

Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session of
Wednesday, September 25, 2019

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 E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator
Luke McFadden, Fire Chief
William Smith, Chief of Police
Stephan Hooke, Director of Communications
Lauren Mielke, Deputy Director of Communications
Christopher Pellitteri, Superintendent of Public Works
Cynthia Brennan, Council on Aging Coordinator
Thomas Benvie, Veterans' Agent

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.

A moment of silence was held in memory of former Planning Board member and chairman, and member of the Historical Society, William Pritchard, who passed away in Florida on August 13th.

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen accept the minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, August 21, 2019, as printed

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen accept the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, August 21, 2019, as printed

VOTE: 5:0

It was announced that there will be an Electronic Waste Drop-Off event on Saturday, October 19th, and that Holbrook Cares and the Greater Brockton Health Alliance are sponsoring educational activities for Holbrook students in grades 6 – 12, families and the community, called Breaking RoadBlocks, during Youth Prevention Week – October 7 – 11, 2019.

Mr. Gordon reported that:

- There will be a special town meeting on November 20th to address allocating free cash to the tax rate for FY20, possibly a nuisance by-law, and the formation of the new Tri Town Water District
- The sale of the former South School is moving along. The purchase and sale agreement and a development agreement are being negotiated, and the close should be before the special town meeting
- There will be a Tri Town Water meeting Sept. 26th to interview engineering firms to design the plant, and a home rule petition is being drafted to form the new water district

- The ball fields working group has developed the list of needs and wants, and chosen Weston & Sampson for the project. The contract is before the Selectmen tonight.
- The EPA will be presenting information on the 5 year review of the Baird & McGuire superfund site on October 23rd
- There was a meeting with Mr. Gioioso and his attorney about the subdivision that could include the extension of Sherrick Ave. They have agreed to file for Planning Board approval.
- The Conservation Commission has approved the landfill project, and it now moves on to the DEP
- The Board of Health will be notifying all businesses affected by the emergency vaping product ban issued by the Commonwealth

Mr. Michael Eshner applied for permission for a block party on October 5, 2019, from 2 – 9 pm, with a road closure of Stevens Drive from Sycamore St. to the corner of Baker Road, and provided information on an emergency contact. The street will be blocked by moveable barriers, parking will be on one side of the street, there will be no non-cooking fires, alcohol will not be present on the street, and the area will be cleaned following the event. His letter was read, and Chief Smith indicated he had no issues with the request.

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Mr. Reilly, that the Board of Selectmen grant the block party request from Michael Eshner for the Stevens Drive neighborhood, on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 2 pm to 9 pm, with all other conditions as stipulated in Mr. Eshner's written request

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Thomas Benvie spoke:

- Introduced himself as the new Veterans' Agent. He has received booklets for distribution to any Holbrook veteran that wants one (free). His office is open on Tuesdays from 11 am – 7 pm, on Thursdays from 2 pm – 4 pm, and in the evening by appointment.
- Reported that Veterans' Day, November 11th, will include the Field of Flags in Mary Wales Holbrook Park. It is \$10 to sponsor a flag for a veteran.
- Announced that the Hall of Fame inductions will be held on November 30th in the auditorium at Holbrook Middle-High School and there will be a gathering at The Brook afterward.
- Announced that February 29, 2020 will be the Town's 148th birthday, and in 2022, the Town will be 150! Those who have planned the parties in the past have mostly passed away.
- Explained that the Congregational Church has been closed for almost a year now, and a Go Fund Me page has been created for donations to make required repairs to the structure of the church. He urged everyone to help the Church, if possible, due to the historical importance of the church and its structure in Holbrook.

Council on Aging Coordinator Cynthia Brennan explained that she would like to check on making purchases at BJ's, in order to purchase supplies for significantly less. It would require using a Town credit card. She reported that a bank has come forward about donating a sum of money for fuel assistance, which would be earmarked for that purpose. She spoke about the Spear Fund (1912) which was provided for "worthy poor people", to be disbursed at the discretion of the Selectmen, and asked that the Board take a look at the information provided. Last winter was tough for many people, and

*Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session
Of September 25, 2019*

some were turned away from fuel assistance. The Fund has a \$23,000 balance at this time. Mr. Gordon will check on the credit card.

Mr. Gordon explained that a contract with Weston & Sampson for the design of the work to be done at the Brookville and Sumner Fields was before the Selectmen. The funds were approved at town meeting in May. Three quotes were received, with 1 being high, and 2 competitive. Mr. Pellitteri spoke to both firms and recommended Weston & Sampson for the project.

Mr. McGaughey asked about a Town-owned lot of land on Plymouth Street, next to Atty. George's house, and Mr. Gordon will look into it.

