

HOLLIS SELECT BOARD
September 13, 2021
PUBLIC MINUTES 6:30 PM
Approved 09/27/2021

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Select Board present: Vice Chair Mark Le Doux, Peter Band, Susan Benz and Paul Armstrong
Select Board absent: Chair David Petry
Staff present: Lori Radke, Town Administrator; Joan Cudworth, DPW Director; Joe Hoebeke, Police Chief

COMMUNITY ROOM

This meeting was conducted in the Hollis Town Hall Community Meeting Room, located at 7 Monument Square, Hollis, New Hampshire.

AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Raimondi (Alsun Drive) spoke against a town wide mask mandate, stating that he felt masks were not effective.

Julie Le Doux (Dow Road) supports having masks be optional for the town.

Loren Farrow (Richardson Road) is against masks, stating that they hide our identity, including facial expressions, and are not proven to protect us from COVID-19. She added that most of us are at very little risk of acquiring COVID-19.

Joe Garruba (Winchester Drive) supports a 'mask-optional policy' in Hollis, adding that the requirement of masks is an unreasonable imposition on personal choice.

Dennis Johnson (Main Street) questioned the logic of the people who were wearing masks in the room.

Selectman Band responded to the question, explaining the process of how COVID-19 can be transmitted to other people, and stating additional CDC guidelines. He added that some people are unable to get vaccinated, due to compromised immune systems.

Leslie Pike (Lawrence Lane) is not in support of a 'mandatory mask policy', adding that she questions the usefulness of cloth and surgical masks against COVID-19.

Maria Hubert (Hideaway Lane) supports a 'mask optional policy' for Hollis.

PUBLIC HEARING (ARPA Funds)

1. Acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Funds (\$838,145)

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law which established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to provide direct support for local governments to respond to COVID-19's impact on our community, residents, and businesses.

RSA 31:95-b allows municipalities, through their governing bodies, to accept unanticipated money in the amount of \$10,000 or more following a public hearing with seven days' notice in a newspaper which was completed.

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The US Treasury has determined that Hollis is eligible to receive \$838,145 total funds, with 50% available in 2021 and the remainder in 2022. The Town will be responsible for extensive tracking and reporting of the funds throughout the program years. The funds can be used for eligible costs incurred beginning March 3, 2021, and obligated by December 31, 2024, with all money, actually spent and work completed by December 31, 2026.

Kat McGhee (Beckys Place) supports the acceptance of ARPA funds, adding that she thought funds could potentially be used for technology and security, in addition to water projects for the town.

Town Administrator, Lori Radke clarified the use of the funds, stating that there is a link on the town website for COVID-19 Expenses Relief Program through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery (GOFERR). On September 9, the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) launched the COVID-19 Expenses Relief Program to assist New Hampshire for-profit Main Street businesses with COVID-19 related business expenses in 2020 and 2021. The deadline is October 1, 2021 to apply.

Acting Chair Le Doux reiterated that the intention is to use the funds towards an assessment for adequate water and/or wells for both the Hollis Town Hall and Lawrence Barn Community Center. Addition options for using the funds, including a HVAC system for the Hollis Social Library, cyber security and upgrading the fire cisterns.

Vivian Gerard (Broad Street) supports the acceptance of ARPA funds, adding that she was not able to qualify for many programs for COVID-19 relief for the Timber Post Bed & Breakfast.

With no further comments, the public hearing closed at 7:03PM.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Peter Band that the Select Board accept the ARPA funds in the amount of \$838,145, but not disburse the funds, at this time. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

APPOINTMENT

1. Hollis Police Department (Joseph Hoebeke, Chief of Police)

Chief Hoebeke introduced the newest member of the Hollis Police Department, Officer Julie Hinckley. Officer Hinckley is from Prospect, Connecticut and is a graduate from Franklin Pierce University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Management. She attended and graduated from the 185th session of the New Hampshire Policy Academy. The Oath of Office was conducted, followed by a warm welcome and pictures with the Select Board and Chief.

PRESENTATION

1. Emergency Management (Rick Towne, Former Fire Chief)

Former Fire Chief Rick Towne introduced Don McCoy. Mr. McCoy served with the Hollis Fire Department for fifty (50) years, joining the department in 1971. His prior work experience was with the U.S. Forest Service. He helped design and construct the new Fire Station, in addition to other buildings/structures in town. He also served as Emergency Management Director for Hollis, for many years. The major role for Emergency Management is to coordinate with town departments, Hollis Select Board and school officials to implement and update an Emergency Management Plan in the event of a catastrophic event or situation. Mr. McCoy was presented with a granite stone in appreciation for his many years of service to the town.

