



MINUTES
Tuesday, Sept 7th, 2021
Select Board Meeting – 5:00PM
Town Hall – Community Room
27 Sturbridge Rd., 1st floor
Holland, MA 01521

Meeting called to Order at 5:01PM, by Bettina Schmidt

Select Board members in attendance: Bettina Schmidt, Clelland Johnson, James Whalen

Others in attendance: Stacy Stout (Town Admin), Linda Blodgett, Andy Harhay, Denise Knight, Ernie Fancy, Brian Johnson

1. Approval of Minutes – 8/3/2021 Amended; 8/17/2021 – tabled

Agenda taken out of order due to additional participants needed who had not yet arrived

2. Accounting Services contract – C. Johnson noted section 3c enumerating accountant responsibilities
- add “work with Finance Board”

Motion090701: Motion made by J Whalen to approve signing of Accounting Services contract with above noted addition, 2nd by C Johnson, All in favor - Yes

3. Re-Precincting letter – letter from state for Select Board to sign documents certifying Holland will remain as one (1) precinct

Motion090702: Motion made by C Johnson to approve signing of the Precinct documents, 2nd by J Whalen, All in favor - Yes

4. Storm damage expenditures for Highway – reviewed email from B Johnson/Highway Dept with invoices (\$63,000+ spent to date) proactively sharing information with Select Board and Finance Board as expenditures are over anticipate for spend to date; PD Chief Haughey confirmed no state of emergency had been declared for last 2 storm events however suggests we submit to MEMA and see if any reimbursement is available; Town Administrator has been researching funding options – Senator Gobi’s office assisting in identifying options; A Harhay/Finance Board suggested General Stabilization funds may need to be used, which would require a Special Town Meeting; J Whalen inquired about snow & ice expenses last year; general discussion on funding options from other accounts as year-end transfers; A Harhay suggested use of Chapter 90 funds; B Johnson stated that money is already committed and not intended for unforeseen event expenditures; all agreed this issue will need to continue to be assessed and options researched

5. Safe Routes to School Grant – 8/19 and 8/25/2021 emails from Chief Haughey
 - a. PD seeking to secure grant funding through the Safe Routes to School Signs and Lines Program to purchase and install 2 new MUTCD-compliant school zone flashing speed limit signs for the Sturbridge Rd school zone. Grant is up to \$6000; cost estimates are \$4199 for sign incl solar panel, computer mechanism plus post – based on estimates, proposal

modified to apply for the grant for 1 sign. This is a 100% reimbursement grant; permission from Select Board requested.

- b. Request for letter of support from Select Board for program - by Friday, September 10.
 - i. Sample provided to be personalized; scope of the project must be intended to improve safety accessibility along key walking and bicycle routes to the school and increase the number of children walking and biking to school.
 - ii. Have requested same from Highway Surveyor, Fire Chief and Principal Dold

Motion090703: Motion made by J Whalen to approve submitting application for Safe Routes to School Grant as described, 2nd by C Johnson, All in favor - Yes

Motion090704: Motion made by B Schmidt for Select Board to write support letter, 2nd by J Whalen, All in favor - Yes

Action: C Johnson to draft letter on behalf of Select Board based on template provided by B Haughey

- 6. Drainage/Erosion issues and water mitigation discussion – B Johnson stated Highway Dept is aware of issues; funding is needed; 319 grant project being re-scoped; grants are available; need prioritization of projects in conjunction with pursuing funding; Tony/SVE and B Johnson did site review of culvert that was replaced on Over the Top Rd.; pipe was enlarged which increased velocity but not volume of water; needs to be redesigned; B Johnson said Highway will identify 4-5 top issues and go out for bids; former study done with PVPC identified Holland needs close to \$1M per year to address issues; mid-1990s Chapter 90 funding was cut – this significantly negatively impacted Holland; Highway has received a \$40k grant and is going out to bid for Union Rd project; we need monies that can be used for engineering to be shovel ready to pursue grants for the work; J Whalen asked what does Town have left in Green Communities funds and suggested looking into if monies can be used for repair work; Resident asked what is being done with Park Rd. culvert – B Johnson replied it will be replaced, target timeframe is next few weeks; Resident asked about Leno Rd culvert – B Johnson replied that is also to be replaced with in Oct/Nov after lake is lowered; same resident requested overflow drainage on Sturbridge Rd side be put on list, which was recommended by Barton Engineering at time house at 1 Leno Rd was being built; B Johnson affirmed this can be considered at a future time
- 7. Crumbling Foundations letter – Request for SB to write a letter to appropriate state agencies and the Senate concerning crumbling foundations and support for MA Senate Bill S548; J Whalen attended public forum held on 8/28/21; Town Admin also contacted directly by Michelle Loglisci of MA Residents Against Crumbling Concrete; E Fancy spoke in support of town backing this initiative; J Whalen submitted draft letter to Board

Motion090705: Motion made by C Johnson for Select Board to approve letter written by J Whalen supporting this to be sent, 2nd by J Whalen, All in favor - Yes

- 8. Auction summary – event was well-attended; 45 registered bidders; 23 offerings went up for bid; total sales of \$97,600.00; B Schmidt thanked Treasurer, Assessor and Town Administrator for their hard work in putting the event together
- 9. Bylaws Rep appointment by Select Board – J Whalen is the BOS Representative; Planning Board needs to provide a representative to complete the 3 members (Town Clerk, BOS, Planning Board)

Action: J Whalen to speak with K Merolla on Planning Board rep and continue to work with Town Clerk to keep progress going forward

10. Appointments

- a. Open Space – 1-year appointments
 - i. Richard Haller 74 Sturbridge Road (Trails)
 - ii. Marcia Beal 110 Brimfield Road (Conservation)
 - iii. Jen Ohop 28 Heritage Drive (at large)
 - iv. There are two vacancies: an at large position and a seat to be filled by the Planning Board.

Motion090706: Motion made by J Whalen to approve Open Space appointments, 2nd by C Johnson, All in favor - Yes

- b. Trails Committee – 1-year appointments
 - i. Richard Haller 74 Sturbridge Road
 - ii. Chris Haller 74 Sturbridge Road
 - iii. Jackie Proko 22 Collette Drive
 - iv. Robert Pellicane 223 Mashapaug Road
 - v. Brock Jenkins 9 Amber Road

Motion090707: Motion made by J Whalen to approve Trails Committee re-appointments, 2nd by C Johnson, All in favor - Yes

11. Approval/Signing of Warrants

- a. FY22-09, Payroll, 8/25/21; \$69,441.67
- b. FY22-09, AP, 8/26/21; \$197,998.96
- c. FY22-09A; ATM Transfers, 8/26/21; \$132,150.00
- d. FY22-10, AP, 9/2/21; \$306,369.81
- e. FY22-11, Payroll, 9/8/21; \$135,858.57
- f. FY22-11, AP, 9/9/21; \$23,093.74

Motion090708: Motion made by J Whalen to approve warrant as read by B Schmidt, 2nd by C Johnson, All in favor - Yes

Point of Information from J Whalen – regarding Military Order of the Purple Heart – submission of Proclamation in support; marker showing we are a Purple Heart Community to be placed at town lines; draft proclamation read aloud by J Whalen

Motion090709: Motion made by J Whalen to approve and sign proclamation as drafted by B Schmidt, 2nd by C Johnson, All in favor - Yes

Motion to close meeting made by B Schmidt, 2nd by J Whalen; Roll call vote: J Whalen Yes, C Johnson-Yes, B Schmidt-Yes

Meeting adjourned at 5:54

Respectfully submitted, Stacy Stout, Town Administrator