

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Monday, April 26, 2010

Present: Robert A. Powilatis, Chairman  
Matthew V. Moore, Vice-Chairman  
Paul S. Currie, Clerk  
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate  
Brinsley A. Fuller, Associate

In Attendance: Michael D. Yunits, Town Administrator  
Thomas R. Cummings, Superintendent of Public Works

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Powilatis, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with a request that all cell phones be turned off and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cummings advised that the contract with PENNICHUCK WATER SERVICES is still being worked on by Pennichuck's legal counsel. They want to make sure that they will be paid for their out of pocket costs.

Mr. Cummings said that the Town is all set on the design of the TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION at the Public Safety Building. We have an extension until December 31, 2010 to use the \$100,000 funding from the State for the design and construction phases.

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION:

Mr. Powilatis indicated he would appreciate one more year as the Chairman, and would like to keep the Board as it is.

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. McGaughey, to keep the Board as is, for one more year.  
(Mr. Powilatis, Chairman; Mr. Moore, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Currie, Clerk)

VOTE: 5:0

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

The articles on the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant for May 19, 2010 were reviewed and discussed.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Moore, to accept Articles 1 and 2, Reports of Officers and Committees.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 3, Mass. Highway Funds.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 4, Public Library Use of State Aid.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Currie, to remove Article 5, Public Library Lost Books Revolving Fund.

VOTE: 5:0

It was discussed that revolving funds continue to be frowned upon by the auditors and the Mass. Dept. of Revenue. Mr. Powilatis informed the Board of the information he has researched regarding School Choice. Mr. Powilatis would like the School Choice program deferred for a year while research is done to find out how many students are interested in participating. Mr. Moore said that the potential funding (\$5,000 per student) would then be lost, and there are already classrooms where there are seats available.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Currie, that Article 6 (Establish a School Choice Revolving Fund) not be put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

VOTE: 3:2 (Mr. Moore and Mr. Fuller against)

The Chairman indicated that the Town budget (Article 7) should be tabled until the Board can look at the latest numbers that have come in and consult with the Finance Committee.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, seconded by Mr. Fuller, to table Article 7, the Town budget.

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Powilatis explained that the Mass. Dept. of Revenue and the auditors continue to advise that the Medicaid reimbursement should come to the General Fund, and the School Department should have the funding in their budget through appropriation at town meeting to pay for the expenses.

MOTION: By Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Fuller, to remove Article 8.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Currie, to accept Articles 9, 10, 11, and 12, funding collective bargaining with the Public Works Department, the Fire Alarm Signal Operators, the Police Officers, and the Firefighters.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 13, Personnel Board Wage and Salary Adjustments.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 14, Fund Amendments to the Wage and Salary Plan and other Employment Agreements.

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Currie, second by Mr. McGaughey, to remove Article 15, Capital Improvements Fund.

VOTE: 5:0

Mr. Yunits advised that Article 16 is for the approval of the Capital Improvement Plan.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 16, Capital Improvements.  
VOTE: 5:0

Discussion took place regarding the current and future water projects to be funded by the Water Enterprise account, and the effect on the water rates.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 17, Repairs/Painting of Standpipe.  
VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Currie, second by Mr. McGaughey, to remove Article 18, Amend General By-Law Section 2-15, Capital Improvements.  
VOTE: 4:0:1

Mr. Yunits advised that a street acceptance plan has been completed on Spring Lane, but it will still need a complete engineering design for the construction.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Article 19, the street acceptance of Spring Lane.  
VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to table Article 20, Acceptance of MGL 41, Section 100B, to the next meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.  
VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Currie, to remove Article 21, Acceptance of Chapter 40, Section 21D from the warrant.  
VOTE: 4:0:1 (Mr. Fuller abstained)

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Currie, to remove Article 22, the acceptance of Chapter 143, Section 3Z.  
VOTE: 5:0

The Board discussed the current fiscal condition of the Town, and that there is no money available for the Stabilization Fund at this time. More free cash and/or having a lower levy would help to lower the tax rate.

MOTION: By Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Fuller, to remove Article 23, the Stabilization Fund.  
VOTE: 5:0

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:**

The articles on the draft Special Town Meeting Warrant for May 19, 2010 were reviewed and discussed.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to accept Articles 1 – 12.  
VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to remove Article 13, Stabilization Fund.

VOTE: 5:0

There was discussion with Superintendent of Schools Joseph Baeta after he arrived regarding the School Department articles that were removed from the annual town meeting warrant. Mr. Powilatis explained that the Medicaid reimbursement article was removed because the Fire Department pays its own bill for New England Medical Billing, and the School Department should also. The Chairman said the reimbursement money should come back to the General Fund for appropriation to fund the budget by Town Meeting, and the related expenses should be included in the School Department's budget. Regarding School Choice, the Chairman indicated that the Board felt it was premature, and asked that it be delayed a year to allow for a feasibility study, an analysis of the cost and benefits, and that regionalization with the Town of Abington be considered. Mr. Baeta said the School Committee will be taking a formal vote on May 5<sup>th</sup> regarding regionalizing with Abington. The Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) has required that regionalization be considered. Mr. Baeta explained that the Selectmen will get to vote each year on continuing a School Choice Revolving Fund, and asked that the Board reconsider its vote to remove the article from the warrant. The Superintendent advised that School Choice does not prevent a district from regionalizing. The \$5,000 per student would be paid by the sending district, not the state, and there is no responsibility for the Town to transport the students from another town.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Fuller, to reconsider Article 6 (Establish School Choice Revolving Account for the School Department) and place it on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for May 19, 2010.

VOTE: 2:3 (Mr. Powilatis, Mr. Currie, and Mr. McGaughey against)

There will be a Selectmen's meeting posted for Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 9:00 pm, by Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 5:0

---

Paul S. Currie, Clerk