

Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Regular Session of
Wednesday, October 30, 2019

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

In attendance: Marjorie 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
Eric C. Erskine, Assistant Building Inspector
Cynthia Brennan, Council on Aging Coordinator

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, that the Board of Selectmen accept the minutes of the regular session of Wednesday, September 25, 2019, as printed

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Ms. Campanella, that the Board of Selectmen accept the minutes of the executive session of Wednesday, September 25, 2019, as printed

VOTE: 4:0:1 (Mr. Reilly abstained)

Announcements:

- There will be an informational Senior Fair at Liberty Publick House, 777 Plymouth Street, conducted by Town Officials, on Thursday, November 7, 2019
- Applications are available for the Senior Work Program at the Assessors' office
- There are vacancies to be filled on the Town Forest Committee, Capital Improvement Planning Committee (Citizen at Large), and the Holbrook Cultural Council

Citizen Comments:

Ms. Susan Wright, explained that land was taken by eminent domain from her husband's family in 1955, for the purpose of increasing the Holbrook/Randolph water supply. Since the Town is currently establishing a new Tri Town Water District with Randolph and Braintree, and the land has not been used for the purpose it was taken, she would like the Town to consider turning that land back to the Wright family. The Chairman said the Board will have the Town Administrator find out the steps that would need to be followed.

Cynthia Brennan, the Council on Aging Coordinator, explained that she is in need of two more alternate van drivers, and the money is available in the COA budget. She requested that, going forward, new drivers have to pass a physical. Following discussion, Ms. Brennan was told to speak with the Human

Resources Director, find out how the physicals are usually funded, post the positions, and come back to the Board with recommendations.

Chief McFadden explained that the AMBULANCE ABATEMENT list before the Board is an increased amount, because these abatements are from the first quarter of the newly increased rates.

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Ms. Vayda, that the Board of Selectmen grant the Ambulance Abatements for the quarter including July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, totaling \$398,311.63, as presented and recommended by Chief McFadden

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Pellitteri explained that there were 9 applicants for the position of Craftsperson / Laborer – Grade II in the Public Works Department. Four were selected and interviewed after reviewing the resumes. The Human Resource Director and Town Administrator were involved in the process. One name was brought forward for hiring. Mr. McGaughey said he was on the committee that was appointed to complete this process, but that he had not seen the resumes. Mr. Reilly said the Board should have resumes a week before a vote on hiring. This item will be added to another upcoming agenda. Mr. Pellitteri said the department is temporarily shorthanded going into the winter. There is another position for a Mechanic that is posted. A committee will be created for that position at the next meeting. It was discussed that two retirees could fill in temporarily as mechanics and are willing to come back part-time under the Salary Administration Plan. And two of the candidates for the Grade II position could be hired part-time temporarily. In summary, Supt. Pellitteri said the department needs 4 temporary employees, 2 full-time and 2 part-time.

Supt. Pellitteri discussed the agreement before the Board from Environmental Partners Group (EPG) for engineering and supplemental services in connection with the landfill operation and maintenance and support for the landfill repurposing project. When/if the repurposing project is permitted, that company will take ownership of the work that EPG will do for the Town until then.

MOTION: By Ms. Vayda, second by Mr. Reilly, that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement Between the Town and Environmental Partners Group, Inc. for Engineering and Supplemental Services in Connection with the FY2020 Holbrook Landfill O&M, at a fee not to exceed \$22,700.00 and services related to Landfill Repurposing Support, at a fee not to exceed \$5,000.00

VOTE: 5:0

Board members reviewed the draft copy of the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING warrant for November 20, 2019. Ms. Campanella asked about a nuisance by-law article on the warrant about the appearance of properties, including a limitation of 16" grass. She said there are people with hardships and health issues, and she did not want to pit one neighbor against another, or neighbors using the by-law against a neighbor they do not like. Mr. Erskine explained that it is aimed at private property or bank-owned property that is not maintained, in an effort to clean up the Town.

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Ms. Vayda, that the Board of Selectmen remove Article 9 (the proposed Property Nuisances by-law) from the draft special town meeting warrant

VOTE: 4:0:1 (Mr. Reilly abstained)

MOTION: By Ms. Campanella, second by Ms. Vayda, to approve the November 20, 2019 special town meeting warrant as amended

VOTE: 4:0:1 (Mr. Reilly abstained)

It was discussed that the conservation restriction that is to be placed on the parcel of Town property at 320R Weymouth Street, which abuts the Town Forest, will be in place prior to the sale to the buyer.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Chief McFadden reported that in observance of Fire Prevention Month, an open house was held at the Fire Station. The department has been at the public school teaching fire safety, at the senior center teaching CPR, at training with Columbia Gas, at training for MBTA emergencies, and responded to a fire in Holbrook recently.

Mr. Pellitteri reported that the new trash carts have been distributed, the Town's new water meters were read in 5 hours, there are less than 250 meters left to change, there have been issues at the sewer pump stations, and a new pump will be installed by the beginning of December. He stressed that disposable wipes are no good for the sewer system, and should not be flushed.

Chief Smith reported that cash was stolen from EJ's Gas on South Franklin Street, but the perpetrator has been tracked down. A new police officer will be hired from the Civil Service list at the next meeting. He is already trained and certified, coming from the MBTA. There is no on-street parking from November 1 – April 15, between midnight and 6:00 a.m.

Director Hooke reported that the department has been participating in in-service training and with the 911 Department as part of their annual requirement. The 911 Department pays for the training, and doubles the payment because Holbrook is a regional emergency communications department. There have been quite a few fires recently. The department participated in the MBTA derailment drill in Abington, communications management training and resource management training. The new communications building is moving along, on track, and on budget.

Mr. Erskine said the Inspectional Services Department has been busy reorganizing, and going through files and plans. Mr. Erskine is also busy as the Sealer of Weights & Measures at this time of year. He will report to the Board on the fees that are collected.

Discussion took place about the need for a review of the Town by-laws. Chairman Lee said that the Town should not have people appointed to boards who are absent from meetings repeatedly. Mr. Reilly suggested that a general by-law review committee could be established.

Coordinator Brennan said that the COA has already begun working on fuel assistance, and the SHINE coordinator has been meeting with residents about their health insurance options. She listed many activities the COA has scheduled: Trip to the aquarium, Senior Fair, jewelry party, Halloween party, Christmas party, trip to Encore casino, Enchanted Village, trip to Patriot's Place, and Thanksgiving dinner at St. John's Church.

MOTION: At 8:30 pm, by Ms. Vayda, second by Mr. Reilly, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 5:0

Documents: minutes, ambulance abatements, EPG agreement, STM warrant

Lindsay Vayda, Clerk