

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2022**

5:00PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Stephanie Mulroy, Geri Herlihy Richard Bates, Thomas Curran

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Steven Madaus, Town Counsel
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder (Participating remotely)

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order. Chairman Renzoni stated that the meeting had been in order since 5:00pm where the Board conducted interviews to fill the vacant spot for the WRSC seat. He stated that after meeting 5 over qualified candidates the Board voted and appointed Benjamin Andrews to the position on the school committee that will expire at the next election.

1. Citizen Address

Brendan O'Malley, 19 South View Road was present at the meeting. He stated that he was there with 2 kids in the Wachusett District and that he was puzzled that the most qualified candidate was not appointed and that it was a bit of a kangaroo court. He stated that he may need to talk to Attorney General regarding the mismanagement. He stated there was a 5 month window for the budget and the most qualified person was not chosen. He stated he is upset and he thinks that the board is politicized and is disgraceful.

Maureen Florian, 191 Sterling Road was present at the meeting. She stated she too was confused at what happened she stated she was under the impression that the public would be able to weigh in on this. She stated she watched the last meeting and she wanted to speak and weigh in instead of 5 people deciding for the whole town when they were changing rep and number of reps. She stated it was going from 10 to 6 representatives so every voice will have a megaphone. She stated that she wanted to make sure that everyone is apolitical and objective in evaluating the controversies that have been arising across different school committees. She stated that several people in the audience thought they were going to be involved in the process and she did not even understand that happened.

2. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

Mr. Lukes stated that with regards to the licenses for the Farms at Summit Wynd's he wished to hold off on this until he has a chance to sit down and discuss the event further.

Ms. Parker stated that a lot of their vendors book far in advance and asked to expedite the process.

Chairman Renzoni stated that at this point police, fire, and health had all signed off on this. The Town Managers office just wanted to address the event with the farm to make sure they were on the same page. The Board stated they would put it on the agenda for the first meeting in January.

A motion was made by Sel. Bates and seconded by Sel. Herlihy to appoint Nancy Rocheleau and Maleah Gustafson to the Agricultural Commission. He stated that he had been reached out to by the Ag Com and they could not vote because their terms expired.

Sel. Herlihy stated Ms. Gustafson has been a long term member of Ag Com and there was trouble filling these spots. She stated that she was in general supportive of these appointments.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was a no vote or an amendment to the vote. He stated that Ms. Gustafson had been participating in activism at the local level and was spreading misinformation as it relates to the Dawson Playground Expansion working on social media and crowds trying to derail the process before she was willing to listen to the discussion and presentations. He stated that she was an elected person on the school committee and he had no say there but as far as an appointment he did not choose to support it. He stated that this was his personal interaction with her leading up to the Special Town Meeting. He stated that she was not willing to listen or have an open mind.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Board could amend the motion but as it stood he was a no vote. He stated he was concerned to work with an appointed person that did not have a willingness to sit and listen.

Sel. Mulroy asked for more information. She made a motion to amend the original motion to strike Maleah Gustafson from the motion. The Motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Sel. Herlihy asked if they decided to hold off would they invite her in to discuss this. Chairman Renzoni stated she was welcome.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he did not appreciate her style and that it had been the case for many months working on the project but that he understands that Mr. Dunn needed appointments on the Ag Com to move forward with their important work.

Sel. Mulroy made a motion to remove Maleah Gustafson from the original motion. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **VOTED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF NANCY ROCHELEAU AND MALEAH GUSTAFSON TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 11/2/25 BY A VOTE OF 3-0-2.** (Renzoni: no; Mulroy: no).

