

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 25, 2022**

**6:30PM**

**Senior Center**

Present: Chairman Anthony Renzoni, Stephanie Mulroy, Richard Bates (Participating Remotely), Geri Herlihy

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

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

**1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits**

Mr. Lukes stated that with regards to the outdoor seating amendment for Asti Enterprises the Board will vote on the permanent amendment for the common vic license but the temporary request for the sale of alcohol. He stated that the Boards ability to approve that without the ABCC expires April of 23 so this would be for a temporary extension. He stated that they had not heard from the Building Commissioner yet for various reasons not having anything to do with the applicant. He suggested a conditional approval contingent on building commissioners approval.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE OUTDOOR SEATING AMENDMENT TO ASTI ENTERPRISES, INC DBA HARVEST GRILLE CONTINGENT ON BUILDING COMMISSION APROVAL BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes.)

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF ELECTION OFFICERS, LISA DECIERO, ANDREW SINASKY, ELIZABETH WOOD, DIEGO ALFONSO, PATRICIA KORANDANIS, TERESA PHAM AND JOHN STAROK FOR A TERM OF 9/1/22-8/31/23 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

**2. Citizen Address**

None

**Appointments, Licenses, and Permits Cont.**

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE TOWN MANAGER TO ISSUE LICENSES AND PERMITS THAT ARE PRESENTED PRIOR TO THE NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR WACHUSETT AREA CHAMBER FOR HOLDEN DAYS, 8/27/22 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE COMMON VICTUALERS LICENSE FOR WACHUSETT AREA CHAMBER FOR HOLDEN DAYS, 8/27/22 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT FOR HOLDEN CROP HUNGERWALK, 10/16/22 AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE CONSTABLE REAPPOINTMENT; MATTHEW ATANIAN, FOR A TERM OF 7/25/22-7/25/25 AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

### **3. All Inclusive Playground Committee**

Members from the All Inclusive Playground Committee were present at the meeting. They presented to the Board: *Inclusive Access Playground Committee, Board of Selectmen, July 25, 2022*

After the presentation the Committee answered questions for the Board.

Sel. Mulroy asked if the Committee had spoken to Chapin Church with regards to their parking lot.

The Committee stated that they had not yet but that they intended to in the future.

Sel. Herlihy thanked the Committee for their hard work. She asked if they had a preliminary budget and if they had a cost estimate.

The Committee responded that they were not sure without the design but similar projects with the walking paths were about \$1 million.

Sel. Bates thanked everyone for their hard work.

Sel. Renzoni stated that this was a very ambitious and motivated group and they were moving along quickly. He stated there were a few other relationships but that there was also a 501C3.

The Committee stated that the way others were able to do it was to not use town funding. She stated that the town donated land to the non profit and when the playground was done they gifted it back to the town.

Sel. Renzoni stated it was outside thinking that was helping to drive the group. He stated he was not sure what the next steps were but knew the Committee wanted to go to Holden Days.

The Committee stated that they have a space to use and they would be interested in securing a little funding to do some games or fidgets.

Mr. Lukes stated that they were someplace between feasibility and design and they would need to go through a professional firm for a feasibility study.

Sel. Renzoni suggested working with Pam Harding next so she could assist with the municipal side of things. He thanked the Committee for their time and energy.

#### **4. Police Dept Introductions**

Chief Sherblom was present at the meeting. He introduced two new police officers Officer Fischer and Officer DiDimasso to the Board.

Chief Sherblom also introduced the Board to Officer Murray and Tahoe who had recently graduated from 14 weeks of training. He stated that Tahoe was purchased in February through a grant that covers costs of the dog, handler, vehicle, food and vet care for three years. He stated that Tahoe had completed the academy and will continue with 6 weeks of narcotic detection.

Chief Sherblom called Officer Janet Bourget to the podium. He stated he wanted to honor a recent retiree with 19 years of service. He stated that Officer Bourget was injured in the line of duty and due to the severity of the injury she had to retire. He stated that despite the difficult situation; she handled the situation with grace and dignity and it was his honor to present this shadow box to her with items from her uniforms and other items to honor her years of service.

The Board stood to honor Officer Bourget.

Chairman Renzoni called for a recess at 7:17PM.

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting back to order at 7:23PM.

