

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 1, 2020**

**6:30PM**

**Senior Center**

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Robert Lavigne, Chiara Barnes

Not Present: Geri Herlihy, Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager

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

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Sel. Lavigne thanked Ms. King for her work on the parade and thanked the town for waiving the parade fees.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE WRSD 2020 GRADUATE PARADE PERMIT AS PRESENTED AND WAIVE ANY FEES THAT COME UP.**

Sel. Lavigne thanked the local businesses for their support.

Mr. Lukes stated the EDC coordinated with the businesses as well.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPOINT THE ELECTION WORKERS TO EXPIRE 8/15/2021 AS PRESENTED.**

**2. Citizen Address**

Chairman Renzoni stated that after they reorganized the Board they would eliminate the 7:00PM Citizens Address.

Chairman Renzoni called a recess at 6:34PM. He called the meeting back to order at 6:35PM.

Karen Bullis, Shrewsbury Street, was present at the meeting. She stated that she had a few questions regarding the procedures for Town employees. She asked if Town employees could be removed by the Board of Selectmen and asked if Board of Health employees could be removed by the Selectboard as well.

She stated she also wanted to know if employees of the Town were able to speak at the Town Meeting if they were residents.

Ms. Bullis also asked about special committees to address issues of Mass General Law.

She also wanted more information about dangerous dog hearings taking 3-4 months to schedule.

She stated she also wanted to know if they could look into the Town's representation with the Department of Health in Worcester because she noticed that Holden does not get the same benefits that Worcester gets with regards to elder services and elder mental health.

Ms. Bullis stated she also wanted to know if the residents of the Town have the ability to have access to the Town Manager's review.

Chairman Renzoni closed Citizens Address.

### **3. Selectmen's Meeting Schedule**

Chairman Renzoni asked if they could hold off on this until the next meeting as Sel. Herlihy was not present.

Chairman Renzoni called for a recess at 6:42PM to wipe down the microphone. The meeting was called back to order at 6:44PM.

### **4. Vote on Borrowing for Mountview Middle School and Water/Sewer Projects**

Sharon Lowder, Town Treasurer, was present at the meeting. She stated that this was a routine every June. She stated that there was \$59,000 in the Mountview balance that had to be continued because the Town Meeting was rescheduled and they could not appropriate funds so they had to renew it. She stated that it would be finalized in November along with two water/sewer projects.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE BORROWING FOR MOUNTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WATER/ SEWER PROJECT BANDS AS PRESENTED.**

### **5. Town Manager Update**

See Attached.

Chairman Renzoni interrupted the Town Manager's Update to speak about Town Pool Opening.

### **6. Town Pool Opening**

Mr. Lukes stated that they were still waiting on guidance for the pool. He stated that they had a call today with regards to Phase 2, but that it was still up in the air. He stated that they had seen private clubs opening June 12, but that they were seeking clarification. Mr. Lukes stated that they were told today that public pools could not be used for summer camps. He stated that they still expected to open the pool at some point in the summer and once they have clarification they will let the Board know.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he wanted speak about this to let the Town Manager know the Board's position on the pool. He stated that last week they spoke about the state trying a one size fits all approach to reopening; but Holden is different than the rest of the state. He stated that we have had less than 80 cases in 20,000 people. He stated that the Board wants to let the Town Manager know that he should be opening the pool in our timeline and that he should do what is best for Holden.

Sel. Lavigne stated that if the Town thinks it's reasonable than it makes sense to proceed forward.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they had spoken a little bit about a grid system for the bandstand and they could possibly do the same thing for the pool. He stated that the Recreation Department and staff would have to enforce rules laid out.

Sel. Lavigne stated that if they were speaking about capacity then he thought they should discuss banning out of town sales for pool passes. He stated that Holden residents should get access first. He stated in addition to giving Town residents first choice, Holden was a small community with a small infection rate, lower than surrounding towns and they did not want to invite in the potential for spreading Covid.

Sel. Lavigne asked if the state guidance on outdoor gatherings of this nature was arbitrary.

Mr. Madaus stated that outdoor guidelines were issues and that the Board of Health and Mass Dept of Health were to enforce it.

Chairman Renzoni asked if it was required to enforce it.

Mr. Madaus replied that it stated "shall enforce".

Mr. Lukes stated that there was a lot of contradictions for outdoor gatherings. He stated that they are asking for more guidance without being micro managed. He stated that regarding the pool for the time being it was wait and see and that the Board of Health would be the enforcement authority.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the position that the Board is taking is that they will make it as safe as possible but when the Manager is comfortable he should move forward. He stated that the Board has made it clear that they want government to get out of the way so

the Town can move towards a post Covid normal. He stated that the Board wants to open businesses safely as soon as possible.

Sel. Lavigne stated that in the end, the Board wants the Manager to do what he thinks is right for the people in Town.

Mr. Lukes stated that the problem is that there are a lot of contradictions. He stated that many times they don't have any good answers. He stated that they want some uniformity and a path forward but they have no notice or clear guidance to do so.

