

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

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

In attendance: Michael D. Yunits, Town Administrator
Thomas R. Cummings, Superintendent of Public Works
Cynthia M. Brennan, Town Accountant
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Selectmen's Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Moore, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343 and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGE OF BINGO DATES AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL:

Present: Rev. John A. Currie, Pastor

Fr. Currie explained that his request is to move Bingo from two Fridays (March 18 and April 22, 2011) to the Tuesdays in the same weeks (March 15 and April 19, 2011). Bingo has already been cancelled twice this year due to snowstorms. Bingo will need to be cancelled on March 18 due to a function at the School and on April 22 because it is Good Friday. Not being able to make up two more dates would impact the budget at St. Joseph School. There are no other groups in town authorized to conduct Bingo; therefore, it would not be a conflict with any other Bingo in the town.

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Currie, to accept the proposed moving of two dates for Bingo at St. Joseph's, from Friday, March 18 to Tuesday, March 15, 2011, and from Friday, April 22 to Tuesday, April 19, 2011

VOTE: 4:0

Fr. Currie spoke about what a credit it is to the town for the way the town supported 9-year old KERRIANN LUGGELLE, who battled cancer and lost on February 26th, and the way the town continues to support the other children currently fighting life-threatening illnesses.

MINUTES:

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the minutes of the regular session of February 8, 2011, as printed

VOTE: 3:0:1 (Mr. Currie abstained)

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the minutes of the executive session of February 8, 2011, as printed

VOTE: 3: 0:1 (Mr. Currie abstained)

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the minutes of the regular session of February 22, 2011, as printed

VOTE: 4:0

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MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Currie, to accept the minutes of the executive session of February 22, 2011, as printed

VOTE: 4:0

Mr. McGaughey reported that he and Mr. Yunits have spoken with a representative of Agape Inn, who is consulting the Board of Directors about leasing the town-owned property at 227 PLYMOUTH STREET. If the former school on the property were renovated or torn down, it would still involve a lease of the property. This discussion will be placed on the agenda for the meeting on March 22, 2011.

Mr. Yunits told the Board that a draft copy of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT was in their packets for review. Approval of the warrant should be voted at the meeting on March 22, 2011.

Mr. Cummings has presented the PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET REQUEST to the Finance Committee. The Snow and Ice deficit is \$263,906.35 to date.

Town Accountant Cynthia Brennan submitted a request that Ms. Diane Haley be reappointed to the position of ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT, effective July 1, 2010. There is no change in Ms. Haley's pay due to this appointment, but she will be able to sign the warrants in the Town Accountant's absence.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Currie, to reappoint Diane Haley as the Assistant Town Accountant

VOTE: 4:0

MR. YUNITS thanked everyone for the enjoyable experience he has had since August of 2005 serving as Holbrook's Town Administrator. He begins work as the Town of Norton's Town Manager tomorrow. The Board spoke about his dedication and wished him well.

Fire Chief Edward O'Brien spoke about the shortfall in the FY11 OVERTIME BUDGET FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. He said that he has been able to maintain the staffing for 25 years, but he is not going to be able to fill shifts now if one firefighter is sick. The goal will have to be to maintain four firefighters, with five on duty sometimes. Mr. Kevin Costa, the chairman of the Finance Committee, explained that since the firefighters' contract has expired, the town is not subject to the minimum manning provision.

Due to the resignation of Mr. Dale Lewis from the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE, residents of the town have been asked to submit a letter of interest in being appointed as a Citizen at Large.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Fuller, to appoint Mr. Alexander Ambroult to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, with a term to expire on June 30, 2011

VOTE: 4:0

The Chairman explained that the services of an INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR have been sought after. Mr. William Phelan, a former mayor of Quincy, will serve in that capacity for three months. He is an attorney, and will continue his law practice and work flexible hours in Holbrook, including night meetings. Mr. Phelan introduced himself and explained that he ran for mayor in Quincy and served for three terms. He said that while he was serving, he saw cut backs in local aid, a reduction in the work force, a school was built, and he has experience in negotiating a lease agreement. He enjoys local government and looks forward to assisting the town with the water treatment plant and the transfer station projects. He feels he is good at solving problems, and will delve into the town budget.