MOTION: By Mr. Reilly, second by Mr. McGaughey, that the Board of Selectmen accept the Scope of Work to provide master planning and landscape architectural design services for the Brookville and Sumner Fields, as presented by Weston & Sampson, on a lump sum basis of \$23,800, and that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute the Notice to Proceed for the project

VOTE: 5:0

Chief McFadden explained that the Fire Department received an FFY2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for radios that will allow them to communicate seamlessly with the Police Department.

MOTION: By Mr. Reilly, second by Ms. Vayda, that the Board of Selectmen accept a grant from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, on behalf of the Holbrook Fire Department, for the purpose of purchasing and installing nine (9) 40-50 Watt P-25 Compliant Mobile Radios and accessory equipment for use in Holbrook Fire Department Apparatus, and authorize the expenditure of \$14,031.42 in Federal funding, together with the Town's minimum required contribution / cost share of \$701.58, totaling \$14,733.00 for the purchase and installation of the equipment

VOTE: 5:0

Chief McFadden reported that the annual open house at the Fire Station will be held on October 12th, and there was a fire recently in an apartment building on Plymouth Street near Belcher St. He commended the Firefighters for the job they did and reported that there were no injuries to the residents or the Firefighters.

A special town meeting was scheduled for November:

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Ms. Campanella, that the Board of Selectmen schedule a Special Town Meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:15 pm, in the Auditorium at Holbrook Middle-High School, 245 South Franklin Street

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Reilly, second by Ms. Vayda, that the Board of Selectmen open the warrant for the November 20, 2019 special town meeting at 8:00 am on Thursday, September 26, 2019, and that the warrant close at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 16, 2019

VOTE: 5:0

Chairman Lee explained that he would like to change the meeting night to every week, on Tuesday evenings. The Town Hall is open until 7 pm on Tuesday, making it more convenient for the public to

transact business and attend the meetings, and for department heads to attend. Other boards now meet on Wednesday evenings, making it difficult for the public to attend all of the meetings.

Mr. Reilly said meeting weekly serves the Town better, and the Board could accomplish more. Ms. Vayda and Ms. Campanella spoke in opposition, indicating that they have other obligations on Tuesday evenings that would conflict.

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Ms. Vayda, that the Board of Selectmen keep the meeting schedule on Wednesday

VOTE: 2:3 (Mr. Lee, Mr. Reilly & Mr. McGaughey opposed)

Ms. Campanella and Ms. Vayda argued against the change in the meeting schedule, indicating that they would be pushed off the Board if the other Selectmen make the change to Tuesdays.

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Ms. Vayda, to change the meeting night to Monday

Discussion: Mr. Reilly said the Finance Committee meets on Mondays, which requires the Town Administrator to be at those meetings on Mondays.

Mr. Reilly asked that the Board table the discussion for now, and Mr. Lee indicated that meeting weekly on Wednesdays will be okay.

Barbara Gaynor, a resident of Woodland Road, spoke about speeding on South Street. She requested that the Police use radar. The Chief said he would put an officer on South Street when possible. Ms. Gaynor also asked that the Board consider a 4-way stop or traffic lights at Spring and South Streets.

Chief Smith reported that due to a grant received, traffic tickets will now be printed out and handed to an operator. There will be no more handwriting tickets, and the ticket goes to the Registry of Motor Vehicles automatically. The department is getting another K-9, currently an 8 month old puppy, to replace K-9 Charlie upon his retirement.

Superintendent Pellitteri reported that the water treatment plant has been having issues, and it will necessitate that the plant be shut down for a couple of hours on the evening of September 26th. The water pressure will be lower, but should recover in a couple of days. The water meter replacement program is wrapping up in a month or so, and the first reading on the new meters will be in February. The new trash barrels should be distributed to the residents by the end of November.

Director Hooke reported that there was a successful groundbreaking for the new Regional Communications Center, and the digging began the following day. The Visitor's parking for the Public Safety Building has been moved to the rear of the building. The building foundation should be started about October 2 or 3. Three members of the department are attending fall training. Residents wishing to sign up for Reverse 911 may now do so by texting the word "Holbrook" to 99411 on their cell phone. Assistant Building Inspector Eric Erskine reported that Stewart's on Abington Ave. is coming along, the buildings at 46 Spring street are going to be coming down soon, and Clerk's and the new gas station at 247 Plymouth Street are moving along slowly.

Mr. Lee explained that the Planning Board will not be meeting with the Board of Selectmen this evening, but will have its own executive session with Town Counsel on the TLA matter.

MOTION: At 8:32 pm, made and seconded, to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy as it relates to litigation for 429 South Street and Old Castle on Spring Street, because holding the discussion in open session may be detrimental to the Town's litigation position

*Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session
Of September 25, 2019*

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Vayda – Yes
 Mr. McGaughey – Yes
 Mr. Lee – Yes
 Mr. Reilly – Yes
 Ms. Campanella – Yes

Lindsay Vayda, Clerk

Documents:
Minutes
Block party request
Weston & Sampson agreement
Assistance to FF grant information