

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2021**

7:00PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Robert Lavigne, Geri Herlihy, Chiara Barnes, Anthony Renzoni, Richard Bates
(Participating Remotely)

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

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Barnes stated that the Board was coming out of executive session into regular session.

1. Citizens Address

Scott Walstrin, 1718 Wachusett Street, was present at the meeting. He stated that he was concerned with Project 2015a. He stated that as a homeowner he is concerned and that the electric markets are changing and no one understands them. He stated that he did his home to a net zero and battery back ups and it provides him with the ability to control his energy. He stated there are a lot of alternatives and they are real and better. He stated he was worried that the town was not taking opportunities to be better.

Ms. King entered the meeting at 7:15PM.

Mr. Walstrin stated that the cost of battery back ups have gone down and they are becoming more effective. He stated that they can see that MMWEC was trying to offer different options. He stated with rising prices it was a good time to think about it. He stated that during the day solar charges his battery and he can take himself off the grid to reduce the loan. He stated he can also take power from his battery pack and push it in at any time.

Sel. Renzoni reminded Mr. Walstrin of the 3-5 minutes max allowable time to speak at Citizens Address.

Jane Dye, 39 Lovell Road, was present at the meeting. She stated that she was at the last meeting to speak about the Peabody Plant and Holden's participation in the project. She thanked the Board for adding it as an agenda item. She stated that with regards to battery storage, you can have them within a site or distributed at different locations. She stated they don't all need to be in the same place and it is important for people to know that.

2. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE AND HOLD THE ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR RYAN MACKAY, LILAC HEDGE FARM, PENDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE AND HOLD THE ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR RYAN MACKAY, LILAC HEDGE FARM, PENDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Chairman Barnes announced that Sel. Bates would be joining the meeting remotely. She confirmed that he was able to hear and indicated that all future votes would be taken by roll call vote.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE ME LOLA SEISS FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM TO THE TENANT SEAT HOLDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY TO EXPIRE 5/12/25 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates; yes, Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was, **VOTED TO APPROVE PAT SHAFER, 167 MEADOWWOOD DRIVE TO THE WRSD AUDIT ADVISORY BOARD FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO FILL A VACANCY BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates; yes, Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE A COMMON VICTUALER LICENSE RENEWAL FOR T.E.M.P.O AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates; yes, Barnes: yes).

The Board tabled the vote for Common Victualer License, Gren Olson, BRZRKR COFFE until his abutters had the opportunity to speak.

3. Peabody Peaker Plant Discussion

Sel. Herlihy stated that she knows that this came up at last weeks meeting and although it is not in Holden, the vote for or against it effects the community. Sel. Herlihy stated that she thinks that the Board has a responsibility to research the issues that they are contributing to. She stated there are municipalities that have withdrawn their support and there are municipalities that have asked the governor to put together an Environmental Impact Report. She stated Holden's Board of Health requested that last week and she is asking that the Board sign on to support that letter or write their own letter asking for this report be done.

Sel. Lavigne asked if this could be tabled until next meeting. He stated that he knows there was something controversial about the report but he had not read it or researched it so feels that he cannot take a position on it currently. He asked for the time to do his homework on the matter.

Sel. Bates agreed.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he went back to notes from previous meetings and that the Board had supported this in the past. He stated that we now have a problem with capacity and it is a plan that fires 240 hours/ year to offset lulls. He stated that he thinks that we should look at both sides but that in 2015 this was done to solve a future problem and if we do this we will create a deficit in the power capacity and force us to buy off the open market. He stated that he did not disagree with the citizen that said that tech is evolving but that Holden is using green energy in its power portfolio. He stated that all these things need to be remembered before jumping in.

Sel. Lavigne asked if the Light Department could send a breakdown of the portfolio as well.

Sel. Renzoni suggested having the Municipal Light Advisory Board weigh in as well.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she did not think that we can avoid this project but she wanted to encourage the Governor to do the full report. She stated that she was not here to debate the merits of the project.

Sel. Renzoni stated that it was a dangerous conversation to have because where would they get energy at a reasonable cost.

Chairman Barnes tabled the conversation until the next meeting.

4. **Keno Discussion**

Sel. Renzoni asked for this to be added to the agenda because A1 Convenience Store wanted to add a Keno screen to their establishment and the Board has 21 days to object if they want to. He stated that he was not opposed to this but he wanted to have a public hearing so that the community could weigh in.

Sel. Lavigne asked how this matter would work if they rejected it; would it buy them time or would it potentially hurt the applicant.

Mr. Madaus replied that he was not familiar with this matter but that he could make a call to see the procedures.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO AUTHORIZE A LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO KENO UNLESS TOWN COUNSEL IS ABLE TO RESTART THE 21 DAY CLOCK BECAUSE OF NOTICE ISSUE BY A**

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE. (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates; yes, Barnes: yes).

Chairman Barnes suggested having the owners in to the meeting as well so they could outline what they wished to accomplish.

Sel. Renzoni agreed and stated that he was not opposed to this but he just wanted the public to have the opportunity to voice their comments or concerns.

5. Town Manager Update

See attached

6. Response to Citizens Address

Sel. Renzoni thanked Mr. Walstrin for coming in. He stated that the comments shared were great to hear and that he doesn't disagree that there is a problem today that we need to invest in for the future. He stated that green energy does cost more but that locking it in now will give a future advantage. He stated that HMLD does run the balance of responsible power at a reasonable rates and that the comments he provided were good to hear.

7. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Lavigne stated that he emailed the draft revisions to the BOS handbook and he made substantial changes.

Sel. Lavigne stated that Pholicious was delicious and had wonderful owners. He stated that Holden had come out in masses to support the new restaurant. He stated it is unlike anything we currently have.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Board needs to finalize the precincts that they began speaking about several months ago. He stated by law there can only be a certain population in each precinct and he just wanted to follow up on that.

Sel. Renzoni thanked Sel. Lavigne for cleaning up the BOS Handbook.

Sel. Herlihy asked where we stood on the Regional Agreement.

Sel. Lavigne stated that he had been emailing with Ken Mills and there was some miscommunication that was solved over the weekend.

Sel. Lavigne left the meeting at 8:22PM.

8. Selectmen Minutes

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE JULY 12, 2021 REGULAR SESSION MEETING AS PRESENTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE 4-0.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE MAY 17, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A 4-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 26, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: abstain).

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 7, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED BY A 4-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE MAY 3, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: abstain).

9. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Renzoni stated that he would get the Water/Sewer notes to share with the Board.

Sel. Herlihy: none

Sel. Bates: none

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING BY A 4-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

APPROVED: 4.11.22 AS CORRECTED