

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

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

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator

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

Mr. Phelan explained that a letter to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has been drafted by Joel Seeley, the Project Manager on the new school project. The letter is to be signed by the Chairman of the Board on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, and the Board needs to vote to authorize the Chairman to sign it. Discussion took place relative to the fourth paragraph on the first page, which stated that the district is proceeding on a parallel path with the regionalization study while concurrently moving forward with the building project. Mr. Gordon indicated that he would put a period after the word "concurrently", and strike the rest of the sentence. Mr. Phelan explained that he is concerned that if regionalization is not part of the building project, the project may not be approved by the voters. Mr. Gordon said that due to the uncertainty with Avon, he is comfortable with continuing with a parallel path and meeting the MSBA requirements. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Moore, who are on the Permanent School Building Committee (PSBC) said that the letter is consistent with the discussions at those meetings, although no vote was taken to send the letter to the MSBA.

Mr. McGaughey said that he does not feel that building a new school will be voted favorably without regionalization involved. Mr. Phelan said the voters should know when they vote whether or not the school will be a regional school, and everyone needs to be onboard to get the project done.

Mr. James Taggart, a resident, said that he read the complete regionalization study report, and the decision to regionalize should be about the education it could provide, not the building.

MOTION: By Mr. Gordon, second by Mr. Moore, to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the letter dated December 17, 2013 to Kathryn DeCristofaro at the Massachusetts School Building Authority with the edits as stated

VOTE: 2:1:1 (Mr. Sheehan against; Mr. McGaughey abstained)

Discussion took place relative to whether a joint meeting with the School Committee should be arranged in order to discuss an article for the formation of a REGIONAL SCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE at an upcoming special town meeting. The School Committee will be contacted about meeting jointly on January 8, 2014.

It was explained that five letters of interest have been received from residents who would like to sit on the FIRE CHIEF SEARCH COMMITTEE. Fire Chief Edward J. O'Brien submitted the names of three chiefs who are willing to participate.

*Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session
Of December 18, 2013*

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to appoint Chief William P. Scoble of the Westwood Fire Department, to the Holbrook Fire Chief Search Committee

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, that if Chief Scoble is not available or cannot serve, the appointment will go in order of the list provided by Chief O'Brien on November 18, 2013, with Chief George W. Rogers, Jr. of the Bridgewater Fire Department being chosen next, and then Chief Theodore R. Joubert, North Attleboro Fire Department

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Sheehan, to nominate Mr. Paul Callinan to the Fire Chief Search Committee

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. Gordon, second by Mr. Sheehan, to nominate Ms. Ellen Rota to the Fire Chief Search Committee

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, to nominate Mr. David McCabe to the Fire Chief Search Committee

VOTE: 4:0

It was noted that Town Administrator William Phelan will also serve on this committee.

The timeline for posting, interviewing, and appointing a new fire chief was discussed. The appointment is expected to be made on January 8, 2014.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, that all of the five members of the Fire Chief Search Committee are voting members of that screening committee

VOTE: 4:0

The requirements for the position were reviewed. Discussion took place relative to whether the position should be limited to Fire Department personnel only, or whether the Dispatchers should also be eligible to apply.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to move to amend the original requirements to also include the Holbrook Dispatchers

VOTE: 4:0

Mr. Phelan explained that the Department of Revenue (DOR) has made one adjustment that affects the TAX RATE, but that it does not require a new tax classification hearing. The Board of Selectmen votes to set the shift only, which was set at 1.69, and will remain at 1.69. A lot of other documents go to the DOR that affect the resulting tax rate that the DOR certifies. One revenue that was projected by the Town, for the sale of 227 Plymouth Street, was not allowed because the town does not have the money in the bank. The DOR adjusted the revenue down by \$120,000. Therefore, there will be a slight increase in the average tax bill. The residential rate was set at \$18.77, which is 12 cents per thousand dollars of valuation higher than mentioned at the hearing.

*Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session
Of December 18, 2013*

Treasurer/Collector Paul Digirolamo is working on water and sewer liens.
Water conservation brochures from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) will be included in the mailing of the water/sewer bills.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 8:45 pm, made and seconded to adjourn the meeting
VOTE: 4:0

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

MSBA letter

Letters of interest – Fire Chief Search Committee

Job description, job posting, timeline (Fire Chief)

Tax rate approval notification