

**HOLDEN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, November 18, 2019  
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; Rod Black, Vice Chairperson; Patricia Sirois, Councilor; Robert Harvey, Councilor; Ryan Carey, Councilor.

**Others present:** Andy Fish, Treasurer; Bruce Dowling, Highway Foreman; Chris Greeley Police Chief; Ryan Davis, Fire Chief; Nathan Hastings, Assistant Fire Chief; and other members of the public.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Copeland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Moment of Silence**

Chairperson Copeland asked for a moment of silence to reflect on someone or something positive that has touched their lives since we last met.

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Public Hearing**

**A. Sale of Fireworks Permit (Big Bang Boom Fireworks)**

Opened at 6:01 pm and closed at 6:02 pm without comments.

**B. Proposed Fire/Rescue Cost Recovery Ordinance**

Opened at 6:02 pm and closed at 6:03 pm. Assistant Chief Nathan Hastings spoke to support the efforts of recovering our costs to help combat the rising costs of operation.

6. **Approval of Minutes for October 16, 2019 Town Council Meeting.**

Councilor Black moved; Councilor Carey seconded; to approve the minutes for October 16, 2019, Regular Council Meeting Vote 5-0 in favor.

Discussion:

Councilor Black corrected the minutes to reflect the Town Managers Contract was not “renewed”, but “continued”.

7. **Consent Agenda**

**A. Financial Warrants**

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

FY 2019/2020 Warrant # 12 \$ 354,561.94

Discussion:

Councilor Black requested information on the revenue side of the financials concerning trash stickers and miscellaneous revenue. Stating if we could continue the revenue it would be great, but is this a timing thing?

Finance Director Andrew Fish responded that the revenue is revenue we receive from anything that we do not have a dedicated line for. The large increase that is being noted is in relation to the reimbursement we have received for an employee currently on workers compensation. The revenue needs to be accounted for and the miscellaneous revenue line is the one that has been recommended by our Auditor. There will be transfers made to the respective payroll account to offset, however we are being reimbursed only 70% of that employees' wages.

The revenue will go away and go against the employee's wage line of the budget.

Councilor Black noted the General Assistance line is up quite considerably and questioned the cause for that. Finance Director Andrew Fish responded that as we are now into the heating season, coupled with an influx of requests for assistance we have seen an increase. We have submitted for reimbursement and are awaiting the state as they do not reimburse automatically.

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Councilor Black inquired about the Debt Service Line and that expense line spent is for the first half of the year of payments, so it's a timing thing. Finance Director Andrew Fish confirmed that Councilor Black was correct.

Councilor Black inquired about the Overlay line and if that was a TRIO issue that has been discussed. Finance Director Andrew Fish explained that that was a portion of the Overlay, but was also the consideration for tax abatements which are connected to that account. When the Assessor does an abatement, it will impact that line. Finance Director Andrew Fish explained that he had looked at last years requests and believed it was only one more than the previous year.

Councilor Harvey echoed the questions on the Overlay raised by Councilor Black and questioned if there were a higher number of requests this year than in years past.

Councilor Harvey noted that the Road Improvement line did over run and questioned the cause of the additional expenditure. Finance Director Andrew Fish explained the Guard Rail expenditure was also taken out of that line. Where Town Manager Benjamin Breadmore is responsible as Road Commissioner, we will be taking a look at that line when he returns.

Follow up discussion concerned taking the Guard Rail purchase out of a reserve account not the operating budget. An adjustment will be made as required.

Councilor Harvey requested clarification on the checking account page as there are two checking accounts listed. Finance Director Andrew Fish explained that that was the case and we are finalizing that transition with our Auditor the following day.

Councilor Black questioned the debit/credit balance and would it make more sense to show the Reserve Fund Balance because that what were most concerned with.

Finance Director Andrew Fish explained the bulk of the Auditors time will be spent on the reserve Funds as they have been balanced to the general ledger, we will work to have the sub accounting for the new bank completed.

**B. Department Reports**

Councilor Harvey moved, Councilor Sirois seconded; to approve the Department Reports as submitted. Vote 5-0 in favor.

