

**SELECT BOARD OPEN SESSION MINUTES
OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023**

In attendance: Chair Katie Goldrick, Vice Chair Pam Campanella, Clerk Patty Conway, Associate William Watkins, Interim Town Administrator Peter Morin, Assistant Town Administrator Kara Nyman. Absent: Associate David Reilly.

1. Call to Order – Chair Goldrick called the meeting to order in the Noel C. King Meeting Room and via Zoom.
2. Swearing-in of Holbrook Firefighter/Paramedic Jeffrey Perez – Town Clerk Jeanmarie Tarara swore in Jeffrey Perez as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Town of Holbrook.
3. Town Administrator Recruitment Services: The Collins Center – MOTION to approve the professional service agreement between the Town of Holbrook and the University of Massachusetts, represented by its Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management for recruitment services by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 3-0-1 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting to abstain, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.
4. Open November 2023 STM Warrant – MOTION to re-open the warrant for article submissions by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 4-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.

The Board discussed the Council on Aging Building Advisory Committee Article.

MOTION to add the COA Building Advisory Committee Article to the Special Town Meeting warrant by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 4-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.

The Board discussed adding an article to the warrant to address PFAS mediation.

Ms. Conway provided information about the water treatment plant timeline and PFAS levels. Ms. Conway stated that she could not in good faith ask residents to support the Bluedrop kiosk as a primary water source because it's not keeping up with the demands of residents. She is proposing home pitchers with six filters per year to carry residents through the end of the project. For the purpose of this article; funding through the end of the fiscal year and revisit at the Spring 2024 Town Meeting.

Chair Goldrick asked the BOH Chair to share updates or research that's been done.

BOH Chair Allyson Pinkhover shared the following:

- Having water that is below the MCL for PFAS levels coming out of the taps is the obvious best-case scenario.

- Providing the option of a home water filter for people is something to be seriously considered.
- Potentially in December is when the EPA will come forward with a national standard of PFAS levels.
- Town will likely be in a situation where it is over the drinking water standard all of the time, it is an issue that needs to be taken seriously.
- Water filters are not something that needs to be restricted to sensitive subgroups, but should make it that everyone has access to water below the MCL.

Vice Chair Campanella asked if the filtration company is the same one that was investigated to be potentially used before, and also are the filters usable in a BRITA filter, or would it benefit the town to only provide the filters instead of filters and pitchers.

Ms. Conway replied that the Town had looked in to Cyclopure and that they are on the table for potentially doing a pilot test study on the joint water treatment plant. Also, a company called Lark that have their own pitcher that reduces PFAS levels to non-detectable. A 50% discount on their product was offered. Guesstimate numbers is 3600 pitchers, which should include every resident. As well as enough filters to last through the fiscal year. \$126,360 a year is spent on Bluedrop; over 5 years will be \$631,000 plus additional loss of revenue because people aren't using own water. Approximately, based on usage of 2022, 830 gallons a day of usage of Bluedrop.

Mr. Watkins stated that he believes the point is being missed; everyone should have water coming in to their home, period, and that something like the jugs or filters is just throwing money at the problem, since the water can only theoretically be used for drinking water, not for bathing, cooking, etc. He is concerned that the filters still wouldn't decrease the risk of being exposed to chemicals that cause cancer.

Mr. Watkins said that more money would be spent only for residents to receive a smaller jug. He would like to see this problem dealt with at the source. Mr. Watkins had questions regarding how replacement filters would be dispersed and how quantities would be calculated based on size of household.

Chair Goldrick clarified that the joint water plant was built in the 1800s and is very sensitive. There are 8 water tanks. The Cyclopure pilot program will be tested in 1 tank only, and the DEP required testing and implementation will only be done in 1 tank only as well, because using all 8, the water will stop working. They are only able to test from surface water. The Town is not in a position to be able to financially tell them to go ahead. Plant is too old, which is why the town is using Bluedrop and potentially Brita.

Chair Goldrick said she is for any and all opportunities to do filtering. Cyclopure will take back dead and used filters and take them out of the environment. They can be dropped off during hazardous waste and they will be taken back and destroyed appropriately. Chair Goldrick said she spoke with Randolph about joining efforts which could potentially drop prices.

Vice Chair Campanella stated that there must be agreement between the three communities going forward. Bluedrop has been an immediate solution but going forward there must be a more permanent solution.

Ms. Conway noted that funding the pilot of the program will cost as much as addressing it currently with filters for homes.

Mr. Watkins stated that his focus is on making sure that everyone, regardless of demographic, has access to safe water. He is concerned about only a single tank being tested and retrofitting isn't an option. He is wondering why any testing would occur if nothing can happen.

Chair Goldrick clarified that the information had been presented to the Board prior. DEP requires testing.

Vice Chair Campanella confirmed that all discussions the Chair had were done in Tri-Town meetings, and asked if the meetings could be published on the town website so that everyone had access to the information.

Mr. Watkins stated that he would like to see the report from Environmental Partners.

Chair Goldrick reiterated that the pilot is free for the town.

Chair Goldrick asked Ms. Conway if she had determined a funding source. Ms. Conway replied that it's being researched.

MOTION to include the PFAS mediation article on the special town meeting warrant by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 4-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.

5. Close November 2023 STM Warrant – MOTION to close the warrant for article submissions by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 4-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.
6. Civic Holiday Celebration Committee Formation – Chair Goldrick asked to form committee so that there is a more organized group to acknowledge and arrange celebrations for town and government holidays.

