

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman  
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk  
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate

Absent: Brinsley A. Fuller, Vice-Chairman  
Matthew V. Moore, Associate

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator  
Benjamin F. Ecord, Superintendent of Public Works  
Cynthia M. Brennan, Town Accountant  
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Gordon, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Holbrook Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Sheehan, to approve the minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, March 13, 2013, as printed

VOTE: 3:0

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, to approve the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, March 13, 2013, as printed

VOTE: 3:0

The minutes of March 27, 2013 were postponed to the next meeting.

It was announced:

- There will be a free ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION event on Saturday, May 4, 2013, from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm at the rear of the Town Hall.
- BULKY ITEMS AND WHITE GOODS are being collected during the weeks of April 8 – April 12, and Bulky Items will be collected from June 3 – June 7. Stickers are required for each item at \$10 per item.
- YARD WASTE will be collected on the Saturdays of April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Karen Santorelli commented on a recent article in the Boston Globe.

Mr. Gordon listed a number of properties that he said should be referred to the Building Department and/or Board of Health because of the lack of maintenance:

The fence at Burger King on South Franklin Street.

The Union Street Pub on Union Street.

The fencing on South Street beside the CVS on South Franklin Street

The business next to the gas station on North Franklin Street where all kinds of trucking equipment is kept.

The property on South Street that a resident has complained about where boats, trailers and campers are stored.

Mr. Sheehan recommended that a PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meeting be scheduled to review the upcoming projects.

**ANNUAL REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:**

**MOTION:** By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Sheehan, to nominate Mr. Timothy Gordon as Chairman

**VOTE:** 3:0

**MOTION:** By Mr. Gordon, second by Mr. McGaughey, to nominate Mr. Brinsley Fuller as Vice-Chairman

**MOTION:** By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, to nominate Mr. Kevin Sheehan as Clerk

**VOTE:** 3:0

**ONE DAY ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

**Present:** Ms. Gretchen Hawley, Principal, St. Joseph School

Fr. John Currie submitted an application for a One Day Alcohol License for a fundraising dinner and auction to be held in the School gymnasium on April 27, 2013, from 6:00 pm – midnight. Principal Hawley briefly explained the request.

**MOTION:** By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Sheehan, to grant a One Day Alcohol License to Father John Currie, representing St. Joseph School, 143 South Franklin Street, for a Fundraising Dinner & Auction on April 27, 2013, from 6:00 pm until midnight

**VOTE:** 3:0

The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT for May 1, 2013, was reviewed.

**MOTION:** By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen execute the May 1, 2013 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as printed

**VOTE:** 3:0

The SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT for May 1, 2013, was reviewed.

**MOTION:** By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen execute the May 1, 2013 Special Town Meeting Warrant as printed

**VOTE:** 3:0

**FISCAL YEAR 2014 TOWN BUDGET:**

**Present:** Kevin Costa, Chairman, Finance Committee

Mr. Phelan explained that the Finance Committee worked hard and put together a budget for FY14 that is a good product, although there are differences of opinion on the revenue projections and expenditures, neither of which is an exact science. He recommended that the Board of Selectmen give the Finance Committee its opinion on this budget.

Mr. Phelan advised that the town is doing well this fiscal year on receipts, in comparison to last fiscal year. The actual revenues in fiscal year 2012 exceeded what was estimated in 2013. He suggested that the estimated local receipts could be increased, since the town has also received more than it had at the same time last fiscal year. In 2012, \$200,000 more was received than has been projected to be received in 2014. In 2013, the town receipts are up by \$35,000 as compared to this point in 2012. Mr. Gordon said he is comfortable bumping the estimated receipts up to the amount of the actual receipts in fiscal year 2012, which were \$1,994,363.49. Discussion continued relative to the local receipts received and anticipated. Mr. Phelan estimated that the town will have receipts of \$2,045,000 in 2013, which represents \$290,000 more than the Finance Committee has estimated. Mr. Gordon said that the actual amount received for 2012 should be used, minus \$94,000.

The School Department budget was discussed. The Superintendent has estimated that in order to maintain level services, the School budget must increase in excess of \$750,000. The draft budget is funded \$200,000 short of a level service budget. Mr. Phelan said Holbrook pays more per pupil than 20 communities surrounding us, with the exception of Randolph, and our teachers are paid less than the surrounding communities. Out of 345 communities, Holbrook has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest commercial tax rate, and the residential rate is 316 out of 345. Holbrook has the highest dropout rate, low SAT scores, and one of the lowest enrollments in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The money available has to be spent wisely, and programs have to be offered to the students.

Mr. Gordon said the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are only about \$15,000 apart. Spending will be about 1% over the levy limit and revenues will be re-examined. Mr. Costa indicated he would change the maximum amount for appropriation to \$29,309,958.

The Finance Committee's proposed budget was reviewed line by line. Following discussion, Mr. Gordon said the Selectmen support funding a 2.5% increase in the School budget.

The Police Department budget was discussed. Police Chief William D. Marble, Jr. has requested an overtime budget of \$319,000.

Treasurer/Collector Paul Digirolamo discussed the need for an increase in the health insurance budget due to new enrollments.

Mr. Phelan discussed the enterprise funds, where there is a deficit in the water fund. He said the rates should be increased gradually, in order to make the fund self sufficient. Retained earnings have been used in the past, and may have to be used again. There is an article on the annual town meeting warrant to combine the water and sewer enterprise funds. Mr. Gordon said he is not convinced that the water and sewer funds should be combined.

Mr. Costa will make the changes requested by the Selectmen, and will bring the revised budget to the Finance Committee for review.

Mr. Gordon discussed the new PATIO AREA at the Sumner Field with Benjamin Ecord, the Superintendent of Public Works. A patio area with four tables will be installed, and the fence may be replaced. Mr. Ecord will get quotes for the slab.

The TOWN OF BROOKLINE sent a letter to the Selectmen stating that they have considered the value of COUNTY GOVERNMENT, and have determined that the services provided by the county are not essential to the residents of the community. Brookline has filed a home rule bill in order to withdraw

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from Norfolk County. They also support legislation to finance county government with revenue funds from the deeds excise tax.

Mr. Phelan reported that there is \$2.6 million available for sewer projects. Phases 5 and 6 would exceed that amount. The Spring Street area, where Avon Sole is located, has 54 houses and an estimated cost of \$2.5 million – \$2.6 million to complete. The Forest Road area and the Grove area combined would include 40 – 50 houses. Residents have been inquiring about the next project. Mr. Gordon said the Spring Street area should be completed next so that the development of the area can be addressed.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 11:20 pm, to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy and conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Town Accountant & Police Chief), discuss strategy as it relates to collective bargaining with Union personnel (Clerical & Public Works), and not return to open session

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

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Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Draft minutes

Electronic Waste, Bulky Item/White Goods,  
& Yard Waste Collection announcements

St. Joseph School One Day License application

Draft ATM & STM warrants

Letter from Town of Brookline

Finance Committee draft budget as of 4/9/2013

Local Receipts comparison of FY12 & FY13