

Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session of
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Present: Daniel R. Lee, Chairman
Joshua Reilly, Vice-Chairman
Lindsy Vayda, Clerk
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate
Pamela E. Campanella, Associate

In attendance: Timothy J. Gordon, Town Administrator
Marjorie Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator
Luke McFadden, Fire Chief
Christopher Pellitteri, Superintendent of Public Works
Eric C. Erskine, Director of Inspectional Services

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

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Ms. Campanella, to accept the minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, January 15, 2020, as printed

VOTE: 5:0

Selectmen Lee and Reilly recused themselves from the following discussion and left the room. Selectman Vayda took over as Acting Chairman.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT with CLERICAL EMPLOYEES:

Mr. Gordon explained that the agreement is the same as the Board discussed in executive session at the previous meeting, with a wording clarification made in Article XI, Section 2 relative to the Senior Administrative Assistant, Grade 4.

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, and seconded, that the Board of Selectmen execute an Agreement between the Town of Holbrook and the International Union of Public Employees, Local 150 (Clerical), effective July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022, with a language change in Article XI, Section 2, to read: “The Department Head will determine in their discretion to forward the promotion request to the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Selectmen will approve or disapprove.”

VOTE: 3:0

Selectman Vayda left the meeting, and Selectmen Lee and Reilly returned to their seats.

Mr. Gordon reported that:

- Senator John F. Keenan is holding office hours at the Town Hall on February 11th, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
- The Town’s birthday party will be held on Saturday, February 29th at 1:00 pm at the Middle High School. The details are being worked out

- The Town of Braintree is holding a meeting tonight on PFAS and the water supply. He explained that PFAS is an emerging contaminant that Tri Town Water was notified about. The sources of the contaminant include fire foam and manufactured clothing. The water supply was measured at 20 Parts/Trillion, and the DEP standard is currently 70PPT. A filter is being considered for the Joint Water Treatment Plant. Testing is not required at this time, but it was found while the Towns were looking at a filter system for the new treatment plant. Bottled water is not tested.

Resident Cheryl McAvenia said that people want to decorate for the Town's birthday party, and she advocated for honoring the students who wrote the legislation on tobacco at the school, but not on election day.

Chief McFadden introduced Ms. Christine Cellucci from New England Medical Billing. Ms. Cellucci explained the different categories of write offs that are included on the ambulance abatement list the Board receives each quarter. The bulk of the abatements, which have been increasing, are due to insurance company rate limits. Any amounts above the contracted rate cannot be billed. There was a rate increase in 2019, and there has also been an increase in the number of ambulance trips.

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Mr. Reilly, that the Board of Selectmen grant the ambulance abatements for the quarter including October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, in the amount of Four Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-One Dollars and forty-two cents (\$489,971.42), as recommended by Chief McFadden

VOTE: 4:0

Mr. Lee explained that there are three vacancies on the Holbrook Historical Commission, and reviewed the letters submitted by those interested in being appointed.

MOTION: By Mr. Reilly, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen appoint three new members to the Holbrook Historical Commission, including:
Alexandra Bernson, with a term to expire on June 30, 2022
Mark Shanly, with a term to expire on June 30, 2022
Thomas Benvie, with a term to expire on June 30, 2020

VOTE: 4:0

Mr. Gordon explained that the need for a fraud risk assessment has been reported in the management letter for years. The assessment would include going over the procedures in each office to check whether procedures and internal controls are in place to protect against potential fraud, and provide a model to follow going forward. The proposal for the Board to consider is from Eric A. Kinshurf, CPA, with a fee of \$9,500. Mr. Gordon will find out if the proposal is for a town-wide assessment, and this item will be placed on the next agenda.

James Crowley, President of Holbrook Insurance Center, was present about the property insurance on the two vacant school buildings – the South and the Kennedy. Mr. Gordon said he spoke to Mr. Steve Zeboski, and he said he does not care whether the Town continues the property insurance on the former South School, which is under agreement to be sold to Mr. Zeboski's company, as long as the liability coverage is maintained. Mr. Crowley advised that the Town will need to keep the properties maintained to prevent risk. He also explained that if the policies are renewed, and something happened

that required the demolition of a building, the property insurance would cover that. Mr. Lee said that with no definite plan in place for the former Kennedy school, he would recommend maintaining the insurance on that property.

MOTION: By Mr. Lee, second by Mr. Reilly, that the former Kennedy school be kept fully insured, and that the former South school be kept insured for liability only

VOTE: 4:0

Chief McFadden explained that the Fire Department has been awarded the annual Student Awareness of Fire Education grant, so the Fire Department can educate the school children on fire safety.

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen accept the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Fire Services, Student Awareness of Fire Education Grant, in the amount of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$3,965.00), on behalf of the Holbrook Fire Department, and authorize the Fire Chief to execute all grant documents and expend the funds

VOTE: 3:0:1 (Mr. Reilly abstained)

Resident Thomas Fitzmaurice asked for an update on the project proposed to build new homes on Sherrick Ave. Director Erskine said that no plans have been submitted to the Planning Board at this time. The Board would have town counsel look at it before the vote allowing the project per the vote taken in the 1950's or 60's. Mr. Lee said the Board is not in favor of opening up the road, but would like to work with the developer to find another solution.

MOTION: At 7:48 pm, made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 4:0

Lindsay Vayda, Clerk

Documents:

Minutes

Ambulance abatements

Historical Commission requests

SAFE grant info

Clerical Union agreement