



**Select Board Minutes
Tuesday July 18, 2017 - 6 pm
Holland Town Hall
27 Sturbridge Road
Holland, MA**

Present:

Bettina Schmidt - Chair

Elias Gillen - Member

Lawrence Mandell - Member

Kelli A. Robbins, Esq., Executive Secretary

Call to Order:

Ms. Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion 071817-1, Mr. Mandell to approve the July 3, 2017 minutes as written. 2nd Mr. Gillen.
So Voted

Appointment(s) with the Select Board.

Lieutenant S. Patrick Swain, Veterans' Agent: Lt. Swain explained that Mr. Ron Benoit contacted him to inform Lt. Swain that there was money within the town accounts designated to do a veteran's memorial from 10 years ago. Lt. Swain proposed that Select Board start a committee to add names to the present memorial from Vietnam, Desert Storm etc., to determine parameters for what names to put on the memorial.

Mr. Mandell asked if there was room on the current memorial.

Motion 071817-2. Mr. Gillen to put Lt. Swain in charge of getting feedback from the community, spearheading the project and reporting back to the Select Board. 2nd Mr. Mandell. So voted.

Brian Johnson: Mr. Johnson expressed concern that the town has other studies done that address the issues with the lake filling in. In light of the fact that little or none of the issues in the other reports have been addressed, doing a dredging feasibility study seems to be putting the cart before the horse. It seems wasteful to spend \$100,000.00 on a dredging feasibility study if the town doesn't address the reason the dredging needs to be done. Mr. Johnson had a copy of the Conway study, which was done by the town and addressed many of the reasons the lake is filling in, but none of the recommendations were implemented. He stated it is a great study and needs to be looked at it. Mr. Johnson stated he has been in touch with West Brookfield. W. Brookfield has a dredging project for their lake Wickaboag, for which they have received grants and other funding.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that he, and Ms. Robbins attended a meeting with DEP who stated the tasks in the Hazard Mitigation Plan are not “must do” items as has been presented. The goals in the plan are basically a wish list and the document is a step toward getting grants and other funding. Ms. Robbins confirmed that DEP in fact, did state that nothing in the Hazard Mitigation Plan is a must do item.

Lynn Arnold spoke to the study and stated it was done by a landscaping group. Wildlife and Fisheries also did a report and these reports will be available to the successful feasibility applicant. to review. Ms. Arnold also stated that the Conway study is not what is needed for the feasibility study.

Christine Haller: Ms. Haller spoke in regard to the rising senior population who participate in all aspects of life. It is predicted that there will be 800+ seniors living in Holland by the year 2020. Ms. Haller stated there were 2 major barriers to age well in Holland.

1. Transportation: currently the seniors have very limited access to transportation for medical needs such as doctor appointments. The Elder Bus has a very complicated schedule. There are some volunteers who can help on occasion but nothing consistent.

2. Housing: There is no senior housing with Holland. The Town needs to look at finding land and funding, such as grant money.

Ms. Schmidt worked with Pioneer Valley to get grant money to study where, when and how much getting senior housing for Holland would be. We are still waiting to hear the results of the grant application. Building housing may not be the answer. The Town may need to help find ways for seniors to stay in their homes.

Mr. Mandell asked if there was anything in particular that Ms. Haller was seeking from the Select Board at this particular time. Ms. Haller stated there was not.

Ms. Schmidt asked if the COA could scheduled a night meeting so that she would be able to attend. Ms. Schmidt stated that Thursday evenings are the best nights extra meetings.

Ms. Haller gave the Select Board a graph.

Lt. Swain stated that the police are in the double digits for call for welfare checks on seniors, from the police side services are growing in the area of seniors. There will be an increased need for more fire, ambulance and police as it has been steadily growing with the aging population of Holland. Lt. Swain stated that he assists as VA in this area also.

Old Business

Liaison list:

There was a department liaison list developed in the past that assigned each select board member to a department as the go to person if that department has needs or concerns. Ms. Robbins provided the board with the past list. Each select board member will review the list and bring back questions, concerns, changes, etc. to the next meeting.

Quarterly Department Head Meetings:

Mr. Mandell explained that in the past the quarterly department head meetings were not attended and so the practice was stopped. Mr. Mandell would like to reinstitute the quarterly department head meetings for the facilitation of communication between the boards, committees,

departments. Mr. Mandell asked Ms. Schmidt to schedule a meeting for the first Thursday in September.

New Business:

Committee for Community Director position:

Ms. Schmidt stated the need to have committee for hiring the new Community Center Director. Ms. Schmidt said she would like the committee to consist of 3 members, the outreach worker, Christine Haller and a select board member. Ms. Schmidt stated she would like represent the Select Board on this committee.

Motion 071817-3, Mr. Mandell, to create the hiring committee for the community director position, consisting of a select board member, the outreach worker, and a member of the counsel on aging. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted

Motion 071817-4 Mr. Mandell to appoint Bettina Schmidt to represent the Select Board on the hiring committee for the community director position. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted.

Fire Truck becomes animal control vehicle:

The old command vehicle for the fire department has been replaced by a 2017 Ford Explorer as voted at the Annual Town Meeting May 30, 2017. There are expenses involved with making the old command vehicle into an ACO vehicle, minor repairs and new tires, removal of all the fire dept. attributes. Animal Control falls under Police Department. The Police Chief is looking into a vehicle policy. The ACO has a \$1,000 in the expense budget, some of which could be utilized for the repairs and tires.

Emergency Vehicle:

This was placed on the agenda by Mr. Mandell, what he wanted to discuss was access to the South Basin for the emergency boat. Mr. Mandell explained that the town owns a parcel on Evelyn Drive that has deeded beach rights on Sandy Beach Road that will allow the police and fire an access point on the South basin of Hamilton Reservoir for getting the emergency boat in and out of the water.

Discussion of Fire Chief Concerns:

If the Select Board would like offer the Fire Chief a contract the terms of the contract can be discussed in executive session. Whether or not they wish to offer a contract must be discussed in open session.

Mr. Gagne presented the Select Board with an email explaining that he would like to promote his wife Rebecca Gagne to Deputy Chief of the Holland Fire Department. Mr. Gagne's email provided detail of the reasoning for the promotion. Mr. Gagne, in the email, stated he spoke with the Ethics Commission to see if there was any conflict. The email intimated that as long as the Select Board approves of the promotion, there would be no conflict.

Mr. Gillen asked Ms. Robbins to confirm the information in the email with the Ethics Commission.

Announcements:

Ms. Schmidt announced the great turnout for the Police Cookout on June 23rd of 140 people. The 3rd Annual Carl Beane Memorial Softball Tournament was a great success. Ms. Schmidt thanked the committee for all their hard work on the event.

The following boards and committees are looking for members:

Conservation - 2 members

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 member

OPEB - 2 members

Bylaw Committee - 1 member

Capital Planning Committee - 1 member not affiliated with any other committees or departments

Counsel on Aging - 1 member

Ms. Schmidt reminded the audience that Public Access was for the general public and NOT for the boards or committees to speak to the Select Board. If any board or committee would like to address the Select Board they need to make an appointment.

Ms. Schmidt then opened the meeting to public access. There was no one who wished to speak to the board.

Motion 071817-5 Mr. Gillen to adjourn. 2nd Mr. Mandell. So voted.

Meeting closed 6:47 PM