#### **5. State Primary Warrant**

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO SET THE STATE PRIMARY WARRANT AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO SET THE TOWN SPECIAL ELECTION WARRANT AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **MOVED THAT THE SELECTBOARD VOTE, PER THE RECENTLY PASSED VOTES ACT, SECTION 71 OF CHAPTER 92 OF THE ACTS OF 2022, TO ASSIGN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS AT THE POLLIN LOCATION ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 TO PRESERVE ORDER AND TO AID IN ENFORCING THE LAWS RELATING TO ELECTION AND FURTHER TO VOTE TO DESIGNATE THE POLICE CHIEF AND HIS/HER DESIGNEES AS THE APPINTITN AUTHORITY OF POLICE DETAILS FOR ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS, ASSIGNING SPECIFIC POLICE OFFICERS ARRODING TO SCHEDUING AND AVAILABILTIY BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Ms. Hudson stated that with regards to the debt exclusion she needed the letter from the Board so she can send it to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Madaus stated that it is the first section for ballot prop 2.5 that is 2/3 vote of this Board to set that as a ballot question. He stated the Board was looking at a draft of the ballot for Prop 2.5% for Rec Field Project, 5921c and it needs 2/3 vote of the Board for borrowing.

Sel. Renzoni stated that this is the process that was available without holding a second election. He asked about the DPW project on Shrewsbury Street.

Mr. Lukes replied that was for the taking; it would not be borrowing; it would be a Special Town Meeting not an election like debt exclusion.

Sel. Renzoni asked what the Prop 2.5 exclusion was and how much money they were looking at.

Mr. Lukes replied not more than 3.5 Million.

Sel. Mulroy asked if that was a Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Lukes replied it first needed the vote than a ballot.

Sel. Renzoni asked about the timeline and if they thought it would challenging outside the political season.

Mr. Lukes replied that there is a lot of support in the community which is the main driving force at this point.

Sel. Renzoni agreed. He stated that other than the pool there had been no infrastructure investments in the Town for over 3 decades. He stated recreation was a goal of the Managers as well. He stated that if they put it on the ballot they need to work to educate the public as to what it was.

Sel. Herlihy read the ballot question into record.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE QUESTION AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Mr. Lukes stated that the feasibility study was for two artificial fields with lights, 1 rec u10 soccer and lax field and up to high school. Additionally some walking trails and play space for various exercise, seating, and parking with connecting overflow parking at the new DPW, concession, full utility, baseball field and a playground.

## **6. Early Voting Hours for Special Town Election**

Ms. Hudson thanked the Board for their table at Holden days. She stated that voter registration can be done on August 27, 2022. She stated that in November/ October there will be two weeks of early voting so there will be plenty of opportunity to vote.

Ms. Hudson thanked the Board for approving the election officers and stated that there was a training on August 2nd at 10:30 if anyone else was interested.

## **7. Public Hearing MGL Chapter 61, Section 8; Receipt of Notice of Owner's Intent to Sell Portions of Forest Land, Property located off of Salisbury Street**

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR MGL CHAPTER 61, SECTION 8; RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF OWNER'S INTENT TO SELL PORTIONS OF FOREST LAND, PROPERTY LOCATED OFF SALISBURY STREET BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Jim Dunn, Chair of Ag Com was at the meeting and presented: *Puffer- Henniger Chapter 61 Conversion Presentation, Salisbury St, dated July 25, 2022*

(See attached presentation)

Chairman Renzoni asked if any public had any questions; no members of the public stepped forward.

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

Chairman Renzoni asked if the Board had any questions or any desire to exercise; no Board members did.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE TO NOT EXERCISE THE TRANSFER FOR THE PROPOSED SALISBURY STREET CONVERSION AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENT.** (Herlihy: yes; Mulroy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

### **8. Shrewsbury Street Transportation Improvement Project Update**

DPW Engineering was present at the meeting. He stated that in May the vote to appropriate was voted down so they wanted to promote the project and were hoping that they can help explain and gain support for this project going forward.

Holden Engineering was present and shared, *Shrewsbury Street Roadway improvements, Presented by Town of Holden Department of Public Works*, dated July 25, 2022 (See attached).

Chairman Renzoni asked what had changed in this project since May.

Mr. Wood replied that they had progressed with the right of way plans but that they had not been given the go ahead to do more until they had this meeting and had support for the design.

Chairman Renzoni replied that he asked that question because Town Meeting is the arm of the government that says yes or no and in May Town Meeting spoke and said no. He stated that Mr. Woodsmall should be present; not Mr. Wood, answering these questions. Chairman Renzoni stated that he will allow other Board members to speak but that this sounds like the same project and moving forward he will not put this on the agenda without significant changes. He stated that message could be passed to Mr. Woodsmall and he would be happy to discuss it with him directly.

Mr. Wood replied that even though the design had not changed, the approach of the DPW had changed. He stated that they were surprised that they did not get the support that was needed for this project but that a lot of the pushback was not from people that they had conversations with; it was others. He stated that they needed to do more education so what had changed with the project was the outreach and DPW is working to engage with more people.

