$6,000 water connection fee as of today; he stated that Holden should look at it again and see if this could be used as a tool along with growth management bylaws and changes to sizes of lots to help slow growth.

Chairman Lavigne stated that he thinks it is a good tool but that he does not think he could support going above what was presented today. He stated that they need to have more information and consideration before he could go any further.

Sel. Renzoni stated that if he was reelected he would like to revisit this inside the calendar year.

Sel. Barnes stated that it would be important to know the actual cost in order to have a baseline to build off of.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that the connection fee is the buy-in for the water system.

Mr. Lukes stated that he does not think this would be a means to deter anyone from building in town but that he did encourage Mr. Woodsmall to look into it and make suggestions going forward.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, **THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ACTING AS THE WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS THE CHANGES IN PROPOSED WATER DIVISION FEE SCHEDULE, MISC. FEES AS CONTAINED IN RULES AND REGULATIONS DPW, TOWN OF HOLDEN CHAPTER 9.2 REFERENCE MANUAL AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED SEWER RATE CHANGES IN CHAPTER 9.4 OF THE REFERENCE MANUEL AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MAY 3, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 8:17PM.**

APPROVED: Approved 9/20/21