

## SELECT BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

In attendance: Chair Lindsay Vayda, Vice Chair Pamela Campanella, Clerk William Watkins, Associate Daniel Lee Associate David Reilly, Gregory Hanley, Town Administrator, Emily R. Martin, Assistant to the Town Administrator

1. Chair Lindsay Vayda called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the King Conference Room and via Zoom.
2. Town Administrator Gregory Hanley addressed the recent mailing to residents regarding the results of routine water testing and the PFAs levels that are present in the supply for Holbrook and Randolph. He informed the Board that a public information session was scheduled for Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Holbrook Middle-High School auditorium with a panel of experts to disseminate information and answer resident questions and concerns. Those who are unable to attend or wish to submit their questions ahead of time were instructed to contact Emily R. Martin via phone or email to convey their questions to the panel.
3. At 7:21 p.m., Chair Vayda read the legal ad that noticed a Tax Classification Rate Setting public hearing, as a joint meeting with the Board of Assessors. Daniel Lee moved, David Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, Lindsay Vayda voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, and Pamela Campanella voting yes, to open a Public Hearing with the Board of Assessors for an Annual Tax Classification Hearing.

Chief Assessor Patrick Harring provided the Board with a review of the process of how the Board of Assessors had determined the potential rates, and how changing the factors would impact the residential and commercial tax bases. Finance Committee Chair Patrick Duggan addressed the Board to suggest a factor of 1.75, in order to alleviate the burden on the residents. Chair Vayda thanked Mr. Harring and his Board for their work on this matter.

Daniel Lee moved, William Watkins seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, that the Select Board vote to classify the Town of Holbrook under the Classification Act at a Factor of 1.75 for Fiscal Year 2022.

Daniel Lee moved, William Watkins seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, that the Select Board vote not to adopt the Residential Exemption or the Small Commercial Exemption for Fiscal Year 2022.

At 7:52 p.m., Daniel Lee moved, David Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to close the Public Hearing with the Board of Assessors for an Annual Tax Classification Hearing.

4. The Board confirmed future meeting dates of Wednesday, December 8, 2021 to meet as the Personnel Board in Executive Session with Attorney Michael Maccaro, and a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.
5. At Citizen's Forum, Patricia Conway of 1 Westvale Road addressed the Board regarding the situation of the presence of PFAS in the drinking water supply in Holbrook, providing comments of how the issue was handled and suggestions for improvements in future communications. Jesse Gordon, Town Councilor in Randolph, also spoke to the PFAS levels, and proposed the two Towns work together to determine the source of the chemicals prior to entering the water supply, to engage in pre-mediation and stop it at the source.
6. The Town Administrator reported on the resignation of Assistant to the Town Administrator Emily R. Martin, noting that he had been in discussions with an employee from the Public Works Department about providing office coverage during the transition. He announced the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Festival of Lights, on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, planned by former Veterans' Agent Tom Benvie. Mr. Hanley thanked Mr. Benvie for his recent work on the Veterans' Day observance as well as the Holbrook Hall of Fame event that took place over Thanksgiving weekend. Lastly, he reported that he has been in communications with Bridgewater State University to identify opportunities of vacancies in Town Hall that could be temporarily supplemented by students pursuing internships, or work with recent graduates to fill positions.
7. The Board discussed some requests for abatements on water bills that had been received through the Public Works Department. One resident, Mary Barrett, was in attendance with her sister, Elizabeth Barrett. Ms. Elizabeth Barrett was there as an agent for her sister, who is legally blind and deaf. She explained that her sister had a dramatic increase in her most recent bill, which was triple her normal amount. An investigation by Public Works and a plumber yielded that there was a leak in her toilet, but as she lives alone and her senses are impaired, she was unable to detect it. The leak has since been repaired.

Daniel Lee moved, William Watkins seconded, and the Board voted 4-0-1, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting present, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to abate the difference between Mary Barrett's regular quarterly water bill and the most recent water bill.

8. The conference with the Town Treasurer regarding an issue with Medicare Part B reimbursement checks was postponed due to the Treasurer having a medical issue and being unable to attend.
9. Police Chief William Smith attended the meeting to present an Emergency Management Performance Grant award the Department had received from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$3,500.00, which will be used to purchase a new digital radio for the utility terrain vehicle that the Department purchased last year.

William Watkins moved, Daniel Lee seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to accept the grant as presented.

10. Chief Smith presented the Police recruit training fee agreement, in which student Officers who are attending the Municipal Police Recruit Training Academy are responsible for the \$3,000 in tuition. This agreement provides for payments to be spread out across the course of the Academy and beyond completion, in increments of \$150 per week until the full payment of \$3,000 has been paid. There are provisions in the agreement for if the Student Officer leaves the employment of the Town to ensure full repayment.

Pamela Campanella moved, Daniel Lee seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with David Reilly voting yes, Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to approve an agreement between the Town of Holbrook and Alexis Abramson regarding the payment of tuition for the Municipal Police Recruit Training Academy, by withholding \$150 from her weekly wages, until the \$3,000 total has been repaid.

11. Fire Chief Luke McFadden presented a proposal from an insurance provider related to an accident that occurred on October 31, 2020 at or near 295 North Franklin Street, at which time damage was sustained to the Town's Municipal Fire Alarm System. The representative of the insured contacted the Town to give notice that the total amount of damage exceeds the coverage of their client, and therefore have requested that the Town agree to a pro-rated payout on this claim. All parties that sustained damages were requested to accept prorated payouts in this matter.

Daniel Lee moved, David Reilly seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to authorize Fire Chief Luke McFadden to accept a prorated offer from Progressive Insurance regarding a claim for an accident that occurred on October 31, 2020.

12. As Select Board Clerk William Watkins stepped down as a voting member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Alternate member Tracey O'Keefe has been elected as a voting member, leaving a vacancy for an alternate. A notice was posted requesting applicants, and the D&IC met on Monday, November 29, 2021 to discuss the candidates and who they would like to put forward as their nominee to the Board. They recommend Megan Elliot to be appointed as the ninth member of the Committee.

Daniel Lee moved, William Watkins seconded, and the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to appoint Megan Elliot to the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, to serve through June 30, 2022.

13. Daniel Lee moved, David Reilly seconded, and at 8:43 p.m. the Board voted unanimously, with Daniel Lee voting yes, William Watkins voting yes, David Reilly voting yes, Pamela Campanella voting yes, and Lindsay Vayda voting yes, to adjourn.