

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2021**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

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

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

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Barnes stated that Sel. Bates was participating remotely; she confirmed that Sel. Bates was able to hear the conversation. Sel. Bates confirmed that he could.

1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

The Board invited Stephanie Klink up to the podium. She stated that she is excited to be a part of the Playground Committee and looking forward to having an all inclusive playground in Town.

The Board thanked Ms. Klink for stepping up.

Mr. Lukes stated that this Committee was set up for the addition of an all inclusive playground in town. He stated that this has been in the process for about a year and it began as a high school project and has gotten to this point. He stated that the location of the playground will be at HMLD.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPOINT STEPHANIE KLINK TO THE INCLUSIVE ACCESS PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE FOR A TERM OF 12/6/21 TO 12/6/24 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

2. Citizens Address

None

Appointments, Licenses, and Permits Cont.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE FARM AT SUMMIT WYNDY FOR A PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT AND ONE DAY WINE AND MALT LICENSE AS FILED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Lavigne: yes; Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE A ONE DAY WINE AND MALT, FOR WACHUMAKIN' FOR 12/11/21 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 REAPPOINT HEATHER PARRY, TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2024 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: Yes; Lavigne: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Barnes: yes).

3. HMLD FY 22 Budget Submission

Barry Tupper, GM was present at the meeting.

He presented to the Board- *'Holden Municipal Light Department CY 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets, December 6, 2021.'*

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET AS PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 6, 2021 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,637,974 AS PRESENTED BY DECEMBER 6, 2021 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

4. Annual License Renewals

Mr. Lukes stated that the list of businesses that were compliant and not compliant were up to date. He recommended approving the renewals for those in compliance and holding off on the others as the Town Clerks office was trying to contact the owners and rectify the issues.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE LICENSES ON THE ESTABLISHMENTS IN COMPLIANCE LIST NOTED ON THE DECEMBER 6 MEMO FROM THE TOWN MANAGERS OFFICE AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

The Board indicated they would revisit the lists at the next meeting to see if any additional establishments became compliant.

5. Selectmen Minutes

None

6. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Lavigne stated that last week along with Sel. Herlihy he met with the School Committee and Board of Selectmen from the district. He stated that many of the Boards want to reduce the number of seats that the Board holds however the School Committee does not wish to do this. He stated that they will reconvene and come up with options for this. Sel. Lavigne stated that they also wanted to put language in to get the budget to the towns by February 15th. He stated that they spoke about keeping the review to no less than every 5 years and that they were working in good faith to accomplish this review. Sel. Lavigne thanked Ken Mills for his hard work, he stated that the Committee had been working over the last few months and the biggest sticking point seemed to be the size of the committee.

Sel. Lavigne thanked the Rec. Dept. for putting on a great event with the tree lighting and stated that it looked better than ever. He stated that the troops came out and that Seven Saws donated a lot of lights as well.

7. Public Hearing: Transfer of License All Alcoholic Beverages on Premises License, Thai House of Holden

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR TRANSFER OF LICENSE ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON PREMISES LICENSE, THAI THOUSE OF HOLDEN BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

The Public Hearing was open.

Achara Weydt, owner and manager of Thai House of Holden was present at the meeting. She stated that she was in the process of taking over the business at the Local Tavern and wanted to create a new Thai place and full bar. She stated that she wanted to be in Holden and that people go out and support local places so she took the opportunity when it came up.

Sel. Renzoni thanked her for investing in Holden and stated that he was excited to have them in Town.

Chairman Barnes opened it up for public comment.

Amy Parker, 686 Main Street was present at the meeting. She stated that she was the landlord at this property and she was in full support of the restaurant and the owner.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Sel. Renzoni suggested tabling this matter until the next meeting. He stated that the current property owner has personal property taxes for equipment outstanding and he was afraid that if the Town transferred the license they would be able to walk away from their obligation. He stated that he would like the current owners to comply and pay their taxes prior to the transfer.

Sel. Lavigne agreed.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO TABLE THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING: TRANSFER OF LICENSE ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON PREMISES LICENSE, THAI HOUSE OF HOLDEN UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

8. Public Hearing: HMLD Rates

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING: HMLD RATES FOR CY22 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Chairman Barnes asked if there was any member of the public who wished to speak; no member of the public stepped forward.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING: HMLD RATES BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO ADJUST ALL RATE CLASSES BY .002/ KWH FOR CY 2022 AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

9. Town Manager Update

See Attached

Sel. Lavigne left the meeting at 7:22PM

Sel. Lavigne returned to the meeting at 7:24PM.

10. Open Space and Recreation Plan

Pam Harding, Planning and Development Director, was present at the meeting along with Dani Morini, CMRPC. She presented *Open Space and Recreation Plan 2021 Monday December 6, 2021*. (See attached)

Also present at the meeting were: Glenda Williamson, Conservation Agent, Erin Bradbury, Holden Rec. Committee, Jim Dunn, Chairman of Agricultural Committee, Steve Chaslowish, HYS Board of Directors and Dave Murphy HYS.

Sel. Renzoni left the meeting at 7:33PM.

Sel. Renzoni returned to the meeting at 7:35PM

The Board thanked everyone for their work on this presentation.

11. Town Manager Review

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Board needed to vote on the Town Managers Review along with the pay increase of 1% by contract and move to adopt or amend the review.

A motion was made by Sel. Lavigne to accept the evaluation as presented, it was seconded by Sel. Bates.

Sel. Lavigne stated that the manager was kind enough to put together a self evaluation that was honest and he achieved more than was needed to be done in a very crazy year. Sel. Lavigne told Mr. Lukes that he did an outstanding job and made the town a leading practice for the Commonwealth. He stated the goals the Board set were aggressive and he met them and had a fantastic year with hard work.

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Town Manager did not evaluate himself for Covid however he kept continuity through the pandemic and excelled in leading the town and employees. He stated he would be the first to move a max pay rate increase and noted the savings Mr. Lukes realized with the decision to move the health alliance.

Sel. Lavigne stated that the Board had always had a great working relationship with the Town Manager and felt that the communication was fantastic.

Sel. Herlihy stated that Mr. Lukes worked hard with the town and employees but he also went above and beyond with the businesses. She stated that the Town added businesses and kept businesses open as much as possible through the pandemic.

Chairman Barnes stated that Mr. Lukes thought outside the box in so many different situations.

Sel. Bates stated that he has been impressed with the Town Manager and his team in all aspects of operations and management.

Mr. Lukes thanked the Board for their support and stated that he enjoyed being a part of Holden.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO ACCEPT THE TOWN MANAGERS REVIEW AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THE REVIEW AND PRESENT IT TO THE TOWN MANAGER AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** . (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE A MERIT BASED PAY RAISE TO MAX CONTRACT OF 1% AND TO HAVE IT ALLOCATED RETROACTIVELY TO THE DATE ON THE CONTRACT BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** . (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

Ms. King left the meeting at 8:22PM.

12. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Lavigne stated that the EDC met and is working to reorg. He stated it was a great group of people and that he was very excited to work with them.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 6, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING AT 8:23PM BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Renzoni: yes; Herlihy: yes; Lavigne: yes; Barnes: yes; Bates: yes).

APPROVED: 4/11/22