

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office
September 4, 2024

Present: Select board Members: Trevor Gray, Hugh Flynn
Town Clerk/Treasurer: Diane Judd
Road Foreman: Bob Camber

School Board- John Castle, Gina Miller, Heather Dowland

Others: Mitch Wonson, Ed Brady, Victor Petell, Lincoln Petell, Lucy Neel

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Trevor

2. Joint meeting with Holland School Board -John distributed a new timeline for the process of deciding what to do with the school. John met with the Derby School Board and they have no interest in using our school for any programs, neither does Central Office. Derby said they are committed to serving the children of Holland. John suggested another Community Forum meeting in either October or November. The Holland School Board worked up a hypothetical budget if we were to re-open the school. With current enrollment numbers, it would cost the taxpayers an estimated \$400,000 per year. That figure does not include the cost of "re-stocking" the school which is estimated to be an additional \$100,000-\$200,00. Aside from those figures, there is an estimated \$175,000 worth of repairs/maintenance to be done to the building and grounds. Mitch asked if we vote at Town Meeting, as the timeline suggests, how would the vote be? It would be from the floor by the voters that attend Town Meeting. Current operating cost for just the building is \$60,000ish with income from tenants around \$16,000-\$20,000 that figure would then be less. This is just for heat, electricity, internet, insurance, custodial, and general upkeep. John said it is about five or six percent of the overall school budget. He stated that even if the school is gone, the Holland taxpayers would not see a tax decrease due to the statewide education tax. He stated that the building is both an asset and a liability. If the School Board sold the grounds outright a figure of \$82,000 would need to be paid back to the State for funds received for the gym addition. Trevor would like to find a use for the building, even if it had to be repurposed. He would like to see the ownership stay with the Town or the School. It would appear that there may need to be a building manager if the building came to the Town. The Town might have more options than the School does. Being a "school" limits what can be done on the premises. Mitch asked if there was interest in any other renters. One had proposed renting but never followed up. The School Board has not actively sought out renters. Gina said that people were confused after the last meeting, but the Board has been working to create something that more clearly shows the pros and cons. Preliminary plans are for a Community forum meeting in early October. The School Board left the meeting at 7:20. Before Gina left she thanked both the Select Board and Bob for taking care of the dead elm on her property.

3. Minutes – from 08/19/2024 were reviewed/no action taken as Trevor was not there.

4. Adoption/Amendments to Agenda - none

5. New Business:

A. Further discussion regarding school and Select Board Role – Trevor said he still feels the school has some value to the Town. In all likelihood the Town could pursue grants to improve energy efficiency and possibly other maintenance type items. Lucy said the Nulhegan tribe has been servicing local people. There's the food shelf; flu and covid clinics, a skin cancer screening. There are plans for more clinics. Mitch thanked Lucy for all of her work. He also suggested contacting a property management company for an estimate. There was discussion about repurposing the gym into a town garage. This will be on the next meeting agenda too.

B. Road Foreman Report -Bob said Willy Tetreault (hired excavator) is finished with the list of ditching. The tractor has an air leak and Larry Morin will look at it. They are hauling gravel and have put some on Cross Road and Line Farm Road.

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office
September 4, 2024

6. Public Comment - none

7. Unfinished Business

A. Allegiance Invoice – Trevor has been trying to deal with Allegiance on the proposed repairs to the traded truck. There was discussion about the various items that were on this invoice. Some seem questionable. No trade document was ever signed by the board regarding the truck needing to pass a DOT inspection when it was traded in.

7. Town Clerk/Treasurer Updates – Diane said that the same person was seen on camera taking sand with a tractor. She will send a letter. Signs have been purchased to put up at recycling. Hopefully it will eliminate some of the trash being dumped off. Darrell is working with a company that may come get the tires from recycling.

Select Board Update – none

8. Executive Session - none

9. Review of bills and signing orders –

Highway:

Payroll	08/27/2024	\$3,461.07
Payroll	09/03/2024	\$2,684.09
Invoices	09/03/2024	\$21,422.65
Payroll Tax	08/31/2024	\$3,907.74

General:

Payroll	08/27/2024	\$741.60
Payroll	09/03/2024	\$593.93
Invoices	09/03/2024	\$6,810.46
Payroll Tax	08/31/2024	\$1,329.35

10. Adjourn – 8:05

Meeting Schedule: September 16