

MINUTES
Tues, May 16, 2023
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, Ernie Fancy, James Whalen

Others in attendance: Stacy Stout (Town Administrator), Val Lundin (Town Clerk), Andy Harhay (Finance Board), Rick Lundin (Conservation Commission), Brenda Palmer (Community Center Director), Gary Naples (Aqua Riders), Jonas Putz

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:00pm

1. Approval of available minutes from 5/2/2023

Motion to approve 5/2/2023 minutes as amended by E Fancy, 2nd by J Whalen; All in Favor, Yes

2. Appointments- None
3. Holland Aqua Riders- They would like to request an exemption from the required counterclockwise traffic pattern and wake/speed restrictions, to allow more than two people towed behind a boat during scheduled practice times. They also want to install slalom course, jump dock and stage in same locations as previous years.

Motion to approve the exceptions request by the Holland Aqua Riders by J Whalen, 2nd by E Fancy; All in Favor, Yes

4. Candidate Night for upcoming Election. Brenda would like to have a meet the candidate night before the upcoming election. She has taken some classes with MCOA (Massachusetts Council on Aging) on working with Politicians at the Community Center. She spoke with Lauren Duca of the Mass Ethics Commission and Evert Fowle of the Mass Office of Campaign and Political Finance for guidance. It is important to have an equal amount of time for every candidate and to make sure that every voter in Town is notified.

Motion to Approve for calendar year 2023, the Community Center to hold a Candidate's Night for the upcoming election by J Whalen, 2nd by E Fancy; All in Favor, Yes

5. Driveway Permit application – 5C-1.11 Vinton Road Driveway (near Sturbridge line) to access proposed 3 BR home. There were concerns raised about runoff and tabling the motion was discussed. The resident has met with the Conservation Commission and have their building permit in process. Highway provided the file to the Selectboard for approval.

Motion to approve the driveway installation permit application by E Fancy, 2nd by J Whalen; All in favor, Yes

6. Hamden County Retirement COLA – TABLE to next meeting due to outstanding questions

7. Financial Policies - DLS has approximately 25 financial policies that are recommended for towns to adopt of which we are looking at 18. Initial ones for review:
 - a. Financial Management Team
 - b. Financial Reserve
 - c. Forecasting
 - d. Overlay
 - e. Spending in Excess of Appropriation

Financial Management Team roles need to be updated. This team prepares and reports data for the appropriate boards. Stacy will review the needed changes and send the updated document to the Select Board. The Chair has proposed a change to the Forecasting policy; BOS will request Financial Management team, (Treasurer / Assessor/Accountant) to recommend change. This forecasting policy should be compared to the Finance forecasting report. Stacy is part of the Financial Management Board which meet regularly. After the Select Board reviews the policies, they should send any questions to Stacy. Finance Board would like to be part of the adopting process. This will be tabled to the next meeting.

8. ARPA Requests – Recreation Committee has begun spending their funds. The APRA funds need to be spent by end of year 2026, but the plans for how to spend the money need to be in place by end of year 2024. Generator costs for the Town Hall were discussed, but the estimate has not been received yet. Highway is working on scheduling their generator installation. An ARPA audit will be done and sent out before the next meeting.
9. FY24 Warrant status

Motion to open the Fiscal Year 24 Warrant for changes by J Whalen, 2nd by E Fancy; All in favor, yes.

- a. Update from Town Clerk on Article #1 (ballot of Town Officers – Holland School Committee change back to 2 yr.
- b. Addition of Articles #23 and #24 for Opioid settlement fund and purchase of Narcan. These need to be added to be able to utilize program and money for Narcan.

Motion to include Articles #23 and #24 in the Warrant by E Fancy, 2nd by J Whalen; All in favor, Yes

- c. Article #15 transfer of free cash for Vinton Road improvements. The discussion was should the wording be changed to read Highway Road improvements in the operating budget. This would allow the money to be used on other projects instead of only being able to be used on things specific to Vinton Road only.

