

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

In attendance: Chairman Daniel Lee, Vice Chairman Joshua Reilly, Clerk Lindsay Vayda, Associate Pamela Campanella, Associate Richard McGaughey, James O'Mara, Town Administrator, Emily R. Martin, Assistant to the Town Administrator

This meeting was held live on Zoom, and available to the public via a Zoom link and log in information posted on the agenda. The Zoom meeting was recorded and broadcast on the Community Access Channels, and available on the Holbrook Community Access and Media (HCAM) website.

1. Chairman Daniel Lee called the to order at 6:06 p.m. in the King Conference Room at the Town Hall of Holbrook.
2. Lindsay Vayda moved, Pamela Campanella seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, and Pamela Campanella voting yes, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual, and to return to Open Session for the purpose holding a Board of Selectman's meeting.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:49 p.m.

3. Town Accountant Beth Mosley attended the meeting to provide her Quarterly Report. She discussed the Town's current free cash balance, and how many articles for the November 2020 Special Town Meeting are contingent upon that balance. She noted that the Reserve Fund has spent more this year because of contractual obligations, and that the Finance Committee wants to raise the Fund balance by \$200,000. The auditors from Powers and Sullivan are to begin an audit later in this week, a report of their findings will be discussed at a future meeting. Accountant Mosely stated she has been working with Public Works Superintendent Pellitteri and consultant Doug Gardner on the water and sewer rate study, and they are hoping to present their findings to the Board in December. She also discussed the CARES Act funding, its current expiration date of December 30, 2020, the potential for the Act to be extended, and the balance available to the Town to use by the present deadline.
4. Public Works Superintendent Chris Pellitteri attended the meeting to discuss the current contract with Republic Waste Services for recycling and solid waste removal. Holbrook is currently in year two of a two-year contract for services. In September the Town was noticed of a 22% increase of disposal fees, per a clause in the contract that allows for fee increases if the tonnage being disposed of also increases. The Superintendent noted that the increase stems from the COVID-19 quarantine, with many residents using the time to declutter, which has increased the previous monthly fee of \$45,000, the latest bills issued reflect the 22% increase to \$63,000 per month. However, even with the increase, there

will be a shortfall of \$163,000 by the end of FY21. Superintendent Pellitteri noted he is working with the Town Accountant and the Finance Committee to see how they can backfill the cost.

Chris Macera, sales representative from Republic, also attended the meeting to discuss the pricing change from the service provider side. Mr. Macera stated that the waste capacity in Massachusetts has dramatically shrunk in the previous years, with only two landfills remaining, and most disposal sites incinerate the waste they receive. He noted that there is currently a moratorium on new incinerators or landfills, leaving many communities to export solid waste out of state to help control costs and satisfy capacity. He informed the Board that the 22% fee increase that was recently incurred is solely as a result in the overall increase in disposal fees, and does not stem from any other costs incurred by the company. Mr. Macera noted that during the pandemic, Holbrook's solid waste output increased by 35%. Chairman Lee asked if there was any consideration in billing due to the collection trucks being based out of Holbrook rather than New Bedford, but the charges come from the incineration company, which is the same no matter where the trucks originate.

5. Lindsay Vayda moved, Joshua Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, and Pamela Campanella voting yes, to reopen the public hearing on the Salary & Wage schedule (Article 12 of the November 2020 Special Town Meeting) from its October 28, 2020 meeting. The Board discussed adding Town Meeting workers to the Schedule at Massachusetts State minimum wage, which would remove the need to change the rate on an annual basis.

Police Chief William Smith discussed the Special Police Officers and the proposed rates he would like implemented. Chief Smith noted that Special Officers perform several duties analogous to Holbrook Police Officers, including being in a cruiser, completing a six-month training program, and working on police policies. He requested a minimum hourly wage of \$22, and a maximum of \$25 per hour, which mirrors the rates previously set for the Public Safety Dispatchers.

Joshua Reilly moved, Daniel Lee seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, and Pamela Campanella voting yes, to approve the following changes to the FY21 Salary & Wage schedule:

- Add a 2% increase to the FY20 salary/hourly rate of the job titles: Veteran's Agent (Part Time), Plumbing and Gas Inspector, Principal Clerk Part Time, Wiring Inspector, Laborer Part Time, COA Coordinator, Assistant COA Coordinator, Van Driver, Special Officers, Assistant Building Inspector, Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector, Assistant Wiring Inspector, and Plow Drivers
- Increase the Maximum Hourly rate of Assistant COA Coordinator and Special Officers to \$22, of the COA Coordinator to \$25, of Part Time Laborer to \$25, Public Safety Dispatcher (PT) to \$25, and of the Plow Drivers to \$32.00

- Increase daily salary by 2% for Election Wardens to \$275.40, and Election Clerks to \$255

Joshua Reilly moved, Lindsay Vayda seconded, and the Board voted 4-0-1, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Daniel Lee voting abstaining, to increase the hourly rate of Special Officers to \$22.

Daniel Lee moved, Lindsay Vayda seconded, and the Board voted 4-0-1, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Joshua Reilly abstaining, to add Town Meeting Workers to the Salary and Wage Schedule at the hourly rate of Massachusetts State minimum wage.

Daniel Lee moved, Joshua Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, and Pamela Campanella voting yes, to make the Salary and Wage schedule retroactive to July 1, 2020.

Lindsay Vayda moved, Joshua Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, and Pamela Campanella voting yes, to close the public hearing at 8:37 p.m.

6. The Board discussed the upcoming November 2020 Special Town Meeting. Chairman Lee stated he planned to coordinate with HCAM Executive Director Zack Gorman to tape informational spots to explain what each article asks and intends, so that Town Meeting Members and residents can be informed on the issues. Assistant to the Town Administrator Emily R. Martin informed the Board that the plans to hold the Special Town Meeting virtually via Zoom were progressing well. She noted that a dedicated Town Meeting page had been added to Holbrook's website with useful information about the warrant and how to enroll to participate in the remote meeting. Ms. Martin also stated that she is working with Mr. Gorman and Town Moderator Jim Curran to host practice runs of the virtual Town Meeting for residents to see what the process will look like, and become more familiar with the format.
7. Lindsay Vayda moved, Joshua Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Lindsay Vayda voting yes, Richard McGaughey voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, Joshua Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.