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PUBLIC HEARING (Voting Machines)

1. Discontinuance of Electronic Voting Machines

Lisa Claire, Town Clerk and Drew Mason, Town Moderator presented a tabulation machine and demonstrated how it works for elections. It was explained that LHS Associates, Inc. is the organization that performs the maintenance on the machines. They also program the memory cards. It was explained where the memory card is inserted and where the seals are placed on the machine, stating that each seal has a 6 digit unique number that is registered and recorded.

An unidentified person from the audience questioned the accuracy of the machines. Ms. Claire replied that neither the machine, nor a hand count is 100% accurate. Further comments were made from unidentified sources in the audience. Ms. Claire further explained that if the machine does not recognize a certain mark or a write-in on the ballot, the ballot is directed into a separate box, which is then hand-counted. D. Mason stated that a hand-count is within 1% of a true count, where machine counts are within .5%. In other words, the results of a machine count are more accurate than the results of a hand-count.

Al Fulchino (Pine Hill Road) is not in support of voting machines, stating that it is the integrity of the person programming the card that is in question, adding that no one really knows what is on the card, inside of the machine.

Marylyn Todd (Nashua and Windham, NH) informed the Board that she is a Forensic Accountant and involved with the New Hampshire Voter Integrity Group. She provided a presentation, which included a video clip, showing an inaccurate read of a voting machine. She felt the information on the memory card is questionable. It was further stated that the intent of the ballot is not fully recorded. She was not in support of the voting machine, stating that there is proof that the machines can be manipulated.

Acting Chair stated that the public hearing opened at 7:54PM and that no action from the Board will be taken tonight.

Jim Belanger (Plain Road) former Town Moderator for the past 25 years, had lots of experience with elections, voting machines, etc. He stated that a ballot is marked up and tested several times through every machine to ensure the correct information is being read. He added that hand counting is not accurate.

Kat McGhee (Beckys Place) was informed by the Secretary of State that our machines cannot be hacked and are not networked. They are programmed in advance and tested. There is no evidence that there is anything wrong with the machines.

Pam Hicks (Maple Knoll Drive) stated that there are problems, there are fraud, and there are numbers that can't be explained. She asked the Board if they would be interested in using both machine counting and hand-counting. She felt that people don't trust the system and she believes the town has people who would volunteer.

Al Fulchino (Pine Hill Rd) would like to do a hand count in addition to a machine count for the next three elections.

Sue Homola (Mendelssohn Drive) stated that the machines in New Hampshire are old and can be tampered with less because they are old. However, they are still old. As a state we are embarking on the next

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143 generation of machines. Her concern is that our machines are subject to human errors and whatever is
144 coming next may not be what we want.
145

146 Senator Kevin Avard (District 12) commented that a lot of people are feeling as though they are not being
147 heard. He is concerned that local control will be affected by the extent of legislature. He felt that giving
148 people the opportunity to speak and to listen to their concerns at this stage is critical. Additionally,
149 protecting local control is also very critical at this point. He voiced his support for having masks be
150 optional.
151

152 Toni Stanizzi (South Merrimack Road) stated that just because the integrity of the system is being
153 questioned, does not mean the integrity of the people that work there is in question. He is concerned that the
154 testing could be faulty.
155

156 L. Claire, Town Clerk suggested Mr. Stanizzi attend and view the next testing opportunity, since it is open
157 to the public.
158

159 Chet Wizboski (Farm Pond Lane) questioned the information from a previous speaker regarding the
160 percentage of eligible voters in Hollis.
161

162 Eliza Lecours (Pine Hill Road) felt that the video from the presentation not carry any weight for her. She
163 stated that the bias can never be removed from hand counting.
164

165 Thom Davies (Forest View Drive) Supervisor of the Checklist for approximately 9 years, felt that the
166 election process itself should not be politically charged. It has to remain independent. To throw out the
167 machine that is not subject to human error, to the extent that counting by hand is, by 50+ people, seems
168 specious, at best, as a solution. In his opinion, the machine gives an account that is probably closer to 100%
169 accurate than hand-counting itself. The checklist is hand counted to compare the number of voters to the
170 number of ballots that were delivered. They are generally within 2%. In a typical election there are 15
171 ballot clerks, serving 5 stations. On a major election, there are 21 ballot clerks at 7 different stations.
172 Everyone is a potential source of human error. He is not against hand counting, but does not want to
173 remove the machines from the process.
174

