

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman
Brinsley A. Fuller, Vice-Chairman
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate
Matthew V. Moore, Associate

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator
Benjamin Ecord, Supervisor, Public Works Department

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Gordon, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. McGaughey, to approve the minutes of the regular session of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, as printed

VOTE: 3:0:2 (Mr. Fuller and Mr. Moore abstained)

MOTION: Made by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. McGaughey, to approve the minutes of the executive session of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, as printed

VOTE: 3:0:2 (Mr. Fuller and Mr. Moore abstained)

It was announced that:

There will be a HAZARDOUS WASTE and "e-cycle" (electronics recycling) day on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 9 am to noon at the Junior-Senior High School. The event is being coordinated by the Board of Health and Department of Public Works.

There will be a Fall YARD WASTE COLLECTION on Saturday, December 8, 2012.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Phelan reported that he has heard that the town will not be receiving a grant for a FEASIBILITY STUDY OF REGIONALIZING Holbrook's schools and provide information to town meeting on the pros and cons of regionalizing, although no official word has been received by the Board of Selectmen. The Permanent School Building Committee also supported the grant application. He explained that the Selectmen and the School Committee must work together to figure out how to educate high school students with 41 graduates and provide a quality education without bankrupting the town. Mr. Moore said there were no meetings with the School Department, and the process has to start from the ground up with a joint meeting of the boards. Mr. Gordon noted that the School Committee, in voting not to support the grant application, voted against a grant that would benefit the students of Holbrook. Mr. Phelan said this is a role for the School Department, the Town, and town meeting. It was stressed that the effort was just to obtain information, and was not an effort to regionalize. Mr. Phelan questioned the process that is currently being followed – appropriating nearly \$100,000 for a feasibility study and still not knowing the configuration that should be built. After the special town meeting in January, a joint meeting with the School Committee will be scheduled to discuss any opposition to studying regionalization or tuitioning out and try to find common ground in order to move forward.

Mr. Phelan said that there still has not been an explanation of why the Junior-Senior High School principal is out, or why Board of Selectmen had to read it in the newspaper, and the students, parents, and teachers were not notified. Mr. Phelan attended a School Committee meeting after hearing about the principal, but there was no mention of it. Mr. Moore suggested that a formal letter be sent asking for an understanding of what happened to the second highest position in the School Department.

Wiring Inspector Alfred Oswald was present asking that the Board appoint Mr. Donald Young as the ASSISTANT WIRING INSPECTOR.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to reappoint Donald Young as the Assistant Wiring Inspector, with a term to expire on June 30, 2013

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Harold Boothby, who was appointed as the SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES in September 1994, has notified the Board that he will retire from the position on December 31, 2012. Chairman Gordon thanked Mr. Boothby for his service on behalf of the Board. Mr. Phelan will look into replacing Mr. Boothby by regionalizing with another town or having the state perform the services.

The VETERANS' AGENT position is currently filled by a temporary employee. Mr. Gordon said the three candidates who applied from Holbrook could be interviewed by a subcommittee or Holbrook could look to the Towns of Avon or Randolph to share the services. Mr. Phelan said a subcommittee could meet in executive session for interviews, see what other towns are doing, and report back to the Selectmen with a recommendation.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to establish a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen to interview for the Veterans' Agent position, consisting of two people

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to appoint Mr. Gordon and Mr. Sheehan to the subcommittee for the Veterans' Agent position

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Ecord explained that there was a bid opening last week for the WINTER SAND bids. Five companies responded, and Mr. Ecord recommended that the bid be awarded to Patriot Recycling Corp. dba Carney Environmental, at a price of \$11.54 per ton, delivered.

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept the bid of Patriot Recycling Corp. dba Carney Environmental, South Easton, MA for winter washed sand at a bid price of \$11.54 per ton, delivered, through June 30, 2013

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Phelan recommended that the WATER and SEWER RATES not be adjusted until after the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2013, because the last 2 to 3 years have been inconsistent, and it has not been a full year since there was a large rate increase. Under a previous Treasurer, the delinquent bills were put in tax title, and there was a resulting large increase in receipts, followed by a decrease. Tax title will be back to normal by the end of this fiscal year. It is expected that the rate will need to increase, but it is unclear what the increase should be at this time.

A recently scheduled TRI TOWN WATER BOARD meeting with the Mass. Water Resources Authority (MWRA) was cancelled, but will be rescheduled.

Town TREASURER/COLLECTOR Paul Digirolamo reported that he is working on October. September is done, but he has not gone over it with the Accountant yet. He has been working with the auditors, Melanson Heath & Company, to clean things up. Mr. Digirolamo said that the court is serving the relatives of the owner of the ARNOLD STREET property, hoping to get a response. There will be five properties auctioned sometime in January. Advertising must be done 14 days prior to the auction date. Properties on Weston Ave., Pond Street, Juniper Road, Woodlawn Road, Ell Road, and Quincy Street may be auctioned at that time.

MR. ECORD reported that all of the “welcome” signs are now up; Route 139 just needs a cleanup following the repaving project; the light at the South School has been installed; the electrician is ready to move at the Sumner Field; the new pickup truck has been delivered; the renovation of the former fire station adjacent to town hall is progressing; we are all set for the annual tree lighting; the crack sealing project is ongoing; the engineer will have the beams in the fire station reinforced with steel and may need to do one post; Yards of Pleasure has planted the planters in front of the town hall for the season; and there have been significant water main breaks. He reported that it is anticipated that there will be a lot going on in the spring, including improvements to Weymouth Street and sidewalks on South Street after some land taking.

Mr. Phelan said the engineers are moving forward with the design of the WEYMOUTH, PINE & SYCAMORE intersection. Further data is needed before it can be determined whether there should be a roundabout or a traffic light. Chapter 90 money will be used for the design so that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding comes through sooner. Mr. Gordon said sidewalks should be done at the same time as the street.

Mr. Phelan explained that the Town of Randolph received a MASS WORKS GRANT with Senator Joyce. Those grants are tied to redevelopment in a business district in Randolph. He suggested that Holbrook could consider applying next year to improve the transfer station area or the Spring Street area where the industrial land is located. Mr. McGaughey said that between Avon Sole and Boston Cedar, there are 129 acres of land in that area.

Mr. Phelan reported that the Union Street Pub has made repairs to the fence and cleaned up the area, following complaints from neighbors. Health Agent Arthur Boyle spoke to the owner recently.

MOTION: At 8:05 pm, to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel (Public Works), strategy as it relates to collective bargaining with union personnel (Clerical), and not return to open session

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

*Holbrook Board of Selectmen
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Of November 27, 2012*

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Draft minutes

Hazardous Waste Day announcement

Fall Yard Waste Collection announcement

Wiring Inspector request for Assistant appointment

Resignation of Sealer of Weights and Measures