

**HOLDEN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Monday July 20, 2020
Holden Municipal Building
6:00 P. M.**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M

Members present: Thomas Copeland, Chairperson; Ryan Carey Vice Chairperson; Rod Black, Councilor; Joel Dearborn, Councilor; and David Hawes, Councilor.

Others present: Benjamin R.K. Breadmore, Town Manager; Tressa Smith, Treasurer; Chris Greeley, Police Chief; Eduardo Benjamin, Police Luitenant; Ryan Davis, Fire Chief; J.R. Gray; Fire Fighter, Roger Huber; Legal Counsel, Shelia McCarty, Town Clerk; Robert Harvey; Resident, Deborah Harvey; Resident, Robert Harvey; Resident, Sandy Ervin; Resident, Marybeth Connolly; Resident, and Patricia Sirois; Resident.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Copeland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Moment of Silence

Chairperson Copeland asked that we take a moment to reflect on something positive since we last met.

4. Public Comment

Resident Sandy Ervin expressed his concern with the possible removal of the stop sign on Mann Hill Road.

Council Chair Copeland requested the Town Manager give an update on that issue.

Town Manager Breadmore explained that during the June Town Council Meeting the idea of removing the stop sign was discussed and conversations have been had with traffic engineers at Maine DOT. There will be a ball bank indicator test performed by the DOT to provide recommended speeds for taking the curve from both directions. Additionally, a meeting was held with Mr. Valley of 503 Mann Hill Road, trees along the corer will be taken down and the ditch line reclaimed giving additional sight distance to the intersection. Before any change is made options will be presented to the Town Council for review and action.

Chief Ryan Davis introduced the Fire Departments new hire Ronald (JR) Gray.

Councilor Black discussed the current political climate in regards to Police Department and those departments across the country. He stated he would always support the Holden Police

Department and all the good they do for our community and asked Chief Greeley if he would be willing to work on legislators to work on the unfunded mandates from Augusta.

Resident Robert Harvey echoed Councilor Black's comments and asked if there was ever a discussion on action against the department, he would personally like to speak in support of the Holden Police Department.

Chief Chris Greeley thanked the Town Council and the public for their support of our department and of our staff.

5. Recognition of Service

Councilor Black recognized Pat Sirois for her 3 years on the Town Council, as well as other positions she has held with the School Board, Historical Society, etc. and presented her with a plaque for her service to the Town of Holden

Vice Chair Carey recognized Robert Harvey for his 15 years on the Town Council, serving as Chair from June 2011-June 2015 and other various positions held in support of Holden, see resolve, and presented him with a plaque and gavel for his years of service.

6. Approval of Minutes for June 15, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting

Councilor Dearborn moved, Councilor Black seconded; to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2020, Regular Council Meeting as amended. Vote 5-0 in favor.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Financial Warrants

Councilor Dearborn moved; Councilor Black seconded; to approve the financial information as noted. Vote 5-0 in favor.

B. Department Reports

Councilor Carey moved; Councilor Dearborn seconded; to approve the Department Reports as submitted.

Councilor Black inquired about the paving completed by B&B on Levenseller Road and the benefit of coming in under budget.

Councilor Dearborn commended Chief Chris Greeley for taking the time to meet with Mr. Witherspoon and during these times of unrest, taking time for our residents is what makes Holden so great. Councilor Dearborn also inquired to Chief Ryan Davis about possible PPE shortages they are facing and would any resupply be coming soon.

Chief Ryan Davis addressed the concern by explaining that we have had some shortages, but we received a restock of gowns which are the hardest to acquire earlier the same day, but the department is always in need of cleaning supplies, during these times especially.

Vote 5-0 in favor.

C. School Board Update

Town Manger Breadmore stated the School Board referendum on the proposed budget was passed by all three communities.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

A. Set the FY 2019-2020 tax mil rate

Councilor Black moved; Councilor Carey seconded; to use \$550,000 from fund balance to offset the budget increase in the 2020 budget. Mil rate would remain 17.85. Vote 5-0 in favor.

B. Establish Tax Due Dates

Councilor Dearborn moved; Councilor Carey seconded; to establish the first tax installment, which is 50% of the total tax, will be due on September 15, 2020 or 30 days after commitment or whichever is later. Interest will be charged on September 16, 2020 or 31 days after commitment, whichever is later, on unpaid portion of 50% of tax bill. The second tax installment, which is 50% of the total tax, will be due, on March 15, 2021. Interest will be charged on March 16, 2021, on the remaining 50% of tax bill. Unpaid taxes as of April 30, 2020 will be listed in the Town Report. Vote 5-0 in favor.

C. Set Interest Rates for Delinquent Taxes

Councilor Black moved; Councilor Dearborn seconded; to set an interest rate of 8%. Vote 5-0 in favor.

D. 906 Order

Councilor Carey moved; Councilor Dearborn seconded; to sign the 906 Order. Vote 5-0 in favor.

E. Pre-Paid Taxes

Councilor Dearborn moved; Councilor Carey seconded; to set an interest rate of 0%. Vote 5-0 in favor.

F. Overpayment of Taxes

Councilor Black moved; Councilor Hawes seconded; to set an interest rate of 4%. Vote 5-0 in favor.

G. Disorderly Property Ordinance

Councilor Dearborn moved; Councilor Hawes seconded; to move forward with a Public Hearing in August. Vote 5-0 in favor.

H. Equipment for Police Cruisers

Councilor Carey moved; Councilor Hawes seconded; to move approve up to \$24,000 for equipment to be purchased for the two leased cruisers. Vote 5-0 in favor.

10. Other Business (By Unanimous Consent)

Town Manager Breadmore requested the Town Council consider discussion on 157 Lower Dedham Road as we have foreclosed on the property. The Town Council gave unanimous consent to discuss the issue.

Town Manager Breadmore explained how the neighboring property owner had contacted the office about our intentions as he believed there may be a setback issue concerning structures on the lot. Town Manager Breadmore recommended that the property could be offered to the neighbor as a right of first refusal for approximately \$2,200 recouping the taxes owed to the community. Providing there was no ordinance or policy prohibiting the transaction consent was given to proceed forward. Vote 5-0 in favor

11. Public Comment

Marybeth Connelly expressed that she didn't feel enough information was distributed on the municipal election being held in June while the state election was in July. Additionally, she inquired as to what happened to email notifications the public use to receive regarding monthly event in the town.

Pat Sirois recommended something be put on the town website to donate cleaning supplies to the Fire Department.

12. Adjournment

Councilor Carey moved; Councilor Hawes seconded; to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted: Benjamin Breadmore, Town Manager

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require any kind of assistance to fully participate in this meeting, please notify us at 843-5151 or write to, Town Manager, 570 Main Road, Holden, ME 04429.