

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman  
Matthew V. Moore, Vice-Chairman (arrived at 7:15 pm)  
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk  
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate  
Daniel F. Moriarty, III, Associate

In attendance: Benjamin Ecord, Superintendent of Public Works  
William Smith, Acting Chief of Police  
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gordon, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Holbrook Town Hall, Floor 3R, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a moment of silence in observance of the recent passing of two former Town officials. Mr. Russell Colby, a World War II veteran and former member of the Board of Assessors, and Mr. Raymond Lutz, Jr., a World War II veteran and former member of the Board of Health.

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Mr. Moriarty, second by Mr. Sheehan, to accept the minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, December 17, 2014, as printed

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, December 17, 2014, as printed

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moriarty, second by Mr. Sheehan, to accept the minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, January 14, 2015, as printed

VOTE: 4:0

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, January 14, 2015, as printed

VOTE: 4:0

Chairman Gordon thanked the public for their patience during the recent unprecedented, record snowfall of 70 inches within a three week period. The members of the Public Works Department were recognized for their 24/7 work, along with the Police Department and Fire Department. Residents who are healthy and able to clear the fire hydrants near their home are asked to consider doing so. Residents were advised to have a professional clear their roofs if they are not able to do it safely themselves. The National Guard is sending crews to help shovel out fire hydrants in Holbrook. Senior citizens needing assistance with getting food due to the snow were urged to contact the Council on Aging. Those seniors needing assistance with shoveling should contact St. Joseph Parish rectory.

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A resident of Clover Road thanked a private plow driver who cleared the snow from her yard. The resident said that the driver was wrongly accused by one of her neighbors of doing so while on the Town's payroll.

This resident will contact the Selectmen's office for information on changing a by-law that prohibits rooming houses.

The request of Carl Djusberg, Trustee, BEECH TREE HOMEOWNERS TRUST, 932 Bedford Street, Abington, MA, to deed 3 Beech Tree Lane (16-074-01) and 4 Beech Tree Lane (16-074) to the Town was postponed until a future meeting.

The Board reviewed the list of recommended AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS received from Fire Chief Luke McFadden.

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. Moriarty, to grant the ambulance abatements for the quarter including October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, in the amount of one hundred sixty-six thousand three hundred seventy-seven dollars and ten cents (\$166,377.10), as recommended by New England Medical Billing

VOTE: 4:0

Chairman Gordon explained that the Town can, for public safety, deficit spend the SNOW & ICE ACCOUNT, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

MOTION: By Mr. Moriarty, second by Mr. Sheehan, to move that the Board of Selectmen vote to adopt the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 31D, as amended, which shall allow the Public Works Department to incur liability and make expenditures in excess of the available appropriation for Fiscal Year 2015 under Line Item 01-423-5532-000, Snow and Ice Expense, as per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Works

VOTE: 4:0

7:15 pm: Mr. Moore arrived

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

MOTION: By Mr. Sheehan, second by Mr. Moriarty, that the Board of Selectmen schedule the annual town meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 7:15 pm, in the gymnasium at Holbrook Junior-Senior High School, 245 South Franklin Street

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moriarty, second by Mr. Sheehan, that the Board of Selectmen open the warrant for the annual town meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015, and close it at noon on Friday, March 27, 2015

VOTE: 5:0

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

MOTION: By Mr. Gordon, second by Mr. Moore, that the Board of Selectmen schedule a special town meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 8:15 pm, in the gymnasium at Holbrook Junior-Senior High School, 245 South Franklin Street

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Gordon, second by Mr. Moriarty, that the Board of Selectmen open the warrant for the special town meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015, and close it at noon on Friday, March 27, 2015

VOTE: 5:0

Superintendent Ecord thanked the residents for their patience during the cleanup from the recent snowstorms. Widening of the streets is being done every day, but the efforts have been hampered because the Town has seen one storm after another. The National Guard will be arriving on February 12<sup>th</sup> to help with snow removal. A snow farm has been created at the former landfill.

Police Chief Smith discussed the crime report for FY2014, as compared to FY2013. Although some crimes have been reduced, the number of overdoses has increased. The Police and Fire Departments were recognized for their efforts and team work at the scene of an accident on South Street.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 7:25 pm, by Mr. Moriarty, second by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 5:0

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Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Request from Beech Tree Homeowners Trust to donate property

Ambulance abatement request

Recommendation of deficit spending of Snow and Ice