

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Wednesday, October 9, 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
Benjamin Ecord, Superintendent of Public Works

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.

It was announced that the Board has been notified by FIRE CHIEF EDWARD J. O'BRIEN that he will retire from his position in January, 2014, following a 40 year career with the Fire Department, and having served 20 years of his career as the Chief.

WATER CONSERVATION information for residents will be put together by Mr. Phelan and Public Works Superintendent Benjamin Ecord. It was noted that because of conservation measures, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) is using 30% less water and is in need of customers. The Town has been advised by Environmental Partners, an engineering firm, that there is legislation pending to reduce the MWRA fees by 50%.

BOARD OF HEALTH member David Reilly and Health Agent Arthur Boyle were present. Mr. Boyle reported that the Board of Health met with MASSMEDICUM, a company applying to the state to operate a MEDICAL MARIJUANA distribution site at 1 Mear Road in Holbrook, in compliance with the new state regulations. The company has contacted Police Chief William D. Marble, Jr. about the security measures at the facility. The operation will include the complete process from growing to distributing the product at one location. The consensus of the Board of Health members is to approve the operation as long as regular inspections by the Board of Health are allowed. The community voted 61% in favor and 39% opposed to allowing such facilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Phelan advised that the Board will need to put a team together to negotiate with the company, if the Board supports the project. No such agreement is currently in existence in Massachusetts. The next phase of applications to the state for such facilities is due early in November, and the facilities are expected to open during the summer of 2014. Chairman Gordon said that the Police Chief, Town Administrator, Fire Chief and Health Agent should probably be included in the small group negotiating this project.

Richard Reuss, the Emergency Management Director, requested an increase in the number of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS allowed. Currently, there are 14 officers, and an increase to 16 was requested. The process of qualifying new auxiliary officers was detailed. Mr. Reuss reported that five officers are currently attending the academy, and will be ready in April. An increase in numbers will come at little cost to the Town. The officers pay for their own uniforms, the \$1,800 for the academy, and \$900 for a firearm.

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MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to increase the number of Emergency Management Auxiliary Police Officers from 14 to 16

VOTE: 4:0

It was explained that Joseph Morgan, a former officer, was returning to the force.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to appoint Joseph Morgan as an Emergency Management Auxiliary Police Officer and as a Special Police Officer, with terms to expire June 30, 2014

VOTE: 4:0

The articles submitted for the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING on November 20, 2013, were reviewed. Mr. Phelan suggested that the Professional/Technical budget might be able to provide funding for the services of Attorney Bobrowski for creating an overlay zoning district. The attorney's fees are estimated at approximately \$15,000, and a planner may be needed for approximately \$10,000.

Superintendent Ecord reported that the PAVING of Weymouth Street, and Beach and North Shore Roads is completed. The line striping will be completed next. The SIDEWALK on South Street is nearly complete, and a nice wooden guard rail has been installed.

Discussion took place about drivers not being able to make a left hand turn into the LIBRARY PARKING LOT with the entrance blocked for vehicles waiting for the green light in the square. A "do not block the entrance" sign was suggested. Environmental Partners will be consulted for further recommendations.

Mr. Ecord said the water main on LINWOOD STREET has been installed, and the houses are being tied in. In the WALSH ROAD area, the homes should be tied in in about two weeks.

Mr. Ecord explained that the JUNIPER ROAD drainage improvement project is not in the budget this year.

The Sheriff's Department is continuing work in the FORMER FIRE STATION adjacent to Town Hall. The rear portion of the building has been torn down and is being rebuilt to house a kitchen, bathroom and small conference room. There will be storage on the ground level, and office space will be created in the garage area.

A state safety audit was conducted on site at the intersection of WEYMOUTH, PINE AND SYCAMORE STREETS as part of the process of getting the 25% design accepted, and working toward being approved for state funding of the project. The project should receive a higher priority, due to the safety concerns at that location.

Howard Stein Hudson, an engineering firm, has submitted the 25% design to the state on the UNION STREET PROJECT, and it is awaiting approval. Currently, it is scheduled on the state Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2018, but may be pushed up.

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Fire Chief Edward J. O'Brien recognized and thanked the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT for their assistance in completing a project at the Public Safety Building recently.

Chief O'Brien sent a written request and recommended that the Board award the bid for a new ambulance as a result of the bid opening on October 8, 2013. He reviewed the process followed in making this purchase.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, to award the bid for a new ambulance to Specialty Vehicles, Inc. of North Attleboro, MA, for the purchase of a "new" Life Line "Superliner", Type 1, Class 1 Emergency Medical Vehicle on a 2013 Ford F-550 Superduty chassis, for the bid amount of Two Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$233,974.00), with no trade-in, as per the Chief's recommendation

VOTE: 4:0

ADJOURN:

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Sheehan, at 8:05 pm, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 4:0

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Ambulance bid letter from Chief O'Brien

Amended STM warrant