MOTION: By Mr. Currie, second by Mr. McGaughey, to appoint Mr. William Phelan for a three month commitment to serve as an Interim Town Administrator, effective March 21, 2011
VOTE: 4:0

The Board considered appointments to the TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Five individuals submitted notice that they were interested in a "citizen" appointment, including Mr. William Pritchard, Mr. Paul Moriarty, Mr. Michael Fleming, Mr. Paul Anastasio, and Mrs. Donna Dewar. The Board reviewed the requests to fill the two citizen positions.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to approve the appointment of Mr. William H. Pritchard to the Town Administrator Search Advisory Committee
VOTE: 3:1 (Mr. Currie against)

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Currie, to appoint Mr. Michael Fleming to the Town Administrator Search Advisory Committee
VOTE: 4:0

Rather than a member of the Finance Committee, the Board indicated that the Fire Chief was interested in serving on the committee.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Currie, to appoint Fire Chief Edward O'Brien to the Town Administrator Search Advisory Committee
VOTE: 4:0

Mr. Yunits reviewed the numbers in the SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE account, and explained that fees that are not paid in one fiscal year are collected the following year. The revenue coming into the fund must be increased. He suggested that the Board consider increasing the rates, and/or charging multi-family residences for each unit in the building, or getting out of the trash business. Currently, there are 641 households that have opted out of the program. Mr. Cummings said the problem the residents have is not being able to get rid of trash with the current program. Mr. Kevin Costa, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said the program does not work, and the town should look at offering single stream recycling and offering what the private companies offer, or consider getting out of the trash business. Mr. Fuller indicated that Allied Waste should be brought back to discuss the matter. The Selectmen will meet with the Finance Committee on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm to discuss changing the program and a possible solution.

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Mr. Cummings indicated that the TRI TOWN WATER BOARD met last week, and the next meeting will be held on March 17, 2011 at 10:00 am. Mr. Cummings explained that there are approximately \$335,000 in bills that are over a year old that the Town of Holbrook owes related to the water treatment plant, and there is not enough money available to pay them. Mr. Moore said the towns were partners in good faith, and the bills should be paid. Mr. McGaughey said they should be paid with the final settlement vote on the percentages for each town. At this time, Braintree Mayor Sullivan is sticking with 20% for Holbrook. Mr. Moore explained that the 20% for Holbrook is because Braintree and Randolph have significant contributions in the plant and pumping stations which are located on property in those towns. Mr. Costa said they should assess the property, and each town should pay proportionately. Mr. Cummings cautioned that the current treatment plant will not meet the standards as of October 13, 2013, and the project did not get on the priority list for SRF funding. This discussion was tabled until the Selectmen's meeting on March 22, 2011. Mayor Sullivan will be contacted and asked to reschedule the Tri Town Water meeting until April 7th, after the town election.

Mr. Yunits explained that the town needs to have a CREDIT CARD, to be overseen by the Treasurer and Town Accountant, so that purchases can be made, particularly when the purchase must be made online. Currently, employees have to use their own credit card and be reimbursed by the town. Town Treasurer/Collector Paul Digirolamo explained that he had to wait for a monitor for his department because the town did not have a credit card. He suggested a \$2,000 limit and indicated that the Bank of Canton could be used. Mr. Cummings said his department has had a Sunoco credit card for years, and that it has, at times, come in very handy.

MOTION: By Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Currie, that the town secure a credit card from the Bank of Canton, and that the Board see the monthly statements in addition to what is listed on the warrant for payment

VOTE: 3:1 (Mr. Fuller against)

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 8:12 pm, to adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy as it relates to litigation and not return to open session

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Fuller – Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes
Mr. McGaughey – Yes
Mr. Moore – Yes

Brinsley A. Fuller, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda & draft minutes

Employment agreement with William Phelan

Solid Waste Enterprise budget numbers

Letter from Saint Joseph Rectory re: Bingo dates
Email from Mr. Yunits re: Professional/Technical
Draft annual town meeting warrant
Requests for appointment to Capital Improvement
Planning Committee & Town Administrator
Search Advisory Committee
Request for re-appointment of Assistant Town
Accountant