

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate
Matthew V. Moore, Associate

Absent: Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Gordon, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Holbrook Town Hall, 1st Floor, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHIEF OF POLICE POSITION:

Present: Paul Porter, Retired Chief of Police for the Town of Randolph

It was explained that William D. Marble, Jr, the Chief of Police, is stepping down, effective February 10, 2014, and returning to the position of Sergeant. Chief Marble was thanked for his service.

Because the new permanent chief could be the same individual who might be chosen to fill the position on a temporary basis from within the department, it has been decided that someone from the outside should temporarily fill the position.

Mr. Phelan spoke about Chief Porter's County-wide reputation, explained that MGL Chapter 31, §31 allows the Town to appoint him on an emergency basis for 30 days at this time, and introduced Chief Porter. Chief Porter thanked the Board for this opportunity and privilege, and discussed his background and extensive experience from 35 years on the Randolph Police Department, including 6 ½ years as Chief.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to appoint Paul Porter as an Emergency Interim Police Commissioner/Chief of the Holbrook Police Department, pursuant to MGL Chapter 31, Section 31, for thirty days, effective February 10, 2014

VOTE: 3:0

SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT:

On January 29, 2014, the Permanent School Building Committee voted to approve the submission of a letter to the Senior Capital Program Manager at the Massachusetts School Building Authority relative to the preferred design option for the new school project. The letter was written by the Owner's Project Manager, and requires that the Selectmen authorize Chairman Gordon to sign the letter.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to authorize the Chairman to sign the February 13, 2014 letter to Ms. Diane Sullivan, Senior Capital Program Manager, for the Preferred Schematic Report for the Elementary Schools and Junior/Senior High School project

VOTE: 3:0

AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS:

Fire Chief Luke McFadden explained that the request for ambulance abatements before the Board consists of routine adjustments recommended by New England Medical Billing.

MOTION: By Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation to abate \$107,036.34 from the ambulance billing for the quarter of October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

VOTE: 3:0

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MOTION:

Mr. Phelan explained that now that the FREE CASH has been certified by the state, \$150,000 that was transferred out of Stabilization in the fall in order to reduce the tax levy, will now be transferred back to Stabilization from Free Cash, as discussed at that special town meeting. He noted that the increase in the Town's bond rating is due, in part, to the past two years of positive Free Cash.

Mr. Phelan advised that the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) recommended an estimated budget of \$88,000 for a REGIONALIZATION STUDY if town meeting votes in favor of establishing a regional school district planning committee. Mr. Phelan will contact MARS to discuss the estimate.

FY15 BUDGET PRIORITIES:

Town Administrator Phelan explained that the FY15 budget is tight, but the conservative budgeting being followed by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee recently encouraged the goal of utilizing what is available in order to better serve the public. During FY14, several departments were combined into one inspectional services department. In FY15, the Board may consider making further changes to the inspectional services department, by combining the 15-hour clerk in the Planning Board office. That will allow for back-up coverage and improved public service.

The Building Department has seen an increase in building permits recently, and the Health Agent is also a licensed builder. He is part-time, and the Board could look at increasing his hours to full-time to provide better coverage. Mr. Gordon asked that the dialog continue.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Public Works Superintendent, Benjamin Ecord, was recognized for the work of his department during this stormy, snowy winter with multiple water main breaks.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 8:30 pm, by Mr. Moore, second by Mr. McGaughey, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 3:0

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents: Agenda, Ambulance Abatement list, MSBA letter, STM warrant