

MINUTES
Tues, Oct 18, 2022
Select Board Meeting – 6:00PM
Town Hall Community Room 1st Floor & Virtual
27 Sturbridge Rd.
Holland, MA 01521

Select Board Members in attendance: Clelland Johnson, James Whalen, Ernie Fancy
Others in attendance: Stacy Stout, Town Administrator, Jennifer Gumlaw, Dennis Champney, Valerie Lundin, Rick Lundin, Andy Harhay

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:00pm

1. Dennis wants to know what is being done about the Mountain Rd culvert as it is plugged up and starting to pond which is washing away the road. Dennis mentioned speaking with Brian, who mentioned there might be money available to remove culvert and regrade it. Select Board will coordinate with Highway and Finance Board on possible funding options. They will have to update when there is more information.
2. Approval of Minutes: 9/20/2022 and 10/04/2022

Motion to approve Minutes by E Fancy, 2nd by J Whalen; All in Favor, Yes

3. Appointments:
 - a. We are working with the Town clerk to get all the records up to date. We are making sure everyone is sworn in and having everyone complete the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest state training modules.
 - b. Discussion on appointed positions not covered under bylaws. Research on bylaws and Contracts will be done before 6/30/2022.
 - c. Donna Pentoney to Cultural Council.
 - d. Cheryl Rogers to Council on Aging

Motion to approve Appointment of Donna Pentoney by J Whalen, 2nd by Ernie Fancy; All in Favor– Yes

Motion to approve Appointment of Cheryl Rogers by J Whalen, 2nd by Ernie Fancy; All in Favor, Yes

4. Leno Road culvert maintenance - Culvert has been cleaned out by the Highway Department. There is apparent beaver activity. Highway has contacted someone to take care of the beaver. They are working with Conservation Commission and Board of Health. A plan is needed for regular maintenance.
5. Vendor Notice of acquisition - Lenard Engineering, the Engineering firm hired to perform the design study for the Union Rd project has been acquired by Haley Ward, Inc. They're

requesting written consent from the Town to transfer the existing contract from Lenard over to Haley Ward. Previous contract was signed by BOS Chair, Town Administrator and Accountant. Approval letter will be signed by BOS Chair or Town Administrator.

6. Acceptance of gift from Hoyt Foundation - Trails Committee received a \$5000.00 check from the Hoyt Foundation. The accountant needs to create a new account to deposit the check into and so the check needs to be formally received by the Select Board.

Motion to approve Acceptance of gift from Hoyt Foundation by J Whalen, 2nd by Ernie Fancy; All in favor – Yes

7. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Stevens Brook Sichel Community Forest

- a. Ribbon Cutting ceremony set for November 2, 2022 at 1pm at the Trailhead. Town of Holland and Opacum Land Trust are working together with Norcross to set up for ceremony. Senator Fattman, Rep. Todd Smola, Norcross, Opacum, Us Forestry, State Agency, Holland Board of Selectmen, Highway, Conservation, Open Space and Trails Committees have been invited.
- b. The ceremony will start with an opening and some key works about the project. Opacum will talk about the Conservation parcel and the Town will talk about the municipal parcel. Legislators will be offered to speak along with the people who funded the project. After the ribbon cutting there will be a trail walk.
- c. Trails committee chair complemented Brian on the work he's done on creating the trails. He also donated his personal equipment to work on the trails.
- d. Blast Email invitation will be sent to all Departments, Boards and Committees.

8. MVP/HMP Planning next Meeting

- a. November 3, 2022 at noon at Town Hall
- b. Workshop update. The meeting is expected to last 2-2.5 hrs. Only the Core Team will be there. A Public update will be later.

9. MunEnergy Session Summary

- a. Clelland Johnson attended the Webinar. He learned that MunEnergy has a relationship with Constellation energy provider with special pricing for Municipalities to get a reduced price for electricity. It's a simple process of sending electric bills to get a quote to see what savings we might get. We would have the ability to add or delete accounts without repricing. Clelland will talk to the accountant to start the process.

10. Solect Energy/PowerOptions update

- a. PowerOptions is an entity who has gone through the procurement process for Solar for Town use and they already have pre approval from the state. The Solar would be used for the Town's use. There are Federal incentives for Solar, but we would need to figure out the Capital costs involved. Roof Mount solar panels would be easier to install and is the most widely used. Ground mount solar is a possibility, but the Town would need to prove a clear land title.