Chairman Renzoni stated that Town Meeting said no and it has not been the practice of this Board to continue to throw up the same project until it passed. He stated that he

could not support this for Special Town Meeting and the process that has to happen is that the Board sets a warrant and they (DPW) would go to the Board for this to happen and right now he did not want to even put it on the agenda to speak on because there were not changes made.

Mr. Lukes replied that there had not been any request for dramatic changes. He stated that Mr. Woodsmall was not present at the meeting because he was preparing for a trial.

Sel. Mulroy stated that she thinks that there was a lack of understanding about this project. She stated that after she sat with Mr. Wood and went parcel by parcel she better understood the project. She stated that going into Town Meeting she does not think that many people knew about the project and the benefits of the project and she thinks the dramatic difference will come with a better understanding of what the funding is and what it is for.

Sel. Mulroy stated that the water main work had been completed so now that needs to be repaved, the signal causing congestion needs to be addressed so that is another cost instead of incurring these costs, it makes sense to do the larger project and add value to the community in the process.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she was frustrated because only abutters were notified. She stated that many people learned about the project the night of Town Meeting. She stated it was up to them to educate the public but that maybe there were some changes that could be made for the abutters on Shrewsbury Street.

Sel. Bates stated that he agreed that it was an issue of communication and that needed to be better addressed going forward.

Chairman Renzoni asked how many times they should put the matter up.

Mr. Lukes replied that they will lose the funding.

Sel. Mulroy stated that there was more to this project than a rotary and that the community had not heard of all the good this project could bring.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was for this project but that he does not think they should go against Town Meeting.

Mr. Wood stated that they were working to make better presentations so that when they worked with the public they would not be presenting the documents that engineers looked at.

Mr. Lukes stated that they had to move quickly or they would lose funding. He stated that they have heard from many residents about their concern about losing the funding as well. He stated that this is a project that will impact the entire community.

Mr. Bates stated that a lot of residents were not aware of this project.

Chairman Renzoni stated that DPW spent \$700,000 for a project that was unknown. He stated that the Board did not hear about this project until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

The Board asked if they would be at Holden Days. Mr. Lukes replied that he believed they would be.

Mr. Madaus stated that he wished to clarify one piece of information. He stated that he thought someone said that there was no appropriation with this article but there is. He stated that if the Town is taking property there needs to be compensation. He stated that they need to pay 3 years rental value and the permanent easements so those payments will be appropriated.

Chairman Renzoni asked if the vote at Town Meeting was to authorize eminent domain and then have the funds come from Chapter 90.

Mr. Madaus stated that he was unsure how those funds would be allocated.

Chairman Renzoni stated there were lots of questions unanswered. He stated that they need to get the public to understand the project and what it meant.

#### **9. Keno License Application; Thai House of Holden**

Chairman Renzoni asked if any members had any objections; no members did. He suggested passing over this item and allowing the 21 day period of objection to expire. The Board agreed.

#### **10. Town Manager Update**

See attached

Mr. Madaus left the meeting at 8:29PM

Mr. Madaus returned to meeting at 8:30PM.

#### **11. Water and Sewer Exceptions to Policy**

Chairman Renzoni stated that the purpose of his bringing this matter up was to ask the Town Manager if they can explore an appeals process for Water and Sewer policy exceptions and to see what the responsibility of the Water Sewer Advisory Board would be.

Mr. Lukes stated that this has happened before at a different level but the way a dispute is resolved is through court. He stated the concern with making a change to policy would



be that a politically connected individual could bypass the operation decision made. He stated that they could explore this option further if the Board wished to do so.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Advisory Board is appointed by the Manager. He stated that it was something that was briefly discussed through MMA but as Water/Sewer Advisors he wanted to explore further what their roles and responsibilities were and what authority if any they had.

Mr. Madaus stated that there is a general governing of public sewer systems; MGL 83.1 that property owners if they have the means to pay they can tie into the system if they system is available, has capacity, and technology. He stated those are the only basis that muni denies sewer services. He stated that is what there are, not a lot of appeals.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he wanted to know the authority that the Board had as Commissioners; he stated he just wanted to explore that question in terms of appeals.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she would like to know the Boards authority as well and where a citizen could go besides court for any potential issues.

Mr. Bates agreed and stated that perhaps a tax payer could have a different avenue then a developer for an appeal process.

## **12. Response to Citizens Address**

None

## **13. Selectmen Minutes**

None

## **14. Selectmen Miscellaneous**

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Board had a potential quorum issue for the August meeting. He stated that they would speak and make a definitive decision on the meeting as it came closer.

## **15. Selectmen Subcommittee**

Mr. Lukes stated DPW does have a table at Holden Days.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO ADJOURN THE JULY 25, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 8:47PM BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Mulroy: yes; Herlihy: yes; Bates: yes; Renzoni: yes).

APPROVED: 7/25/22