

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 2, 2011**

**6:30 PM**

**Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Chairman David White, Robert Lavigne, Anthony Renzoni,  
Kimberly Ferguson, James Jumonville

**Others Present:** Nancy Galkowski, Town Manager  
Robert Martin, Town Counsel  
Elizabeth Helder, Recording Secretary

Chairman White opened the meeting at 6:30PM. The Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman White acknowledged that it was Sel. Ferguson's last meeting as a Selectman. He thanked her for her many years of service to the Town on the Board of Selectmen. Sel. Ferguson will continue to serve her community as a State Representative.

**1. Selectmen Licenses & Appointments**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE A RACE PERMIT TO GORDON R. WARREN ON BEHALF OF FRED S. WARREN ROAD RACE FOR SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2011 FROM 6:30PM-8:30PM PENDING POLICE DETAIL APPROVAL.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE A PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE TO LINETTE ROCHE ON BEHALF OF KIDOODLES LEARNING CENTER FOR AN END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION AT THE BANDSTAND ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011 FROM 5PM TO 8PM.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE A PARADE PERMIT TO DANIEL HAZEN ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDEN ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS FOR A FIRE MUSTER ON MAIN STREET ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2011 FROM 11AM – 3PM.**

**2. Acceptance of Sewer Easement on Winter Hill Road**

The Manager presented a request from Edward Jardus to approve a sewer easement for lots on Winter Hill Road and 38 Quail Run.

Sel. Ferguson excused herself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED 4-0 TO ACCEPT THE SEWER EASEMENT ON WINTER HILL ROAD AND 38 QUAIL RUN AS PRESENTED IN THE EASEMENT DEED BY JOHN J. HANLON AND ELIZABETH A. HANLON AS TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN AND ELIZABETH HANLON LIVING TRUST AND EDWARD C. JARDUS AND WILLIAM M. JARDUS, AND AS SHOWN ON A PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF SEWER EASEMENT IIN HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS FROM WINTER HILL ROAD TO QUAIL RUN", AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.**

Chairman White observed that sewer capacity is a moving target in Town. At some point the Town needs to document how many buildable lots remain in Town. The number constantly changes and a standard is needed. He requested that the Manager come up with a sewer capacity number. Sel. Renzoni concurred and said he would discuss the issue with the Water/Sewer Advisory Board.

Sel. Ferguson returned to the meeting.

### 3. Town Manager Miscellaneous

1. The Manager presented a summary of the Annual Report to the Department of Public Utilities for the Holden Municipal Light Department Calendar 2010. In summary, energy sales were 2.6% greater than 2009 and revenue was about 9% lower. There was a positive net income of ½ of 1% of operating revenue. A copy of the full report is available in the Town Manager's office. The Board of Selectmen signed the report.

2. The Selectmen reviewed a memo from Town Treasurer/Collector Sharon Lowder detailing the enhancements to the town's online payment system. Residents will be able to securely save bank account and credit card information on the system, schedule payments in advance, set up email reminders, and access their payment history. Additionally, the Treasurer's office has a card swipe available for residents to pay with credit cards in the office. Convenience fees still apply. Currently, only MasterCard and Discover cards are accepted. However, Visa is scheduled to be available in the near future for Real Estate Tax payments only.

3. The Manager reminded residents that the Annual Town Election has been scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2011 from 7AM-8PM. Annual Town Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7PM at the High School.

### 4. Selectmen Subcommittees

**Sel. Jumonville: Memorial Day Parade Committee:** Met on April 27<sup>th</sup> and finalized parade details. A half-hour show regarding the upcoming parade is currently being shown on Channel 11. Check it out!  
**Skate Park:** On hold.

**Sel. Lavigne: EDC:** Nothing to report.

**Open Space Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Town Charter:** The Committee will present review changes at the Annual Town Meeting.

**Sel. Renzoni: Water/Sewer Advisory Committee:** Has not met.

**Master Planning Committee:** Will present Phase 1 goals to the Selectmen in June.

**Sel. White: PSBC:** Next meeting 5/18 at 6PM at the Police Department Conference Room.

**MSBC:** Waiting for OPM approval from the MSBA.

**Sel. Ferguson:** Nothing to report.

### 5. Selectmen Miscellaneous

**Sel. Ferguson: 1.** Reported it was a pleasure representing the Town as a Selectman. She said she looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Holden as their State Representative.

**Sel. Jumonville: 1.** Asked the Manager to fast track the Memorial Day Permit through the permit signature process.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PERMIT FOR MONDAY, MAY 30 FROM 9AM – 3PM AS SUBMITTED.**

## 6. Warrant Article Motion Assignments

Chairman White assigned the Selectboard motion assignments for the Annual Town Meeting. Sel. Renzoni will speak on Town Meeting Floor to Warrant Article 6-1 through 6-9 and 25 and 28. Sel. Lavigne will speak on Town Meeting Floor to Warrant Article 7 through 14 and 26 and 27. Sel. Jumonville will speak to Warrant Articles 15-20. The new Selectman replacing Sel. Ferguson was assigned Warrant Articles 21 through 24. The candidate who wins the 3-year term on the Selectboard was assigned Warrant Articles 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

## 7. Citizens' Address

No one came forward to address the Board during Citizens' Address.