11. IT update

- a. Monitoring software is installed on all Town Hall work stations. The software only monitors performance of the hardware and installed software and allow remote access by our IT services (a banner displays if/when a tech is connected so user would be aware). The main Library computer, the Fire station work stations and the Community Center work stations. Only the Highway Department is left.
- b. Any IT issues were previously reported to Stacy to problem solve and then were forwarded to the IT people if she couldn't figure it out. Going forward the IT help desk will be contacted directly for any issues with work stations, Network and E-mail servers.

12. Finance Board

- a. The Finance Board is fully staffed. A Board member is looking into the State bulk purchasing program, Commbuys. The Town already uses it for the Highway Department bids.

13. Lake Oversight Committee

- a. Cari Robertson was nominated as LOC Chair.
- b. Loc is looking into taking over Dam Maintenance for cutting and herbicide in order to keep the weeds down and overall maintained, not to schedule annual cutting just for inspection.
- c. Dock Bylaws – The LOC is looking into if they should be rewriting/updating the Dock Bylaws as a committee to identify core issues, actual concerns and consider what changes are necessary. Loc should be surveying how other towns deal with these issues. They could possibly survey the lakefront property owners for any concerns they have.
- d. The retreatment survey was sent out.

14. Tri Town Ambulance Committee meets on 10/19/2022

15. ByLaw Committee - First Quarter of 2023 before we will see any data
16. Planning Board Update - Meeting posted for 7pm on October 18, 2022 to discuss their position on the merger doctrine.
17. Community Center - Closed for Week due to Covid
18. Select Board Communications
 - a. Last Green Valley looking for a summary of any expenditures including volunteer time, our natural resources and agriculture, history and culture, economic development and more. We should use the same format as last year with the addition of the Stevens Brook Project information.
 - b. Letter from Worcester Regional Transit Authority looking to recruit a Select Board member for a vacancy on their advisory board for disabled commuter population.
 - c. We received a letter from Otis Elevator wanting the Town to pay a onetime impact fee of \$125.00 on top of our monthly service fee. Otis elevator took over for Baystate elevator 3 years ago, a new contract was not created, existing contract was inherited by Otis. The language states we would need to give notice or the contract auto renews. The Select Board wants to look into researching other elevator companies to see what our options are. Stacy will pull the contract and talk to the accountant about our obligation on paying the bill.
 - d. Senator Fattman has secured money for the Town of Holland. They want to do a presentation of the check to the Town at the Town Hall at 3:00 pm on Nov 2nd after the Stevens Brook ribbon cutting ceremony.
 - e. James Whalen spoke with Brian Johnson while out looking at some road issues. There are roads needing to be repaved or redone. Brian has concerns with the roads being so out of maintenance that the plow won't be able to plow certain roads or damage being caused to the plows. He specifically pointed out the intersection between Bennet Lane and Stafford Road, Blodgett Rd at the top of the hill and a large pothole on Cherokee Rd. The cost for these repairs would be between \$30,000 – \$70,000. Brian would like to look into using ARPA funds because if the highway budget is used it will leave only around 8,000 left for the remainder of the year. Ernie would like the Surveyor to bring a written list with his priorities to them at a public Forum.
 - f. Ernie attended an expo on Municipal Law. There was a case of a special officer reporting the Chief of giving the chairman of the Selectboard a latitude in speeding and attaching plates for a different vehicle. It was decided that the policeman on special duty didn't have the right to report traffic violations. There were many cannabis cases, violations on land use, permit issues. They expect more next year. 3% impact fee disappears after 8 years. It would be a good idea to have a Select

Board member or a Planning Board member to keep up on cannabis developments. Cannabis farms have been having a lot of workplace safety issues.

- g. Mr. LaMountain was notified that the license applications were approved. It is expected to be sent to the Town directly from the State. The Town hasn't received notification. The applicants can move forward with operation planning with the Planning Board since license is approved.
- h. Trails workday this coming Sunday October 23rd and again on November 6th.

19. Bi-weekly Warrants for Approval

- a. FY23-08 Payroll, \$141,831.43
- b. FY23-08 AP, \$386,307.27

Motion to approve both Warrants by J Whalen, 2nd by E Fancy; All in favor –Yes

Chair Closed Meeting - Meeting Adjourned at 6:59pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Gumlaw