

**HOLDEN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, November 13, 2023  
Holden Municipal Building  
6:00 P. M.**

**MINUTES**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairperson Carey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Ryan Carey, Chairperson; Thomas Copeland, Vice-Chairperson; Ellen Campbell, Councilor; Joel Dearborn, Councilor; and David Hawes, Councilor.

**Others present:** Benjamin R.K. Breadmore, Town Manager; Eduardo Benjamin, Police Chief; Rodney Gerald, Police Sgt.; Darrin Gray, Public Works Director; Tressa Smith, Finance Director; Ryan Davis, Fire Chief; Brooke Billings, Town Clerk; Melissa Gray, Deputy Clerk; Bradley Billings, Waylon Billings, Hunter Higgins, and Dan Lufkin.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Moment of Silence**

**D. Public Comment**

Thomas Copeland, Vice-Chairperson; spoke on the First Responders Memorial and waiting until the New Year to kick off the fund raising. Looking for \$17,000 in funding for the project and materials.

Benjamin Breadmore, Town Manager; thanked Tressa for conducting a flawless audit with Maine Public Employee Retirement System.

**1. Public Hearing**

Benjamin Breadmore, Town Manager; Spoke on behalf of the Town of Holden employees and noted we did not receive all documents required to complete the decisioning on approval of Big Bang Boom Fireworks. Recommended tabling the application until December's meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes for October 16,2023 Regular Meeting of the Town Council.**

Councilor Dearborn moved to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Town Council. Councilor Campbell seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**3. Consent Agenda**

**A. Financial Warrants**

Vice-Chairperson Copeland moved to accept the financial warrants as presented. Councilor Campbell seconded the motion; it passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

**B. Department Reports**

Councilor Campbell moved to accept the Department Reports as submitted. Councilor Hawes seconded the motion; it passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Benjamin Breadmore, Town Manager; did bring to the councils' attention the replacement of voting booths.

**C. School Board Update**

Benjamin Breadmore, Town Manager; met with the Superintendent and brought up the number of special needs students. The school anticipated about two and there's eleven, and the budget is roughly \$60,000 per student and the schools budget this year was able to accommodate. They do not feel next years budget will be able to absorb it and wanted to give the councils a heads up.

**D. Recognitions**

Chairperson Carey and the Town Council recognized Atlantic Design for the month of October. Darrin Gray was recognized for 36 years with the Town of Holden. The Towns longest serving employee!

**4. Old Business**

There was none.

**5. New Business**

**A. Consider Renewal of Big Bang Boom Annual Fireworks Sale Permit**

Chairperson Carey asked Town Manger Breadmore if all appropriate paperwork was received to move to approve. Vice-Chairperson Copeland moved to table until December 18, 2023. Councilor Campbell seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote 5-0.

**6. Other Business (By Unanimous Consent)**

Councilor Campbell brought up Penobscot Budget Committee and Holdens Valuation has increased by \$47,000 on its tax liabilities. That is an 8.54% increase in the county share.

Police Sgt. Gerald spoke on the purchase of new long guns for the department. The department is looking for an additional \$4,200 for the purchase of 2 guns. Vice-Chairperson Copeland moved to extend the funds for the purchase. Councilor Campbell seconded the motion; it passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Town Manager Breadmore recommended Councilor Dearborn for the Cemetery Board. Councilor Campbell moved to accept recommendation. Councilor Hawes seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote 4-0-1.

Town Manager Breadmore brought up the ongoing issues with trash. Presented the future of trash and our future with Casella.

Chairperson Carey brought up GIS and having a sit down with the Historical Society to gather as much information as we can. That way we can add this into a GIS layer.

Chairperson Carey motioned to enter into executive session at 6:31. Councilor Campbell motioned to accept entering of executive session. Councilor Hawes seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote 5-0.

**E. Executive Session**

**A. Discuss Property Issue Pursuant to 1, M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (C)**

Councilor Campbell made a motion to exit Executive Session. Councilor Hawes seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote 5-0.

Other Business was entered into with unanimous consent to sell lots in Debeck Business Park.

Councilor Dearborn made the motion to sell lots 5 and 8 in Debeck Park to Dan Lufkin for \$40,000. \$30,000 for lot 5 and \$10,000 for lot 8. Vice-Chairperson Copeland seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote 5-0.

**F. Adjournment**

Councilor Hawes made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m., Vice-Chairperson Copeland seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.