Motion to change the wording of Article #15 from Vinton Road improvements to Highway Road improvements in the operating budget by C Johnson, 2nd by J Whalen; All in favor, C Johnson - Yes, J Whalen – Yes, E Fancy - No. Motion Passed and will now go to Finance Committee.

Motion to close Warrant by E Fancy, 2nd by J Whalen; All in favor, yes.

10. FY 24 Budget – Finance Public Hearing went well. Nothing to update.

11. Walk in resident Mr. Jonas Putz of 70 Old County Lane has complaints about a neighbor approximately 100 feet away with bonfires and loud noises/music late into the night. The past 2-3 weeks, the noise has been so loud that they cannot sleep. The police have been called to the house, but were not able to do anything. Holland does not have a noise ordinance. They do not want to stop the neighbors' fun but want it to be at a reasonable noise level and time. They do not know what else they can do. The Select Board does not have the authority to act based on town bylaws. The resident can start a citizen petition to get an article placed on the Town Warrant that will codify a time and volume of noise that is acceptable.

12. Board/Committee/Department updates

a. IT Status – Highway is still having email issues. Nothing else to update.

b. Finance Board – progress on budget with a few finishing touches. There were no issues at the public hearing

c. Lake Oversight Committee

i. The last fishing derby raised concerns about speeding issues and a few missed boat collisions. The Police chief was contacted about having a patrol to help with these issues. He recommends reviewing safe boating rules prior to future Derby's. The lake rules are posted near boat ramp. It would be best for the event organizer to review the rules and regulations prior to the events.

ii. Friends of Hamilton Reservoir will be holding a three-hour boating safety course, not a certification, on June 24, 2023 from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Community Center.

iii. Dam Inspection – We have received a proposal from McClure Engineering. The last inspection was done by Fuss & O'Neill Engineering. We will reach out to Fuss & O'Neill for a quote to compare.

iv. There should be a notice in the LOC newsletter to notify dog walkers that when they clean up after their dog, please do not throw it into the lake.

d. Ambulance – The document is shared with the Fire Chiefs, Selectman Adams and Selectman Grasso. They have marked it up with their thoughts. The document is being cleaned up. They are looking to see what for the document cleanup especially in regards to what they are proposing for subsidy. They are just missing the updated Census data from each Town. Once they receive that, they will then be ready for the first round of Talks with Action Ambulance.

- e. School Committee -Need to get Update
- f. ByLaw Committee – On the Agenda for the next meeting. Claudia will hopefully join us, she has over 30 years-experience with Massachusetts bylaws.
- g. Planning Board update –No Quorum for meeting
- h. Community Center –Nothing to update

13. Select Board Communications

- a. Tri Town PVPC meeting. There was a discussion on how to account for a fund that PVPC administers, money that was authorized for a rehab loan that the homeowners sold or did something before the end of the loan, so the money was recaptured. How do we account for that? The Tax ID number on that recapture account is Holland’s Tax ID number. It makes it ambiguous about whose money it is because it is not all ours. It was proposed that PVPC administer the account, using their Tax ID number on whatever bank account they use. They can do the accounting and let each of the towns know how much of the recapture account fund is theirs.
- b. MVP/HMP the document was updated and sent to Chief Haughey to look over and send on. Will follow up with him. Trish Settles from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission emailed letting us know that as of April 19th new FEMA regulations have been released that have to be incorporated into our Hazard Mitigation Plan. We will need to get an extension on the contract.

14. Bi-weekly Warrants for approval

- a. FY23-21W WTH \$41,891.76
- b. FY23-21A AP \$516,500.00
- c. FY23-23 Payroll \$169,110.90
- d. FY23-23 AP \$435,845.61

Motion to approve all the Warrants as read by E Fancy, 2nd by J Whalen; All in favor, Yes

Chair Closed Meeting - Meeting Adjourned at 7:27pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Gumlaw