

**Select Board Minutes  
Holland Town Hall  
February 20, 2018  
6:00 PM  
Community Room  
27 Sturbridge Road  
Holland, MA**

Present:

Bettina Schmidt - Chair

Elias Gillen - Member

Absent: Lawrence Mandell - Member

Minutes:

**Motion 022018-1**, Mr. Gillen to accept the minutes of January 30<sup>th</sup> as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Schmidt. So voted.

Old Business

KPLaw provided a contract for the dredging feasibility study between the Town and Milone & MacBroom.

**Motion 022018-2** Mr. Gillen, to sign contract with Milone & MacBroom. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Schmidt. So voted.

Update on Possible fire practice with Buildings on town owned land.

Ms. Schmidt spoke with the fire chief James Gagne. He stated the fire department would be interested in using Circle H for a burning exercise but the Island Road property is too close to other homes for a burning exercise.

Fire Chief vehicle – Fire Chief's vehicle is not detailed. Mr. Gillen asked that Ms. Robbins send the chief a letter asking when he would have his vehicle properly detailed.

Tri-town CDBG grant public hearing – Ms. Schmidt attended the hearing. There will \$500,000 plus applied for to be used for housing rehabilitation, plus additional money for the food pantry which will be used for administration and food delivery. There was no application at the time of the hearing from the domestic violence group. There was also \$50,000 requested in the grant for Holland to do a senior housing study for needs and costs.

New Business

Mr. Gillen was given a letter written to the Superintendent regarding perceive impropriety with the Holland preschool program. The letter complained of "school choice" money being used by

out of town people to get into the Holland preschool and stated that there was a “scheme” to do so. Mr. Gillen began by explaining that NO school choice money is used for preschool. Each family pays regardless of where they live, for their children to attend preschool. He also stated that NO Holland children were refused entrance into the preschool program. The children who attend from out of town filled remaining spaces after all the Holland children were enrolled. The out of town families pay tuition just as the residents do.

Mr. Gillen would have responded directly to the writer but the writer(s) chose not to sign the letter.

#### Pole Placement Hearings

Mr. Mandell, who is ill and not in attendance, wanted to discuss National Grid’s request that no National Grid representative be present during pole hearings. Mr. Gillen stated that it was good to have someone from National Grid there to answer questions.

**Motion 022018-3** Mr. Gillen to continue to have a representative from National Grid at Pole Hearings. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Schmidt. So voted.

Mr. Gagne came to the meeting. Ms. Schmidt asked Chief Gagne why his vehicle is not detailed. Chief Gagne stated it is identified by its plate. Ms. Schmidt stated that complaints are coming in to the Select Board that Chief Gagne is treating the vehicle like a police vehicle and asked why it is not identified. Chief Gagne stated that “all the fire chiefs’ vehicles are unmarked since 9-11” Mr. Gagne said it would cost upward of \$3,000 to have it detailed. He also stated he could get magnets. Chief Gagne invited the Board to check but all the other towns are doing the same thing.

Ms. Robbins asked if she was still required to send the letter to the Fire Chief. Mr. Gillen stated she is not.

Announcements:

Warrants signed no report.

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 alternate member

OPEB - 2 members

Bylaw Committee - 1 member

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

Cable Committee – 2 members

Kitchen Worker, Community Center

Planning Board

#### Public Access

**Lieutenant Swain and Officer Ward** spoke to the Select Board regarding acquiring ballistic vests for the PD. Lt. Swain pointed out that we hire officers and equip them with everything but the most important piece of equipment, a protective vest. In today anti police climate it is a vital piece of equipment the town should provide for the protection of its police force.

Lt. Swain and Officer Ward have been researching a way to provide the force with protective vest. There is a federal grant that will reimburse the town 50% of the cost and a state grant that may cover the remaining cost. The state grant is limited in amount available throughout the state but it repeats yearly. If the vests are purchased and the reimbursement applied for on time it may be a net zero cost to the town. The vests range in price from \$700 - \$1100 each, there are 14 officers in the department. Ms. Schmidt asked Lt. Swain and Officer Ward to come to the next Select Board meeting to discuss this matter further.

**Andrew Harhay** asked if the school principal should be the one to respond to the letter regarding the preschool complaint in writing. Mr. Gillen reminded Mr. Harhay that the letter wasn't signed so there was no to respond to.

**Tristan Braun** would like to be on the cable committee. He has a letter from the previous chair of the Cable Committee asking that Mr. Braun be appointed to the committee. Ms. Schmidt asked Mr. Braun to return to the next meeting and that the remaining cable committee members be invited also to figure out what is going on with that committee and how to proceed.

**Motion 022018-4** Mr. Gillen, to adjourn meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Schmidt. So voted 6:38PM