

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2021**

6:49PM

Memorial Hall

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

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

Not Present: Geri Herlihy

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:49PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Barnes announced that Sel. Bates was participating remotely; Sel. Bates confirmed that he was able to hear the meeting.

1. Citizens Address

None

2. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY GENERAL ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES FOR SEVEN SAWS BREWING, LLC PENDING APPROVAL BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: abstain due to difficulties in audio).

Mr. Lukes stated that this was an event to coincide with Halloween in Holden.

3. Treasurer/Collector, Laurie Gaudet, Borrowing

Laurie Gaudet was present at the meeting and introduced herself to the Board. She stated that the Town had gone for a new bond with a longer term.

Sel. Lavigne recused himself from this vote and stepped out of the meeting at 6:56PM.

Mr. Lukes stated that this was the second half of the borrowing for the DPW and Water/Sewer projects.

Ms. Gaudet stated that she was asking the Board to vote on a new General Obligation Bond with an interest rate of 1.66% for the remainder of the DPW Garage and Water/Sewer projects.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE \$11,695,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND NET 1.66%; \$3,098,142 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES NET 0.312% AS PRESENTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (See attached). (Renzoni: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes; Lavigne: abstain).

Sel. Lavigne returned to the meeting at 7:02PM.

4. Public Hearing- Liquor License – Seven Saws Brewing LLC, On Premises General All Alcoholic Beverages

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR LIQUOR LICENSE, SEVEN SAWS BREWING LLC, ON PREMISES, GENERAL ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

The Board called up Seven Saws to discuss what they were doing.

Paul Mulroy stated that this was the full liquor license for 112 Industrial Drive for the new tap room and brew house. He stated that they had just completed the facility and they were looking to obtain a full license.

Sel. Renzoni congratulated them and wished them the best of luck.

Mr. Mulroy stated that they went for the full liquor license in the event they had a private event.

Mr. Lukes stated that they had gone through the ABCC as well.

Chairman Bates asked if anyone from the public wished to speak; no members of the public stepped forward.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEVEN SAWS, LIQUOR LICENSE, GENERAL ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE LIQUOR LICENSE, SEVEN SAWS BREWING LLC, ON PREMISES, GENERAL ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

5. Re-Precincting

Jeanne Hudson, Town Clerk, was present in order to take the vote for the re-precincting in town. She stated that the information was presented to the state and it was approved with 6 precincts and there was room for growth.

Sel. Lavigne thanked her for her work. He stated that it was a smart plan and asked when this would go live.

Ms. Hudson stated that once this was approved she would notify the state and then LEDRC would approve it and it would be all set for the November elections. She stated that there will be information about the new precincts with the Town Census and there would be a barcode to help find your precinct as well. She stated additionally there would be people at the old locations to help direct people as needed.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE RE-PRECINCTING OF HOLDEN PLAN AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

6. Town Manager Update

See attached

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE CLOSING OF THE TOWN OFFICE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021 FOR NON EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

7. Vote on Requested FY23 WRSD Increase

Mr. Lukes stated that at the suggestion of the Board he started to speak with other town managers and administrators in the district with the purpose of seeing what the towns could collectively afford. He stated that he believes the Board members had seen the memo provided outlining a 2.5% increase overall. He stated that they believe that the municipal budget would be level funded or less where they were not held to contractual obligations. He stated that they were asked to take the proposal to the Boards and have them discuss it and come to a vote.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he was present at these meetings and there was a lot of discussion about getting the information out to the district upfront about what could be afforded. He stated that he wanted to invite the delegates to the Board meetings so they could better understand the municipal budget process. He stated that he knows the manager was also going to meet with the district and attempt to explain the thought process behind the municipal budget.

Sel. Renzoni stated a motion to notify the district is not a vote of support. He stated that the Board is concerned with the budget and has spoken about this for years. He stated the

budget went from 35% to 60% and it is not slowing down. He stated the district has no room and they need to do something about it now.

Sel. Lavigne agreed that this was not a statement of support of the school budget. He stated that this has nothing to do with how the Board thinks and feels about the schools and teachers or about what they deserve. He stated that the problem was the district. He stated that there is a spending problem at the district and because they have never seen a proper budget they don't know what the spending problem is. He stated that the town can't afford to take care of everything if we are only giving money to the district.

Sel. Renzoni stated that this is not sustainable and that this will implode.

Sel. Lavigne asked if Fin Com had met on this yet and Mr. Lukes replied that they had not yet met but that he can pass this information along.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Board is not driving the budget, just is letting everyone know what we can afford.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED THAT THE HOLDEN BOS WISHED TO NOTIFY THE WRSD AMDIN THAT IT WILL SUPPORT NO MORE THAN A 2.5% INCREASE IN BUDGET FY 22 WITH A TOTAL DOLLAR INCREASE OF \$1 MILLION BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

8. Response to Citizens Address

None

9. Selectmen Minutes

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 21, 2021 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED BY A VOTE OF 3-0-1.** (Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: abstain.)

10. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Lavigne stated that Halloween in Holden was on Saturday. He thanked all the work of the EDC along with the 40 businesses participating. He stated that this was going to be a great event.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the WRHS Cancer Awareness Club was holding a clothing drive where all proceeds would go to UMASS Memorial Cancer patients.

11. Selectmen Subcommittee

None

**Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 18, 2021
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE
at 7:33PM. (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes.)**

APPROVED: 4/11/22