Chairman Renzoni interrupted the Town Pool Opening for Citizen Address

## **7. Citizen Address**

Tom Anderson, 23 Holly Circle was present at the meeting. He stated that he agrees with the Board, the time has come to make some decisions as a Town to reopen. He stated that they did receive some guidance as to reopening bars and restaurants and that they will allow them to be part of Phase 2 if there is some sort of food being served. He stated that they were very antsy to open and that they were prepped to open for June 6. He stated that they have their paperwork pending and they were working on their set up for outdoor seating. He thanked the Board for what they were doing.

## **Town Pool Opening Cont.**

Sel. Lavigne asked about a timeline for both the pool and local businesses.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he does not think they can wait much longer. He stated that without objection the Town Manager should do what he thinks is best on his timeline and with safety procedures in place to get businesses going.

Mr. Lukes stated that two weeks ago he said that there would be more businesses opening and since then that has happened. He stated that maybe business owners were at their tipping point and the Town will have to deal with that as it comes but they will work to provide guidance for them to have safe staff and customers. He stated that at the very least there will be protocols.

Sel. Lavigne stated that the business owners in town are responsible community members. He stated that if there is a process in place and owners are being responsible and cleaning then he wants to move forward. He stated he does not want businesses to leave town.

Chairman Renzoni stated he agreed and thanked the business owners in town.

Chairman Renzoni stated that regarding the pool, he thinks they should limit it to residents only.

Sel. Lavigne agreed and stated that if the amount of people allowed into the pool would be capped it should go to Holden residents first.

Sel. Barnes stated that she agreed and it made sense from a capacity standpoint.

Sel. Gibbs stated that tracking would also be easier if it was an in town situation.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Barnes, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE A LIMITED ACCESS POLICY FOR THE HOLDEN POOL BASED ON RESIDENCY.**

#### **Town Manager Update Cont.**

Sel. Lavigne asked if the Board had the authority to lower quorum or did that responsibility sit with the moderator.

Mr. Madaus stated that the bill he saw was that the Board of Selectmen may reduce the quorum not the moderator. He stated that he would look up the updated version of the bill and let them know. He stated that additionally the local liquor license will be for the Selectboard to approve as well.

Mr. Lukes stated that things were changing often and they would look into it and get back to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Anderson stated the legislation that he received today gave a lot of local authority.

Mr. Madaus stated that he did check with MMA, the house revised its stand on the quorum for Town Meeting and that it would be not less than 10%. He stated that they were waiting for this to be enacted.

Chairman Renzoni asked for them to have this prepared for the next meeting.

Mr. Madaus stated that normally it would be a 2-6 week process with the ABCC to have a liquor license approved but the change allowed local licenses authorities to allow for outdoor seating through November 1, 2020 without needing the ABCC.

Mr. Lukes stated that they will now have the ability starting next week if any restaurant submits a plan to give them authority to move forward. He stated that there would be requirements that needed to be met but the Town would be able to go forward without the waiting period that usually surrounded this type of sale.

Sel. Lavigne stated that they should post this and get notice to business owners.

#### **8. Follow Up to Citizen Address**

Chairman Renzoni stated that yes they can remove people. He stated that any resident could speak at Town Meeting. Special Committees could be requested. He stated additionally the Town Manager can prepare a statement with regards to the question on dangerous dog hearings and in regards to Department of Public Health, and that residents could see the Town Manager's review as it was a public document.

#### **9. Selectmen Minutes**

Tabled to next meeting

#### **10. Selectmen Miscellaneous**

Chairman Renzoni thanked Ms. King for her help on the parade along with the Chiefs as well. He stated that if you wanted to congratulate the seniors they are leaving the High School at 11:00AM going up Main Street and then back around to the High School around 2:00PM.

Mr. Lukes stated that he wanted to send his condolences to the Rutland Police Department and the Songy family. He stated that there would be a wake at Miles on Wednesday and they expect several hundred officers so traffic would be rerouted.

#### **11. Selectmen Subcommittee**

Chairman Renzoni stated that he would speak on Fin Com on Monday to get through some of the warrant articles. He stated that due to the demographics of Fin Com they were not going to meet. He stated that they will get the Fin Com recommendations and take positions. He stated that Town Meeting was on June 29, 2020.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the next meeting would be on June 8, 2020 and they would talk about Annual Town Meeting, pool fees, and also work with the Town Manager agenda.

Mr. Madaus stated that regarding the Governors Executive Orders on liquor, any zoning considerations were taken off the table, so if a premises had limited seating it would be in violation of this but this order resolved that issue.

Sel. Lavigne asked about handicap parking as well.

Mr. Madaus replied that this just had to do with zoning issues.

Chairman Renzoni stated that if you were a local restaurant, go look at the new press release and see how it fits your business and the Town will help as much as they can.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE JUNE 1, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:48PM.**

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_9/14/20\_\_\_\_\_