FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Town of Holliston
Select Board Office
Tel. 508-429-0608
heint@holliston.k12.ma.us

HOLLISTON SELECT BOARD ANNOUNCED
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR PLAN TO MOVE TO CCC
TOWN MANAGER EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM & SEARCH PANEL WILL LAUNCH

HOLLISTON, Mass. Dec. 24, 2024 – The Select Board announced at its meeting last night that the Town Administrator Travis Ahern has decided to accept the position of Executive Director of the state's Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). Mr. Ahern will continue to serve as Town Administrator through March 1, 2025.

"Mr. Ahern has kept the Board updated throughout this process and we anticipate a very efficient and smooth transition," said Select Board Chair Tina Hein. "As many know, the Town Manager Act is now making its way through the state legislature, and should be in place by the time a decision is made on Mr. Ahern's replacement. The Select Board will immediately begin the process of contracting with an executive search firm and conducting an external search for Holliston's first Town Manager. Current Assistant Town Administrator Kathleen Buckley will serve as interim Town Administrator between March 2 and the hiring of the Town Manager," said Select Board Chair Tina Hein.

"The Board thanks Mr. Ahern for over four years of excellent and devoted service to the Town of Holliston. Mr. Ahern was instrumental in improving our Town's operations in many ways, not the least of which was his advocacy and assistance in changing to our upcoming Town Manager form of governance. Had this new opportunity not arisen, we have no doubt that he would have been an excellent Town Manager for years to come," added the Chair.

"I want to express my gratitude to so many Holliston stakeholders who make my decision to leave an exceptionally difficult one," said Travis Ahern, Town Administrator. "I have many mixed emotions thinking of the wonderful people I've met and worked with in Holliston: an

incredible group of Department Heads, dedicated Town staff, and wonderful residents and volunteers including a great Select Board that I have had the privilege of working for and with. These Holliston stakeholders have helped the Select Board and I achieve so many good things in the last 4+ years and I am very proud to have been a small part of these successes."

Mr. Ahern continued to praise the staff in last night's Select Board meeting and in an official statement, stating "among the many wonderful achievements from the last few years [like the AAA bond rating and the ALS upgrade for ambulance] is the passing of the Town Manager Act, which is going through the Legislature now. This will allow the Town of Holliston to run a recruitment process that produces exceptional options for the Board."

Mr. Ahern also stated that he will be laser focused on ensuring a smooth transition. "The Select Board and Town Departments have so many important projects and initiatives ongoing, and I will work to ensure that everyone is set up for success." This includes getting a contractor underway on the Woodland Street bridge/dam project, implementing the employee/retiree healthcare improvements, and setting up a balanced Town Administrator Recommended FY2026 budget for the Board to review on March 1, 2025.

With a March 1, 2025 end date, and a recruitment for the first Town Manager of Holliston projecting to have candidates in front of the Board in April, the Select Board will be in great position to keep momentum going for Holliston.

"I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of making this Town even better," said Ahern.

The Select Board will continue to update the community as we move forward. Should anyone have any questions, please feel free to call our office or email the Board.

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