## 8. Votes on Warrant Articles

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLES 1-5 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLES 6-1 THROUGH 6-9 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLES 7 AND 8 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 9 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 10 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 11 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 12 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 13 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 14 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Ferguson, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLES 15, 16 and 17 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 18 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 19 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 20 AS PRESENTED.**

Sel. Renzoni requested the Board hold off on their endorsement of Warrant Article 21 (Use of Town Hall) until he could review the new policy. He said he would like a below fair market fee charged to non-profits that want to rent Town Hall. Town Counsel replied that the Town could not rent below the building's fair market value without consent from the Board. However, the Manager has the final say on who rents town buildings and how much they pay. The Town Manager will consult with the Board.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Ferguson, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 21 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 22 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Ferguson, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 23 AS PRESENTED.**

The Manager recommended that the Board hold its endorsement of Warrant Article 24 (Street Acceptances until the night of Town Meeting.)

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 25 AS PRESENTED.**

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **VOTED 3-2 WITH TWO OPPOSED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 26 AS PRESENTED. (Opposed: White, Jumonville.)**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED 4-1 WITH ONE OPPOSED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 27 AS PRESENTED. (Opposed: Jumonville.)**

The Board agreed to interrupt endorsing warrant articles to proceed with a public hearing at 7:35PM.

### **9. Public Hearing – Proposed Revisions to Water/Sewer Rate Structure and FY 2012 Rates**

The Manager read the notice of public hearing into record.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:35PM.**

Scott Carlson, Chairman of the Water/Sewer Advisory Board presented the results of the 2011 water/sewer rate study performed by Camp, Dresser & McKee. He said the WSAB had voted 4-0 to support Option 4: Fixed Fee with Block Rate Plan. This rate will balance the Water Sewer Enterprise Fund and allow the Town to plan for future capital expenditures to upgrade the water/sewer system. He also said the WSAB recommended not offering the 10% early payment discount on the fixed fee portion of the plan.

Chairman White opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Neil Symonds, 1972 Main Street, said as a low water consumption user his bill would increase under Option 4. He said he would have to pay 100% for water he did not use. He recommended the town give a credit to those users who don't use the minimum threshold. He said he was recently hit with a high water bill because of a broken toilet and was told he had to pay the bill.

Mr. Dave Lucas, 16 Wentworth Drive, expressed concerns regarding declining revenues in future years.

Chairman White explained that Option 4 would pay for the Town's fixed costs and will give the Town stable revenue.

The Town Manager commented that Camp, Dresser & McKee had provided the Town with a computer model to determine how its fixed expenses will be each year. The fixed fee will then be adjusted accordingly on an annual basis. She said it was important to cover the Town's expenses and make the account self-supporting. As a consequence rates will have to increase over the next several years to make the account viable.

Sel. Renzoni commented that it is hard to predict the weather, water, and public consumption. Option 4 will fix that.

Motion by Sel. Ferguson, seconded by Sel. Renzoni, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:05PM.**

Sel. Lavigne said the Board struggled with increases to its low consumption users. Sel. Renzoni concurred adding that it was the fairest plan for the Town and consumers. Chairman White requested the Town work with its users who experience one-time mechanical issues that result in a one-time bill increase. He suggested the creation of a payment plan.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne to adopt rate structure option 4 as presented by the administration was discussed.

Sel. Jumonville said he would not support any increases to the water sewer rates. He said he would like to wait until the Town hires a new Water/Sewer Superintendent. Sel. Lavigne said the Town has been paying the debt for the water/sewer fund one way or another. It has been playing a shell game moving leftover money around in town accounts for years to offset the deficits created by this account. Chairman White agreed adding the town wasn't raising rates but creating a better business model. Sel. Ferguson countered by saying that restructuring rates meant a rate change and residents would see increases in their water/sewer bills. She said significant rate increases were coming and she had concerns. Sel. Renzoni said the benefit to implementing Option 4 was that the majority of customers would see a decrease in their bills. Rate changes are coming through a new plan. Making rate increases every six months to try and predict revenues has done nothing and gotten the Town into the mess that it's in. Sel. Ferguson said past Boards were presented with the best information the town had and acted on that information to the best of their ability. The Board thought they were doing the right thing at the time. Sel. Lavigne said the costs must be covered although making a final decision could wait several more weeks. What the Town has is broken, and a line must be drawn on how much it's going to cost to fix it. Sel. Jumonville said these increases would impact senior citizens and those on fixed incomes. The Manager said that the early discount program would still apply to the new rate structure

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED 3-2 TO ADOPT WATER/SEWER RATE STRUCTURE OPTION 4 TO ALL BILLS AFTER JULY 1, 2011 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. (Opposed: Ferguson, Jumonville.)**

**8. Votes on Warrant Articles (reopened)**

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Ferguson to not support warrant article 28 was discussed.

Sel. Renzoni said he thought the recall provision was bad for the town and bad for business. Sel. Lavigne said that he thought not having the option for a recall provision in the Town Charter was an uglier option. He said it was the best policy to put in place.

Motion by Sel. Renzoni, seconded by Sel. Ferguson, it was **VOTED 4-1 WITH 1 OPPOSED TO NOT SUPPORT WARRANT ARTICLE 28. (OPPOSED: LAVIGNE.)**

Motion by Sel. Jumonville, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ENDORSE WARRANT ARTICLE 30 AS PRESENTED.**

The Board agreed to wait for additional information from the Administration before taking positions on Warrant Articles 29, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

**10. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Jumonville, it was **VOTED 4-0-1 WITH 1 ABSTAINED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2011. (Abstained: Ferguson.)**

**11. Adjournment**

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Ferguson, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE MAY 2, 2011 MEETING AT 9:25PM.**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ June 6, 2011