175 Al Fulchino (Pine Hill Road) would like to test the machine against a hand-count vote.
176

177 Mike Raimondi (Alsun Drive) is in favor of a hand count and challenged some of comments made by
178 previous speakers. He felt that the USB device is hackable.
179

180 Kent Blumenshine (Rideout Road) stated that it was not a political issue, the issue is that we want correct
181 results. The one thing we own is the process in which we tabulate data. The point is that the systems don't
182 produce accurate data all of the time.
183

184 Fred Hubert (Hideaway Lane) felt that the bottom line is that we want local control. We don't have local
185 control over the software that is on the memory cards. We have local control over the counters.
186

187 Adam Bragg (Wright Road) discredited the video that was played in the presentation, stating that data like
188 that is availability bias. The integrity of the people counting the votes is the same people ensuring the
189 machines are functioning properly. Although there may be a valid point, he disagreed with the logic for
190 changing from a machine ballot to a hand counted ballot.

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Acting Chair Le Doux felt that the question was whether the Board would consider a hand count at the next election, in addition to the machine count.

Julie Le Doux (Dow Road) stated that we don't have control on what is on the memory cards or who programs them. She felt the people of Hollis are asking for a higher degree of personal involvement in our voting process, adding that one small company controls 89% of all the elections in New England, which is a problem.

Michelle St. John (Orchard Drive) stated that we are living in a time of fear, distrust and conspiracy theories. Approximately 100+ impartial volunteers with proper training would be needed to conduct a hand count vote.

D. Mason commented that any registered voter in the Town of Hollis can be a ballot clerk.

Mary Thomas (Milton Place) and Chair of the Supervisor of the Checklist added that anyone that wants to volunteer to help out during the election and is a registered voter in Hollis should contact her via email. Her email can be found on the town website.

Kat McGhee (Beckys Way) commented that election integrity came from a political place and has been on people's minds, so she wanted the Select Board to keep that in mind and not that there may be something wrong with Hollis' elections.

D. Mason stated that when the outcome of the vote does not change, that is what matters. It is not just a question of numbers, but a question of outcome.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed with a short break.

RESIGNATIONS

1. Conservation Commission

a. David Werner, effective September 13, 2021

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board accept the resignation of David Werner from the Hollis Conservation Commission, effective 09/13/2021. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Joan Cudworth, Director of Public Works

a. Town Facility Propane Bid Approval

Department of Public Works received four (4) bids, with L&G Propane as the lowest bidder with a price of \$1.269.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the bid to L&G Propane for Town Facility Propane, as recommended by DPW Director, Joan Cudworth. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. DPW Building Engineering Study Update

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J. Cudworth explained that there are two plans, one for renovation, and one for demolition. The plans and supporting information were distributed to the Select Board via email, prior to the meeting. The Select Board will provide input on the plans. It was suggested that cost estimates be obtained at the earliest possible time.

c. Hollis Social Library Furnace Update

There are four (4) furnaces at the Hollis Social Library that are approximately 28 years old. One is in need of replacement. J. Cudworth received an estimate of \$4,320 for a commercial grade furnace to use in the interim. It is anticipated that ARPA funds could be used to replace the other furnaces. It was stated that flooding continues to be a problem in the basement.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the replacement of the furnace for the Hollis Social Library, in the amount of \$4,320. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

2. Melinda Willis, Cemetery Trustee Chair

a. East Cemetery Expansion Update (Wheeler Road)

M. Willis explained that the expansion has begun and the trustees plan to meet with the Planning Board to provide a status update on the project. It was thought that the project could be done for approximately \$95K. They received a donation in the amount of \$19K for a patio that could be used for an outdoor memorial service or a place for reflection. The total amount available is \$114K.

Following further discussion with the Department of Public Works, it was decided to include a new entrance. A new road is approximately \$18K, not including widening all of the roads in the new lot. With all of the adjustments, the total for the project is short by approximately \$25K. It is anticipated that the project will finish this fall, so lots can be sold in the spring. The expansion will allow for 348 lots. One lot allows for 1 burial or 4 cremations. They would like to incorporate a rock wall to place urns in as a way of conserving space, but that would be pursued at a future date and most likely by warrant article. The Board discussed and supported using funds from Contingency toward the project.

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve transferring \$25,000 from the Contingency Fund for the East Cemetery Expansion. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

3. Petition and Pole License

a. Pole #21-1577, Meadow Drive (14/6)

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Peter Band that the Select Board approve the Petition and Pole License for Pole #21-1577 for Meadow Drive. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. Pole #21-1590, Cross Road (117/3)

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Peter Band that the Select Board approve the Petition and Pole License for Pole #21-1590 for Cross Road. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

4. Job Description Review

a. Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, TH Receptionist

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There was some clarification on the HR roles of the Town Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator. Additionally, the following line from the Town Administrator job description will be reflected as follows: "Provides Select Board with monthly reports on ~~budget and~~ departmental activities".

