

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Present: Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate
Matthew V. Moore, Associate

Absent: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman
Brinsley A. Fuller, Vice-Chairman

In attendance: Benjamin Ecord, Supervisor, Public Works
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Selectmen's Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Acting Chairman Sheehan, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the minutes of the regular session of May 22, 2012, as printed

VOTE: 3:0

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Moore, to accept the executive session minutes of May 22, 2012, as printed

VOTE: 3:0

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The bids for SOLID WASTE SERVICES have been received, and will be reviewed.

The Public Works Department has announced that the 2011 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR), which details information relative to the town's water supply, is available at their office. They have also been mailed to each residence in town.

There will be a curbside YARD WASTE COLLECTION on Saturday, June 30, 2012.

The Police Department is conducting a CHILD SAFETY EVENT on Saturday, July 14, 2012, at the Junior-Senior High School. The event will include car seat checks, fingerprinting, bicycle helmet checks, a K-9 demonstration, a Mobile Command Center, McGuff the Crime Dog, and refreshments.

The NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT was recognized for their contributions to the success of the event.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS in accordance with Chapter 44, §33B of Mass. General Law:

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to grant the request for \$257.17, to be transferred from Selectmen General Expense 01-122-5421-000, to be transferred to Sealer General Expense 01-244-5421-000, in order reimburse the Sealer for out-of-pocket expenses

VOTE: 3:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to grant the request for the transfer of \$19,150.00, with \$11,594.94 to be transferred from 85-5100-Y11 Workers Comp FY11, and \$7,555.06 to be transferred from 85-5100-Y12 Workers Comp FY12, said sum to be transferred to Police Salaries 01-210-5115-000, for salaries through the end of this fiscal year
VOTE: 3:0

HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF THOMAS PALMER DBA T'S CAFE FOR A COMMON VICTUALLER'S LICENSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVING PREPARED FOODS AT 228 UNION STREET:

Present: Mr. Thomas Palmer

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to open the hearing for a Common Victualler's License at 228 Union Street
VOTE: 2:0:1 (Mr. McGaughey abstained)

Mr. Palmer introduced himself and spoke about his previous experience, including 20 years in the food industry. The required receipts were determined to be in order, and no issues were reported by any department heads.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to grant a Common Victualler's License to Thomas Palmer dba T's Cafe at 228 Union Street
VOTE: 2:0:1 (Mr. McGaughey abstained)

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to close the hearing
VOTE: 2:0:1 (Mr. McGaughey abstained)

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS:

Mr. Ecord explained that one more load of chips will be needed for under the playground equipment at CASTLE CANYON, and a catch basin will be installed in the front corner for drainage. New equipment and new fencing have been installed. Police Chief William D. Marble, Jr. recommended that curfew signs be put up. The Public Works Department opens the gate to the park in the morning, and the Police Department closes it at dark. Mr. Ecord said the security lights are now on in Castle Canyon. CARVED WOODEN SIGNS have been erected at the Braintree/Holbrook line and at Wendell Cemetery to welcome people to Holbrook. There is one more sign to be put up, possibly on Abington Ave., when a location is found.

The Board received notification from the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission that E Z CONVENIENCE, at 204 South Franklin Street, is being offered KENO TO GO. If the Board objects, they must do so in writing within 21 days of notice.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to take no action on this notice
VOTE: 3:0

WATER/SEWER FUND:

Town Accountant Cynthia Brennan explained that there has been \$380,000.00 sitting in a special article that has been stagnant. The town's auditors have advised that the amount be transferred to another fund so that it can be used for water improvements, which currently has a deficit.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, that pursuant to the Special Town Meeting 2008, Article 23, the Board vote to transfer the sum of \$380,000.00 from Fund 37 to Fund 30

VOTE: 3:0

PUBLIC MEETING – INTERSECTION OF WEYMOUTH, PINE & SYCAMORE STREETS:

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to open the public hearing

VOTE: 3:0

Mr. Sheehan explained that the town was asked to pick one project to be placed on the Traffic Improvement Plan (TIP), and this intersection was the one chosen. This hearing, and a project initiation form (PIF), are part of the process necessary to qualify for state funding for the project.

A Department of Transportation (DOT) representative was on site last week, and an engineering firm has been retained to design the improvements with the town's Chapter 90 funds, so that state funds can be used to complete the work.

In preparation for this meeting, residents within 300 feet of the intersection were notified by mail and invited to participate in the discussion. Approximately 25 attended this meeting.

The first two residents supported the idea of a roundabout, which they felt would keep the traffic flowing. Mr. Rob Cahoon, from Coler and Colantonio said that approximately 13,000 vehicles pass through the intersection per day. He explained that roundabouts are designed to slow the traffic down.