Ms. Conway proposed to alter the name to be Civic Holiday/Community Engagement as there are a lot of communities throughout the country that use this type of committee to also include small businesses in community engagement.

Vice Chair Campanella asked if the committee would be the ones to reach out to the community for engagement. Ms. Conway responded that including the words community engagement mean that committee would include things beyond legal holidays. Ms.

Campanella questioned if that's what the Cultural Council was for. Ms. Conway replied that all municipalities in Massachusetts are required to have a Cultural Council; their main purpose is to dispense grant funding that the state allocates to each individual town, they are able to hold back 20% of that that is typically used for summer concert series (in Holbrook).

The Board continued to talk about the various committees and what topics and duties fell under which.

Mr. Watkins asked what civic holidays would be celebrated under the diversity committee and what sorts of funding various committees receive.

Chair Goldrick clarified why she wanted to create the committee and what it would cover, especially Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations. She said that it might make more sense to create three appointments: 1 from Diversity Committee, 1 from Cultural Committee, and 1 from required member from the Veteran's Agent.

Mr. Watkins wanted it to be on the record that he is very familiar with the Cultural Committee. That we need to strengthen the committees we already have; that adding more committees dilutes the current ones and that they are being stretched too thin by adding more committees

MOTION to form the Civic Holiday Celebration Committee to consist of 1 Diversity member, 1 Cultural member, 1 Veterans member, and 4 residents and up to 10 on the subcommittee by Pam Campanella, 2nd by Patty Conway. Ms. Conway asked to make an amendment to include Community Engagement Activities. Roll Call Vote: 2-2 with Conway voting no, Watkins voting no, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes. MOTION failed.

Chair Goldrick stated there is no one to put on Veterans Day, Town anniversary event, the tree lighting and that there needs to be someone doing this.

MOTION that the Select Board form a Civic Holiday Celebration Committee with a slight alteration to include community engagement activities by Patty Conway, 2nd by Katie Goldrick. Roll Call Vote: 2-2 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting no, Campanella voting no, and Goldrick voting yes.

Chair Goldrick asked for volunteers to do the Christmas Tree Lighting. Mr. Morin stated that Thomas Benvie will be doing Veterans related events.

7. Monuments and Memorial Advisory Committee Formation – This Committee would seek members with one or more backgrounds; military veterans or represents military organization with knowledge of Holbrook's history, knowledge or expertise with design, knowledge of meetings and process of civic engagement, knowledge of public space and civic engagement. Committee will need funding.

MOTION to form a Monuments and Memorial Advisory Committee as presented by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 4-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.

8. Committee Openings – Town of Holbrook is looking for volunteers to serve on the following committees. Roles have been posted publicly and interested parties can send a letter of interest to the Select Board via email.

- COA Building Advisory Committee – 2 members
- Forest Committee – 1 opening
- Zoning Board of Appeals – 2 associate members

9. Citizens' Forum –

Ms. Campanella asked Cindy Brennan if she could send out a newsletter or coordinate with Chief McFadden about getting assistance for seniors with installing or changing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

BOH Chair Allyson Pinkhover had updates to share:

- DEP Surface water testing for PFAS – will be tested for free in certain municipalities.
- Why was surface water being tested and not ground water? They test the surface water as a means to identify contaminated ground water. They are not doing soil testing at this time. Town would have to pay for that. Drafted proposed sites to do surface water testing. One is the former Holbrook Chemical Corp site.
- There were updated numbers on the wells at former Baird and McGuire site and Great Pond Reservoir
- Ms. Campanella confirmed who is eligible for water testing
- Pending final discussion and vote; board is looking to regulate body-art and piercing shops
- Making sure new health agent is up-to-date on relevant trainings
- Flu and COVID clinic at town hall open to public and town employees
- Ms. Conway asked about bringing more social services to Holbrook
- Ms. Pinkhover replied that there are several existing social service providers who should be available for Holbrook catchment area
- Ms. Campanella asked if BOH could coordinate with COA on COVID and Flu vaccines.

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee:

- Committee meets every other week
- Group norms, rules, and expectations have been set
- There has not been HCAM present at meetings because of the sensitive nature of the topic, i.e. lived experiences from members, keeping it private within meetings. Meetings are open to public.

- Have spoken with Department of Public Health and police department regarding access to Narcan as a leave-behind
- Board of Health has been able to order free fentanyl test strips to provide to police department
- School Committee rep was able to bring forward the state's free evidence-based drug awareness school curriculum
- Discussed access to money in general fund
- Next step is rolling out a community survey to receive feedback on how the public would like funds to be used

Mr. Watkins asked for items to be added to agenda; follow up on old business to stay current and follow up on.

Ms. Greely wanted to thank the Board for taking up the PFAS article and asked that they attend the FinCom meeting.

Ms. Campanella asked if there could be a monthly department head meeting.

Ms. Campanella said that old items should be tended to on an as-needed basis.

Cindy Brennan provided update on COA social activities and vaccine clinics.

Mr. Watkins countered Ms. Campanella's point about leaving old business off the agenda.

Chair Goldrick asked for motion to enter in to Executive Session.

10. Executive Session – MOTION 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 (Public Works Superintendent Personnel Matter) and not to return to open session, by Patty Conway, 2nd by Pam Campanella. Roll Call Vote: 4-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, Campanella voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.