

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 16, 2022**

**6:00PM**

**WRSD**

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Stephanie Mulroy, Geri Herlihy, Richard Bates  
(participating remotely)

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

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order. The Board waived the Pledge of Allegiance until they recessed for ATM.

**1. Discussion and Positions on ATM Warrant Articles**

The Board of Selectmen met with the Finance Committee to discuss the Shrewsbury Street project and Chapter 90 funds.

Fin Com stated that there seemed to be confusion with regards to the project. They stated that the Town was responsible for the right of way and that while it was reimbursed with Chapter 90 money there seemed to be confusion when discussing the project. He stated that the town was responsible for paying for engineering and several hundreds of thousands were paid to date for design of the right of way.

Mr. White stated that he specifically asked the Town Manager if any town funds were required and the answer was no. He stated it felt like smoke and mirror because it was reimbursement. He stated that money was for roads and sidewalks so he was concerned that the right answer was not given when they asked.

Mr. Lukes replied that it was road improvement and in context. He stated that he did not appreciate the characterization of smoke and mirrors. He stated the answer was not no, it was some portion of the project as he knew design and engineering would be.

Mr. Berg stated that apart from the notice this was a small cost to leverage for a larger project. He stated he did not have an issue.

Mr. Challenger asked what the design money was used for.

Mr. Woodsmall replied that \$140,000 was used for reimbursement for land acquisition under state guidelines. He stated that boundaries were set to be taken by eminent domain, purchase or donations and they were looking to acquire about 888 parcels either permanently or temporarily. He stated some easements were to redo slopes, to match

sidewalks, etc, some of the permanent ones were for utility poles. He stated that this was simply to fund any land acquisition.

A member of Fin Com asked if the home owners knew about it.

Mr. Woodsmall replied that they did. He stated that just this year there were two meetings both over Zoom with DOT and in person to see the plans and look at the scope of the easements.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the first meeting was in 2019 and people should know it is coming.

Chairman Renzoni asked if there was any other business Fin Com and the Selectboard needed to speak about prior to the meeting; no additional business was discussed.

## **2. Water Sewer Rates**

Mr. Renzoni stated that the Board had asked Mr. Woodsmall to satisfy the Boards concern about rates. Mr. Woodsmall presented the Board with proposed *Town of Holden, Water and Sewer Rates / Effective for all Water & Sewer Bills Issued as of July 2, 2022*. (Attached).

Chairman Renzoni suggested that the Board adopt the rates as presented.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **VOTED TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF HOLDEN WATER AND SEWER RATES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022 AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Bates: yes; Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes; Renzoni: yes).

## **Discussion and Position on ATM Warrant Articles Cont.**

Chairman Renzoni stated that there were still some questions on easements and eminent domain. He asked Mr. Woodsmall to review the prints and show them the easements.

Mr. Woodsmall showed the easements to the Board. The Board reviewed the plans with Mr. Woodsmall and looked at the individual lots and residents that were impacted.

Ms. King left the meeting at 6:23PM.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that this project will make sidewalks more walkable and safer especially in proximity to the middle school.

Sel. Bates asked about the notifications.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that they have had informal notifications but after the vote is approved there will be certification and conversations get logged and there will be no opportunity for residents to be unaware of what is happening.

Mr. Bates stated that it seemed like a good process. He asked if DPW had a spreadsheet or word document with every piece of land taken and how much of each. He asked for the information to be sent to him so he could answer any questions that came to him.

Mr. Woodsmall confirmed that engineering had a 9 page document that listed the easements.

Chairman Renzoni stated that when they begin to speak about this at Town Meeting they were able to tell the public that they have reached out informally to each impacted property owner and conducted a public hearing. He stated that 25% design with MA DOT was also available during informative public meetings where people were able to look at the plans and properties.

Sel. Herlihy stated it was also on the website.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that the link to the state website was up to.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they did not have to take any action tonight; he asked if there was anyone that wished to reconsider support for Article 21.

No members of the Board spoke.

Chairman Renzoni stated that this was a great project, he asked about the cost.

Ms. King returned to the meeting at 6:28PM.

Mr. Woodsmall replied that the project was about \$10 million that the Town didn't have to pay for.

Chairman Renzoni asked if there was anything additional on the Town Meeting Warrant Articles; no members of the Board spoke.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **VOTED TO RECESS THE MAY 16, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING TO ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND TO RECONVENE AFTER ATM FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ADJOURNMENT BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes)

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Chairman Renzoni, it was **VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MAY 16, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 9:23PM BY A VOTE OF 3-0).**

APPROVED: 8/29/22