

MINUTES
Thurs, October 12, 2023
Select Board Meeting – 1:30 PM
Town Hall Community Room 1st Floor & Virtual
27 Sturbridge Rd.
Holland, MA 01521

Select Board Members in attendance: James Whalen

Select Board Members remote: Ernie Fancy, Kate Landers

Others in attendance: Stacy Stout (Town Administrator), Val Lundin (Town Clerk), Sharon Ashleigh (Treasurer), Rick Lundin

Meeting called to order at 1:30pm

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Special Town Meeting Articles
 - a. Date is set with Town Council, Moderator, Accountant and Town Clerk for Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Motion to schedule the Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM by E Fancy, 2nd by K Landers; All in Favor, Yes

- b. Highway Stabilization– Defer to Tuesday.
- c. Tax Collector clerk - A letter was submitted from the Tac Collector. Select Board declined the warrant to be put on for the Special Town Meeting for \$2,700 for Tax collector clerk. Val Lundin (Town Clerk) stated that Steve is asking for help that is very necessary and to have help also for transitions. It has made a big difference for other offices. Sharon Ashleigh (Treasurer) asked the Select Board to please reconsider. There was an entire week with no one in the office. This would give the Town a safety net. An assistant would be beneficial and could be funded out of free cash. There was a tax collector assistant in the past. James said it may not be a lot of money but with the upcoming year we need to be careful with our free cash. Ernie thinks we should utilize the Town Administrator staff but funding would still need to be found. The Select Board has decided to take no further action as Steve could talk to Finance Board to see if it could be funded out of the reserve fund then make it a budget request for the next fiscal year. Val said we should support each other and use the money we need at the instead of waiting for something that may never happen. Kate said it is a small amount to have back up for the position. Rick Lundin said that the Select Board should take the responsibility and step up to a situation that need addressing and for the short term take care of it, and let the Finance Board handle it in next years budget. You should recognize the need now while you have the free cash to do it.
- d. Bylaw Articles - abbreviations versus spelling out. The word articles, spelled out is in reference to articles that will be on the Warrants. Abbreviated articles (Art) were on the Town articles that were referenced to in the bylaws
- e. Bylaw - amended pending referred to the warrant articles to be approved, so General Code can

remember to make the changes if the draft gets approved.

- f. 2/3 vote for Planning Board and talks about super majority. Finance Board says a Quorum. Super Majority only applies to Special permits, so only applies to Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The use of associate member versus Alternate member on different boards should be consistent. Mass General Law uses associate members so we should follow MGL and our bylaws.
- g. In the Final Draft 7-21 needs to change Executive Secretary to Town Administrator. The Warrants need to be cleaned up for the meeting. We might need a special meeting to close the warrant. Meeting on October 24th to finalize and close the Warrants to allow the October 25th posting by constable.
- h. Zoning table – document on e360 was not updated with expected footnote on residential/agricultural on table 2 in Zoning.
- i. Town Clerk has sent the minutes to the Attorney General and is waiting to see how to proceed.
- j. FEMA – We have not heard from the Attorney General on the FEMA bylaws.

3. Selectboard Communications:

- a. Kim Robinson sent out an open house invitation for the 25th Anniversary of the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 5:30.
- b. Ernie attended a conference on Building a Resilient Commonwealth with the LT Gov Driscoll as the keynote speaker. There were five different workshops led by Senior Administrative officials from across the Commonwealth. Each panel provided insight into some of the strategies for success used by communities and highlighted the work and resources that municipal, RPA, and state staff can provide to help to ease the burden on communities.
- c. There is a Town Hall meeting with the Lt. Governor on October 25, 2023. Ernie will send out the QR code for the meeting.
- d. Add Over the Top road to the next meeting agenda.
- e. We should add Roads/Highway Communication to the Liaison's section of the Agenda's. This needs further discussion at the next meeting.

Chair Closed Meeting - Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Gumlaw