In response to a gentleman's comment about the fumes from the stopped traffic in front of his home, which is the first house on Sycamore Street, Mr. Cahoon commented that vehicles do not have to stop at a roundabout. A resident of Weymouth Street asked about lowering the speed on Weymouth Street. A concern was expressed that Pine Street is a speedway from John's Ave., and something has to be done to slow the traffic down. A woman spoke against a roundabout, citing peoples' lack of common sense. Some residents spoke in favor of a full set of traffic lights. Mr. Cahoon explained that prior to being given the go ahead to design the intersection, the PIF must still go through the project review committee. He explained the difference between a rotary and a roundabout. Rumble strips were suggested by a resident. Examples of roundabouts in the area were mentioned – near Jordan's Furniture in Avon and on Liberty Street in Braintree. Four-way stop signs and the negative effect they would have on the traffic flow was mentioned briefly. A resident asked about the lighting that would be necessary in the intersection with a roundabout, and felt that the neighbors would complain about that. Raising the grade of Weymouth Street coming up the hill from Weymouth in order to clear the view of the intersection would probably cause water runoff onto the neighboring properties, and is therefore, not a viable option. A Fire Lieutenant at the meeting said that in his experience, he sees 60% of the accidents at that intersection involving a vehicle coming up the hill from Weymouth. At the end of the discussion, an informal vote was taken: 8 in favor of a roundabout; 10 in favor of full traffic lights; and 4 in favor of 4-way stop signs.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to close the hearing

VOTE: 3:0

FIRE CHIEF CONTRACT:

Mr. Sheehan discussed the employment contract changes negotiated with Fire Chief Edward O'Brien. His base salary will increase 6%, effective January 1, 2012; his base will increase 4% effective June 30, 2012; and his longevity will be adjusted to reflect his time as Chief and on the department.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Moore, to approve the amended employment agreement with the Fire Chief, with an expiration date of June 30, 2012

VOTE: 3:0

Mr. Sheehan explained that the Board negotiated a renewal contract with Chief O'Brien, effective July 1, 2012. The agreement is for one year, with a one year extension. No changes were made from the amended contract just discussed.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Moore, to approve an employment agreement with the Fire Chief, effective July 1, 2012

VOTE: 3:0

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT:

Mr. Sheehan explained that the Board agreed to amend Town Administrator William Phelan's contract to delete a \$2,500 benefit for family dental insurance, and to provide the Town Administrator with a \$2,500 stipend for serving as the town's Municipal Hearings Officer.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Moore, to approve an amended Employment Agreement with the Town Administrator, with an expiration date of October 4, 2014

VOTE: 3:0

DISPATCH FOR TOWN OF WHITMAN:

Present: William D. Marble, Jr., Chief of Police
Stephan Hooke, Communications Director

Director Hooke explained that Fire Chief O'Brien presented the Board with an agreement between the Towns of Whitman and Holbrook for the primary answering of Whitman's 9-1-1 calls, backup dispatching when there are multiple calls, and handling the emergency medical calls for Whitman Fire. Chief Marble explained that funding will be advanced by 9-1-1. This will allow for another full-time and two more part-time dispatchers. With an increase in services, other communities may be interested in Holbrook's regional dispatch services. There is 9-1-1 grant funding available for an expansion of the services.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to authorize the chairman to execute an Agreement for an Intermunicipal Primary Public Safety Answering Point and Back Up Fire Department Dispatch System Between the Town of Whitman, MA and the Town of Holbrook, MA

VOTE: 3:0

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Present: Paul Digirolamo, Town Treasurer/Collector

Mr. Digirolamo explained that he recommends that the Board appoint Mr. John F. Hoell to the position of Assistant Treasurer, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, §39A, and discussed Mr. Hoell's experience and qualifications.

Representatives of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1395, were present: Maureen Medeiros, the Staff Representative, and Ronald Jaynes, the Union President. Ms. Medeiros said that the Union objected to this appointment because there is someone in the bargaining unit that is qualified and should be appointed, and there are outstanding grievances that should be resolved first.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to approve the recommendation of the Treasurer and appoint Mr. John F. Hoell as the Assistant Treasurer for the Town of Holbrook

VOTE: 3:0

Mr. Digirolamo said that he is almost done with the May cash, and 10 more cases are being put in tax title. There will be 40 more legal filings in July. A limit of a 24 month payment plan is allowed for back taxes.

MOTION: At 8:27 pm, to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy as it relates to collective bargaining with union personnel (Clerical), and not return to open session

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moore – Yes
Mr. McGaughey – Yes
Mr. Sheehan – Yes

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Draft minutes

Announcements

Recommendation letter from Treasurer with resume

Whitman agreement

Town Administrator's agreement

Fire Chief's agreements

Sealer's appropriation transfer request

Police Dept. appropriation transfer request

License application for T's Cafe

Letter from Lottery Commission

Letter to abutters of Weymouth St. intersection