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the job descriptions for the Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator and Town Hall Receptionist, as presented with the change noted above. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Assessing

a. MS-1, Summary Inventory of Valuation (Ratify approval via email on 09/02/2021)

Form MS-1 is required by the NH DRA in order to establish the assessed value of the Town for the setting of the 2021 Tax Rate.

MOVED by Peter Band seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board ratify the approval previously made on 09/02/2021 for the MS-1, Summary Inventory of Valuation. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

b. Report of Wood or Timber Cut

| Operation # | MBLU | Owner | Timber Tax Levy |
|-------------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 21-223-05 | 029-010 | Federal Hill Properties LLC | \$371.67 |
| 21-223-08 | 003-030 | William H Hall Jr Revoc Trust | \$416.37 |
| TOTAL: | | | \$788.04 |

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the Report of Wood or Timber Cut for Operation #21-223-05 and #21-223-08, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

c. Current Use Release and Land Use Change Tax (LUCT)

| MBLU | Owner | Location | Acres | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | | Removed | LUCT |
| 032-045-007 | Timothy Morgan | Hobart Lane | 2.26 | \$28,000 |
| 032-045-010 | Jennette Family Revoc Trust | Hobart Lane | 1.28 | \$30,500 |
| 032-045-011 | James Colorusso | Hobart Lane | 1.24 | \$25,000 |
| 032-045-012 | John J Callahan Trust 2002 | Hobart Lane | 1.22 | \$23,200 |
| 032-045-013 | Edward & Patricia Callahan | Hobart Lane | 1.50 | \$25,000 |
| 032-045-015 | Eric Snelgrove | Hobart Lane | 1.32 | \$27,500 |
| TOTAL: | | | 8.82 | \$159,200 |

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the Current Use Release and Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) for MBLU 032-045-007, 032-045-010, 032-045-011, 032-045-012, 032-045-013 and 032-045-015, as submitted. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

2. Approval of Warrants

a. Wages \$183,820.53 08/19/2021

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| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
| b. Wages | \$167,579.66 | 09/02/2021 |
| c. Accounts Payable | \$ 53,016.28 | 08/19/2021 |
| d. Accounts Payable | \$193,329.21 | 09/02/2021 |
| e. Benefit Strategies | \$ 1,883.66 | 08/19/2021 |
| f. Benefit Strategies | \$ 1,813.66 | 09/02/2021 |

MOVED by Mark Le Doux seconded by Susan Benz that the Select Board approve the warrants, as presented. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Public and Non Public Minutes from 08/09/2021

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the public meeting minutes from August 9, 2021, as amended and the Non Public Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2021 and keep them sealed. Voting in favor of the motion were Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. Le Doux abstained. The motion PASSED 3-0-1.

b. Public and Non-Public Minutes from 08/20/2021

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board approve the public meeting minutes from August 20, 2021, as amended and the Non-Public meeting minutes from August 20, 2021 and keep them sealed. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The meeting schedule was announced for September 14, 2021 through September 27, 2021. The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2021 at 6:30PM in the Town Hall Community Meeting Room.

Building and Code Staff Appreciation Day was September 1, 2021. There will be a speaker on the US Constitution on Tuesday, September 14th at 3PM at the Lawrence Barn Community Center. There will be a presentation on community power from the Energy Committee on September 16th at 6:30PM at the Lawrence Barn Community Center. There is a blood drive on September 17th from 1PM-6PM at the Lawrence Barn Community Center. There will be a celebration of like for Becky Crowther at 2PM on September 18th also at the Lawrence Barn Community Center. Also on September 18th from 1:00PM-3:00PM there will be a free shred day at the Hollis Transfer Station, hosted by Mill Yard Bank.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel

MOVED by Paul Armstrong seconded by Peter Band that the Select Board enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 9:31PM

CONCLUSION OF NON PUBLIC SESSION

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board come out of Non-Public Session and seal the minutes, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3-II (a) personnel. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Band, Armstrong and Benz. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

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The Board came out of nonpublic session at 10:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Susan Benz seconded by Paul Armstrong that the Select Board adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Le Doux, Benz, Band and Armstrong. No one was opposed. The motion PASSED 4-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 10:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Herrera, Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resource Coordinator