

MINUTES  
**Tues, Nov 15, 2022**  
**Select Board Meeting – 6:00PM**  
**Town Hall Community Room 1<sup>st</sup> 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), Laurie Bartkus (Accountant), Sharon Ashleigh (Treasurer), Andy Harhay (Finance Board), Lauren Lebel (The Reminder), Priscilla Clowes (Principal Assessor), Cynthia Poirier (BOA Chair), Valerie Lundin (Town Clerk), Brian Johnson (Highway Surveyor), Brenda Palmer (Community Center Director), Bill Robertson (Grant Writer, Planning Board)

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:00pm

1. Tax Classification Hearing – presented by Cynthia Poirier, Board of Assessors Chair
  - a. This public hearing is held pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 56 on the adoption of a residential factor for tax purposes and the adoption of percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property.
  - b. Board will also decide on the granting of a Residential Exemption, a Small Commercial Exemption, and Open Space Discount
    - i. Single tax rate - \$13.09/1,000
    - ii. Residential Exemption
    - iii. Seniors Means Tax Exemption
    - iv. Combined impact of seniors means exemption
    - v. Small commercial exemption
  - c. Recommend for Single Tax Rate \$13.09/\$1,000 and no on other exemptions
  - d. The Excess Levy Capacity figure for the current fiscal year is \$160,419

Motion to accept the recommendations as they are by C Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J Whalen; All in Favor, Yes

2. ARPA – overview, input and next steps
  - a. Set expectations on the process and the objectives for this session
  - b. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) overview – Accountant, Laurie Bartkus
  - c. Ideas and discussion
  - d. The ARPA funds were first released for infrastructure only and were essentially unusable. In Jan the Treasury released new guidelines allowing small towns to use the money with almost no restrictions. The accountant needs to send a report every year in April. Everything needs to be allocated by Dec 31, 2024.

- e. The Town as a whole was granted \$741,887, some of which was allocated for a new fire truck leaving a balance of \$599,987 left to allocate.
- f. The state has additional ARPA funds available every six months for specific purposes that can be applied for and are awarded on a first come first serve basis.

3. Alcohol License renewals

- a. ABCC (Alcohol Beverage Commission Control) Liquor License renewals
  - i. Heer Convenience, Inc. dba New Holland Market
  - ii. Holland Rod & Gun Club
  - iii. Doing It Again Inc., dba PJs Town Crier
  - iv. Roberts Auto Clinic and Tire Center

Motion to Approve the ABCC Liquor License renewals by J Whalen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by E Fancy; All in Favor, Yes

- b. 2023 Seasonal Population Estimate (3323) – based on assessor and tax collector reports on non-primary residences

Motion to Approve the 2023 Seasonal Population Estimate by E Fancy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J Whalen; All in Favor, Yes

4. EMPG grant - Emergency Management Performance Grant, \$2700

- a. Chief Haughey has completed the application, contracts are ready for signatures (Town Administrator)
- b. Our application is for the PCMS (trailer- mounted message board) software and 3 road caution signs and stands; Chief has spoken with Highway and Fire Dept, they are on board

5. Minutes for 11/1 and 11/9

- a. Minutes from 11/9 tabled

Motion to approve Minutes for 11/1 by E Fancy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J Whalen; All in Favor, Yes

6. Appointments – None

7. Board/Committee/Department updates

- a. IT update
  - i. Treasurer's computer hard drive failed. The operating system was reinstalled and IT is in the process of getting it back online, getting connected to the network and the drive that she needs. It hasn't been the smoothest transition. There has been some miscommunication with the IT company regarding issues. We need to be clear the stating urgency of items.

- ii. There should be an open discussion with IT so everyone understands how things are going, what IT expects to give us going forward now that they know more, and what do they need from us to help them be successful in their service. We should revisit what our needs are and see if others have different input. There have been a series of issues from day one of recent transition to new vendor.
  - b. Finance Board update – No updates
  - c. Lake Oversight Committee update
    - i. Once drawdown is done, before snow, they are planning a walk around to identify areas that potentially would benefit most from dredging
    - ii. Weed treatment – considering vendors to stay ahead of growth in the brook and Dam areas.
    - iii. The committee is looking at the dock regulations for typos and working with Chief Haughey for content and enforcement input.
    - iv. Would like their own GoToMeeting login if they don't already have one.
  - d. ByLaw Committee update – No updates
  - e. Planning Board update - New FEMA flood plan maps are available; state has reached out to Planning board and Town Administrator in coordination to incorporate into Bylaws and adopt at Town Meeting.
  - f. Community Center update - Director would like Zoom access for the Community Center. The possible options will be discussed to decide which online meeting program will be best.
- 8. Select Board Communications
  - a. Lakeridge Dr no parking. The Select Board took their vote and supported it. There may be paperwork needed to be completed. There is Signage needed by the Highway Department.
  - b. Marcey Place/Stevens Brook bridge inspection report was received and forwarded to the Select Board.
  - c. Sandy Beach Rd and Stony Hill Rd had potholes and washout during the last storm. The debris has been mostly cleaned up and patches started for the potholes. This ties in to the larger project. There will be follow up on the timeline for the private roads.
  - d. Webinar on Broadband Equity was attended. There are Grant funds available to apply for through the Massachusetts Broadband institute as part of a Master Planning option that the Town can apply for online. They are specifically addressing are Digital Literacy, Wi-Fi access, public space modernization, economic hardship, device distribution and refurbishment, education outreach and adoption and factors of digital access which

include connections around Town, adequate devices and literacy. The Planning Board is encouraged to get involved. It's an issue of who and who does not have broadband access. They look individuals and also at groups as a whole such as low-income, disabled, veterans, rural areas and the elderly but also public housing, libraries and education. It can be done regionally if it's a larger project or as an individual town. There are two grant programs directly tied to just infrastructure. The overall program is looking at challenges together to identify what is a specific service issue with the provider versus a hardware infrastructure problem.

9. Bi-Weekly Warrants for Approval

- a. FY23-09 Payroll, \$1,009.06
- b. FY23-10 Payroll, \$138,190.85
- c. FY23-10 AP, \$435,671.59

Motion to move all three Warrants by James Whalen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ernie Fancy: All in favor, Yes

Chair Closed Meeting - Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Gumlaw