

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2020**

6:00PM

Senior Center

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Robert Lavigne, Geri Herlihy,

Not Present: Chiara Barnes, Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel (6:34PM)
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

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

1. Appointments, Licenses and Permits

Chairman Lavigne stated that the Board had a ZOOM meeting prior to this in order to appoint three members to the Holden Cultural Council. Jean Paul Paulynice, Lora Zommer, and Tracy Acito were all appointed to three year terms.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE CHRIS HUGO TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE, 7/17/2023.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE LORI ST. GERMAIN TO BE AN ELECTION WORKER FROM 9/1/20-8/31/2021.**

2. Street Acceptance

Chairman Lavigne stated that the Street Acceptances were voted on at town meeting and that the Board just needed to sign documentation.

3. Town Manager Update

See Attached

Mr. Madaus entered the meeting at 6:34PM.

Chairman Lavigne interrupted the Town Manager Update to call for Citizen Address.

4. Citizen Address

None

Town Manager Update Cont.

(attached)

5. Rate Discount Discussion

Mr. Lukes stated that the Light Department is concerned and Water/Sewer is even more concerned because FY 21 had the old way of collections and there will have to be adjustments made if they were going to continue to discount. He stated that there were 35 customers in arrears at this point but if you breakdown the customers it is customers that were in arrears pre-covid so the discount is not necessarily helping those impacted by Covid. He stated that the overall financial of HMLD is down by .25% so not horrible but revenue is down by 2%. He stated that residential is up and commercial and municipal is down.

Chairman Lavigne asked if that was because of restaurants closing.

Mr. Lukes stated that they can't analyze Water/Sewer yet as they just started their fiscal year.

A motion was made by Sel. Renzoni to table this discussion until the August meeting; it was seconded by Sel. Gibbs.

Sel. Herlihy asked if we waited until the August meeting if projections would be available to review.

Mr. Lukes replied he would have one by August.

Sel. Renzoni stated that if they table it a month it is a fraction of the year being impacted. He stated that he wants to talk about the account itself sooner rather than later. He stated that they want one month operating and one month stabilization not as a revenue source. He stated that if that had been carried out then they would not be in this position. He stated that these accounts should have reserves.

Sel. Lavigne asked if we knew how much was being lost July of 2019 to July of 2020.

Mr. Lukes replied he did not but that he could find out.

Sel. Renzoni stated that he was not opposed to moving the matter in August but he wanted the numbers in front of him.

Chairman Lavigne stated that HMLD usage is down and revenue is down so they should anticipate a good climb on the bill. He stated that he would like to know the impact on

the portfolio assuming everyone's home spiked. He suggested everyone to submit questions so they have information to discuss the matter in August.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO TABLE THE RATE DISCOUNT DISCUSSION UNTIL THE AUGUST 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING.**

Sel. Renzoni stated that the Rate Stabilization and Operating Expenses were a Board policy and it was an account that was set up that could have handled Covid. He stated as a Water/Sewer Commissioner he wants a plan and they need to discuss the rate scheme on this account in particular.

Chairman Lavigne stated that this is the purpose of the rate stabilization funds; to use in times like these to dip into and help.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the account operates on small margins; she stated that they are wanting to keep a discount knowing that rates are going to increase. She stated the account has no flexibility right now. She asked if the stabilization was the same as the retained earnings.

Sel. Renzoni stated that Mr. Woodsmall called it retained earnings but that it was specifically revenue to pay the bill to make a profit for 1-2 months of operating.

Sel. Herlihy stated that they need to have a more in depth conversation about this.

Sel. Renzoni stated this was something previously set up that took a lot of work with a lot of people and now that it is needed it is not there. He stated this was prior to the Town Manger's time.

6. Selectmen Minutes

None

7. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Gibbs: none

Sel. Herlihy stated that she was contacted by a citizen with regards to the cemeteries. She stated that this citizen had so much knowledge. She stated that in 1986 there was a Cemetery Commission and it was something that she wanted to speak about bringing back.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she also hopes that they can get a handle on the sports fields as there are issues with irrigation.

Mr. Lukes replied that they were working on that.

Sel. Renzoni: none

Chairman Lavigne: none.

8. Selectmen Subcommittee

None

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE JULY 20, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:08PM.**

APPROVED: _____**9/14/20**_____