

SELECT BOARD OPEN SESSION MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBERS 29, 2023

In attendance: Chair Katie Goldrick, Vice Chair Pamela Campanella, Clerk Patty Conway, Associate William Watkins, Interim Town Administrator Peter Morin, and 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. Approval of Minutes – MOTION to approve the open session minutes of September 6, 2023 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.
3. Town Administrator's Report – Interim Town Administrator Peter Morin stated there was nothing new to report.

Chair Goldrick asked for an assessment of the cost savings to the town with regards to the upcoming trash program and the decision that was made at Town Meeting the prior Monday. Mr. Morin stated that the Town removed an obligation from the budget by voting to terminate the trash contract, negotiated transition with the current vendor and received approval from town meeting to adopt a backstop fee-based budget for the remainder of the fiscal year should the transition to the private vendor be delayed.

4. HRECC Part-Time Employee Hire – Director of Communications Steve Hooke recommended that Amy Santana be hired as a part-time dispatcher. She successfully completed the interview, pre-employment testing, reference check and background/CORI check. There were no questions from the Board.

MOTION to hire Amy Santana as a part-time employee for the Holbrook Regional Emergency Communications Center 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. Police Department Camera Grant Acceptance – Chief Smith received the Edward Byrne grant to fund 10 cameras (monitored by Police and dispatch) that will be placed around town in the following locations:
 - 2 in Brookville Square
 - 2 at front of Schools and Longmeadow Dr
 - 2 at Park; 1 in front and 1 in back (Sumner Field)
 - 2 in Holbrook Square
 - 2 at Union and Center

The Chief said the cameras will be used to assist in solving crimes and for the safety and well-being of the general public. There was a discussion between the Board and Chief

Smith regarding the placement and installation as well as the accessibility of the footage of the cameras.

MOTION to accept a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants & Research to the Holbrook Police Department in the amount of \$49,968.91 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. Open Space Committee Budget – The Open Space Committee requested a small budget for fliers or paper expenses for the committee, as well as reimbursement for fliers that were already made. Ms. Conway asked if the budget should be created in the next fiscal year and the current budget should come from under the Select Board – Interim TA Peter Morin confirmed. Ms. Conway confirmed with the Committee representative about the various ways that the survey is accessible around town.
7. Town Administrator's Office Temporary Clerk/Intern Hire – Chair Goldrick said the Board previously approved a Temporary Clerk/Intern in the Town Administrator's Office. The job was posted on 8/3. Alex Stigas is the recommended candidate for hire. She worked as a temporary employee in the Treasurer-Collector's Office and would like to continue employment with the Town.

Chair Goldrick asked the Town Administrator's Office about the type of work and help needed in the office. Assistant Town Administrator Kara Nyman confirmed the need of the recommended hire. The Board discussed the staffing needs between the offices.

MOTION to hire Alex Stigas as the Temporary Clerk/Intern in the Town Administrator's Office 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. Request from the Board of Health to appeal MassDEP ruling on TLA permit – Vice Chair Campanella excused herself from the discussion.

BOH Chair Allyson Pinkhover discussed the following:

- Nov. 10 DEP approved application for construction on TLA Holbrook
- One concern – noticeable increase in Holbrook's environmental justice population
- PFAS in drinking water and existing contamination
- MBTA/Multifamily Zoning
- General lack of public health and environmental assessment
- Ways that the BOH raised their concerns to the DEP during the permitting process
- BOH voted unanimously to recommend to SB to appeal to DEP

Chair Goldrick opened up the topic for discussion to the Board and those in attendance.

Mr. Watkins asked for some information/backstory to who filed the original motion. Ms. Pinkhover presented an infographic of the TLA Holbrook project lifecycle and responsible parties.

Ms. Pinkhover has been in contact with counsel – counsel made it clear that the appeal has to be made by a vote from the Select Board.

The conversation turned over to concerned citizens in person and via zoom.

Chair Goldrick wanted to make sure that the citizens of Holbrook realize that there are entities spreading false information about the Board.

MOTION to adopt the recommendation from the Board of Health that the Select Board appeal the MA DEP ruling on the TLA permit by Patty Conway, 2nd by William Watkins. Roll Call Vote: 3-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, and Goldrick voting yes.

9. Citizens' Forum –

Denise Louis expressed concerns about high traffic on Jewel Road. She proposed stop signs and has also been in contact with Chief Smith. The Board discussed potential solutions.

Mary Donovan wanted clarification on how expenses are pre-approved by the Select Board. Interim TA Peter Morin explained.

Vice Chair Campanella returned to meeting.

Ms. Conway made a public service announcement about coyotes.

10. Executive Session – MOTION to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 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 (Two Holbrook Town Officials) and not to return to open session, by Pam Campanella, 2nd by Patty Conway. Roll Call Vote: 3-0 with Conway voting yes, Watkins voting yes, and Campanella voting yes.