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Discussion:

Councilor Harvey asked Fire Chief, Ryan Davis if we have Engine 391 back. Fire Chief, Ryan Davis explained that we do not have it back yet, it has had paint completed and has headed for pump service/chassis service, within the next few days we should have it back in house and Engine 392 will cycle out.

Councilor Black commented that both the Police and Fire Departments are doing a great job.

Councilor Sirois echoed Councilor Blacks comments and added that it seems everyone is going above and beyond and it is recognized.

Councilor Harvey commented on the Maine Municipal Grant we received for \$1,353.04 which the Fire Department can use for safety equipment.

**C. School Board Update**

Councilor Harvey informed all present that there was a meeting taking place at the Holbrook School at the same time as the Town Council meeting. They will be in executive session until 6:30 for what is believed to be the Superintendents Evaluation. He also noted that in reading their online reports they have been dealing with the continued issue of flooding with the Eddington Boiler. He also commented that they are working with Carpenter Associates with their assessment of need/fixes for their facilities in cooperation with their committee. These needs are being looked at to be funded through either their regular budget or another bond. He relayed that Superintendent Smith will be meeting with all the towns to discuss these efforts so we should see her soon. He also suggested they reach out to the University of Maine Students to assist them with various facility needs, like we have done for the Sand/Salt Shed.

**8. New Business**

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

Councilor Harvey moved; Councilor Carey seconded; to Table this item until such a time that the application is complete. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Discussion:

Town Council Chair, Thomas Copeland asked for discussion prior to a motion being made.

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Councilor Harvey commented that he did not receive the usual sign off from respective departments on their inspection. He did discuss the presented inspection by Assistant Chief Nathan Hastings of the Fire Department.

Arthur Unobskey, Code Enforcement explained that the inspection was conducted earlier the same day as the Town Council meeting and there are several key issues that need to be addressed before our staff can sign off on approval. Stating he would have a report for the Council the following day.

Staff and Business owner presented testimony to the Town Council for consideration.

**B. Appoint Temporary Registrar**

Councilor Harvey moved; Councilor Carey seconded; To appoint Andrew Fish as the Temporary Registrar Vote 5-0 in favor.

Discussion:

No discussion was had.

**C. Review of Proposed Fire /Rescue Cost Recovery Ordinance**

Councilor Harvey moved; Councilor Carey seconded; To approve the Ordinance with edits for page numbering, grammar and format. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Discussion:

Councilor Sirois inquired if residents of Holden should be involved in this ordinance as residents pay taxes for the service and we do not want to double dip our tax payers.

Fire Chief Ryan Davis asked if Fire Fighter Chris Luce could present as this was his project. Fire Fighter Chris Luce explained that cost recovery is built into everyone's car insurance regardless of residency in Holden. Currently under the proposed ordinance we will be billing for accidents and illegal fires, illegal fires the State Fire Marshalls and Department of Forestry already bill for. We will not be billing residents for accidental fires within Holden.

Councilor Black added that this is technically a recovery of a part of the cost that taxpayers are already paying and the recovery could help taxes go down. He also commended the Fire Department on their efforts on with this program.

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Council Chair Copeland inquired if contract with the third-party company on billing was annual? Fire Fighter Chris Luce explained it is annual, however we can cancel it at any time and the third-party company can opt out with proper notice.

Council Harvey requested clarification on specific language of the ordinance, definitions, and page numbering.

**9. Executive Session**

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

Councilor Carey moved; Councilor Harvey seconded; to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C) at 6:47 pm. Vote 5-0 in favor

Councilor Carey moved; Councilor Black seconded; to exit Executive Session at 7:14 pm. Vote 5-0 in favor.

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

Councilor Carey, Councilor Black seconded; that the Town Accept the Purchase and Sales agreement as presented by Neil Podolsky for two lots in DeBeck Park. Vote 5-0 in favor.

**11. Public Comment**

None

**12. Adjournment**

Councilor Carey, Councilor Black seconded; to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benjamin Breadmore, Town Manager

December 16, 2019  
Date