

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman  
Matthew V. Moore, Vice-Chairman  
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk  
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate  
Daniel F. Moriarty, III, Associate

Board of Assessors: Daniel Lee, Chairman  
William D. Marble  
Annmarie Kane  
Patrick Harring, Principal Assessor  
Pamela Holt, Assistant Assessor

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator  
Cynthia Brennan, Town Accountant  
Paul Digirolamo, Treasurer/Collector  
Luke McFadden, Fire Chief  
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator  
Arthur George, Chairman, School Committee  
Dr. Patricia Lally, School Superintendent  
Kevin Costa, Chairman, Finance Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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.

In preparation for town meeting, a joint meeting with the Board of Assessors was held to discuss the release of funds from the Overlay Surplus Account. Mr. Harring explained that the Overlay account is used to reimburse for tax exemptions, Appellate Tax Board (ATB) cases, and the Senior Tax Work Off Program. After presenting and reviewing an analysis of the account, he recommended that money not be raised at the upcoming town meeting from the Overlay.

Discussion took place about the uncollectible personal property taxes dating back to 1995, the Baird and McGuire property where a developer has shown interest in putting a solar project, and the Edgewood Park properties where there are many small parcels with owners unknown.

Mr. Digirolamo said the unknown parcels in Edgewood Park are scattered, individual lots, including landlocked lots and those in wetlands. He recommended contacting our Legislative Delegation and the Department of Revenue about taking all of the parcels. Mr. Phelan and Mr. George both indicated that the properties in Edgewood Park are assets that could be sold and should not be included in the Overlay, and that the Overlay could be a source of additional funding for the Schools at the upcoming town meeting in order to prevent layoffs.

It was discussed that a report needs to be prepared that shows what is collectible and what is not, and why, and that a policy has to be developed to write off the uncollectible amounts in a timely manner. Mr. Moore suggested that the Assessors consider releasing \$150,000. Mr. Gordon cautioned that this would be one time revenue, which should not be used to fund the operating budget.

*Holbrook Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of the Regular Session  
Of April 29, 2015*

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Moriarty, that the Board of Selectmen request that the Board of Assessors release \$150,000 from the Overlay prior to the town meeting to be held on May 6, 2015

VOTE: 4:1 (Mr. Gordon against)

The Department of Revenue has notified the Town that due to the unprecedented snow and ice expenditures this past winter because of the historic amount of snow, cities and towns are authorized to amortize their FY2015 snow and ice deficits over the next three fiscal years or more rapidly. The Board of Selectmen may adopt an amortization schedule before the FY2016 tax rate is set. The deficit as of today is \$518,162. There is expected to be some reimbursement from FEMA for the first winter storm that will reduce the deficit by an anticipated \$68,000.

Mr. Costa suggested that the Snow and Ice budget for FY16 could be reduced from \$400,000 to \$300,000, and the Board could decide about amortizing the Snow and Ice deficit prior to setting the tax rate.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Sheehan, that the Board of Selectmen request that the Finance Committee reduce the FY16 Snow and Ice budget amount from \$400,000 to \$300,000, with the intention of carrying \$100,000 on the recap for FY16.

Discussion: This will allow for funding of some articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: At 7:55 pm, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 5:0

---

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Overlay Liability Analysis

DOR Bulletin on Snow & Ice Amortization