

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

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 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, 1st Floor, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of those who were killed, injured, or affected by the terrorist bombing on Boylston Street during the BOSTON MARATHON on Monday, April 15, 2013.

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept the minutes of the regular session of March 27, 2013, as printed

VOTE: 4:0:1 (Mr. McGaughey abstained)

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept the minutes of the executive session of March 27, 2013, as printed

VOTE: 4:0:1 (Mr. McGaughey abstained)

Representatives of the HOLBROOK SPORTSMEN'S CLUB on Quincy Street were in requesting that the Club be allowed to tie into the sanitary sewer system. Currently, they have a septic system. Mr. Ecord explained that there is no stub for the property, and the Club will need to take it from the street to the property. A betterment must be assessed, which is determined by the frontage. The members of the Club indicated they have no problem paying the betterment.

Property owners from KLEEN WAY, off South Street, were in requesting that the business in that area be allowed to hook up to the town sewer. One man explained that he is trying to purchase some property, but it would currently have to pass Title 5, and it would be a mound system, which is not acceptable. Kleen Way is slated for Phase 6. They estimated that it is 600 – 700 feet to the building at the end of the street. Mr. Ecord said Kleen Way could be brought into a manhole on South Street.

Mr. Phelan advised that there is \$2.6 million available for SEWER PROJECTS at this time. If this project were completed, the betterment fees that would be collected would be added to the sewer enterprise fund. A cost estimate should be compared to the betterment fees that would be collected.

Mr. Sheehan announced that the annual HOLBROOK PRIDE DAY will be celebrated on Saturday, May 18th, beginning at 9:00 am at the Junior-Senior High School. A cookout will once again be held at the end of the day.

Negotiations for a renewal CONTRACT with the TOWN ACCOUNTANT are complete. The new contract was before the Board for a vote and execution.

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Sheehan, that the Board of Selectmen approve and execute an employment agreement between the Town of Holbrook and Town Accountant Cynthia Brennan, effective July 1, 2013

VOTE: 5:0

The list of AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS for the quarter including January 1 through March 31, 2013, was reviewed.

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Sheehan, that the Board grant the ambulance abatements for the quarter including January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013, as recommended by Fire Chief Edward O'Brien

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Phelan reviewed the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT AND PLAN for 2014, which will be considered at town meeting on May 1, 2013. The report will be amended at a Capital Improvement Planning Committee meeting prior to town meeting due to a request from the Finance Committee about the funding of the plan. Last year, \$250,000 was built into the budget for the plan, but this year the Finance Committee recommended financing some items over a period of four years, to reduce this year's expenditure and free up funding for next year.

Mr. McGaughey explained that the historic house at 21 North Franklin Street, where Mr. Andrew Card, Sr., had his law office, across the street from Mary Wales Holbrook Park, has been for sale for some time. Tedeschi's is considering purchasing it to tear it down in order to create a parking lot for the strip mall next door. Mr. McGaughey suggested that the town should consider purchasing it, and the Board agreed it is worth saving. The property abuts the Public Library. The current owner paid \$115,000 for the property.

Mr. Ecord advised that the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT is currently working to prepare for Memorial Day.

Chairman Gordon indicated that a concrete slab needs to be installed at the SUMNER FIELD, a new storage bin needs to be brought in to replace an old one, and he suggested swing sets be installed for the younger siblings of the ball players during games at the field.

Mr. Ecord said that six (6) young people will be hired as SUMMER HELP this year.

It was mentioned that the FLINT FIELD is not properly maintained all year long, but it is unclear who is responsible for the maintenance.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS has estimated that the installation of a SIDEWALK from 794 SOUTH STREET to the railroad tracks at the Randolph town line will cost \$150,000, and the estimate does not include the cost associated with any necessary land takings. Mr. Phelan said the PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE has an upcoming meeting, and they will consider this project also. There will need to be a survey done.

Mr. Ecord said Bell Traffic will be removing the UNUSED TRAFFIC LIGHTS in Brookville.

Mr. Phelan advised that the older the COMMERCIAL WATER METERS are, the less accurate they are. ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS will be replacing about forty (40) commercial meters, utilizing the money appropriated by prior town meeting votes. This should increase the revenue into the enterprise fund.

Town Treasurer/Collector Paul Digirolamo explained that 94 parcels with overdue taxes from 2010 have been put in TAX TITLE, as have 153 parcels from 2011. He checked with the Town of Bridgewater about the LAND-OF-LOW-VALUE process, which is being considered for the Edgewood Park properties. It requires a home rule petition filing at the Department of Revenue (DOR), and the town cannot go that way. Mr. Phelan will check with the DOR legal department, and make an appointment to go to the DOR with Mr. Digirolamo and Principal Assessor Gary Brennan and discuss the town's options. No solution has been determined by either town counsel or the tax title attorneys over the years. More properties prior to 2010, other than the Blatchford properties, will be in foreclosure by the end of this year.

There were no CITIZEN COMMENTS.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 8:10 pm, to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy and conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Police Chief), and consider a salary increase for the Building Inspector, and not return to open session

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

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Draft minutes

Employment agreement with Town Accountant

Ambulance abatement request

Draft Capital Improvement Report

List of properties with overdue taxes, etc.

Estimate of costs re: sidewalk on South St.