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINT LANCE LAZAR TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/25 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINT CHARLES SKILLINGS TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/25 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINT ELIZABETH PARENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/25 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINTE SUE WEILAND TO BE AN ELECTION WORKER FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 8/31/23 AS PRESENTED.**

3. Annual License Renewal

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE MEMO DATED 12/20/22 WHICH ARE IN COMPLIANCE FOR THE ANNUAL LICENSES RENEWALS.**

Motion by Sel. Curran, seconded by Sel. Bates, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPROVE THE LICENSES OF BUSINESSES ON THE MEMO DATED 12/20/22 NON COMPLIANCE LIST IF THEY BECOME COMPLIANT.**

4. HMLD 2023 Capital and Operating Budget

Mr. Tupper was present at the meeting. He stated that a few things of note before they got into the budget; they were fully staffed, and hosted a Toys for Tots drop off. He stated additionally they were able to send a line man to Florida to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. The light dept put in a new heating system and thanked Gary Kaczmarek they have 9 more solar installs. He stated additionally the circuit build out has been grown. The trimming program was also bought up project 2015a production is on schedule. He stated that they will continue to monitor power cost issues.

Holden Municipal Light Department; CY 2023 Operating and Capital Budget dated December 12, 2022 was presented to the Board. (See attached).

The Board paused HMLD presentation in order to open a public hearing.

5. Public Hearing: HMLD Rates

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR HMLD RATES.**

Chairman Renzoni opened it up for public comment; no members of the public stepped forward to speak.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR HMLD RATES.**

Chairman Renzoni asked about the meters. He asked if any of the meter money had been spent.

Mr. Tupper replied that roughly \$200,000 has been spent.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they had budgeted a certain amount and we had not used those funds and they would now be asking for an additional \$1.4 million.

Mr. Tupper replied that they were not asking for more it was just carryover.

Chairman Renzoni asked for the policy regarding the privacy with the meters as well.

HMLD continued to speak about their Capital and Operating Budget.

Sel. Curran asked about the battery program and if it made sense to do it alone instead of with a partner.

Motion by Sel. Bates, seconded by Sel. Mulroy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE HMLD CALENDAR YEAR 2023 OPERATING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,179,036 AS PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 12, 2022.**

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF 3,340,783.57 AS PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 12, 2022.**

Motion by Sel. Curran, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJUST ALL RATE CLASSES BY \$.0075/KWH FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 AS PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 12, 2022.**

Chairman Renzoni called a one minute recess.
Chairman Renzoni called the meeting back to order.

6. Town Manager Update

See attached

Chairman Renzoni asked the Town Manager to follow up on the power use for the new DPW site.

Mr. Lukes stated that there was a favorable finding on the grant application for MA Office on Disability. He stated that they applied for a Municipal ADA Improvement Grant for a maximum of \$67,000. He stated that would be used for CMRPC to do an update to ADA Policies and Handbook.

Mr. Lukes stated we have been building a relationship with 016.com which was a social media news sharing site for more outreach. This is a new one and there will be more interviews with the Department heads.

7. Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Board was meeting January 9, 2023 and they would set the schedule for the rest of the year then.

8. Follow up to Citizens Address

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was the swing vote. He stated that Mr. Scheinfeldt did not get his vote. He stated he was overqualified and he did a great job as a School Committee member and as a Selectboard member. He stated his questions were about COVID and COVID Policy and he did not give him the answer he was looking for so he was not going to support him (Scheinfeldt). He stated to suggest that there were any conversations outside the public meeting they could file a complaint.

Chairman Renzoni stated he also did not commit to have any citizens comment at the interview process but that he did have many reach out before hand.

9. Selectmen Minutes

None

10. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Curran asked for a status update on the water work on Shrewsbury Street.

Mr. Lukes stated that was a private contractor and he would have to check on it and get back to him

Sel. Herlihy: none.

Sel. Mulroy: none.

Sel. Bates: none.

Chairman Renzoni: none.

Chairman Renzoni stated he would entertain re opening Citizens Address, the Board did not wish to do that.

11. Selectmen Subcommittee

Chairman Renzoni stated he was going to take the Dawson Expansion Committee. He stated that all the Board members had multiple committees and they were starting to get active.

Motion by Sel. Mulroy, seconded by Sel. Curran, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 8:39PM.**

APPROVED: 1/9/23