



OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
**SELECT BOARD**  
Monday, February 12, 2024

CAROLE JULIUS, CHAIR  
DAVID SHEEDY, VICE CHAIR  
PETER SPAGONE JR., CLERK

TOWN HALL, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
175 CENTRAL STREET  
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: Carole Julius, David Sheedy, and Peter Spagone Jr.  
Others Present: Rebecca Johnson, Assist. to the Town Admin./Select Board

6:30 pm Ms. Julius called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:35 pm, Mr. Spagone Jr. read the following. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the requirements of M.G.L. Chap. 138, a Public Hearing will be held relative to Transfer of License Restaurant - All Alcoholic License, as follows:

From: Frank's Café and Coffee House, Inc. dba The Mockingbird Restaurant  
Kelly Cannizzaro, Mgr.

To: Wedgewood Beverage Inc. dba Miraval Ballroom Special Event Facility  
Andrew Diamontopoulos, Mgr.

Premises: 838 North Bedford Street

A Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room, 175 Central Street, East Bridgewater on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Attorney Andrew Upton and Mr. Jonno Roman Regional Manager Wedgewood Weddings were present for liquor license transfer. Attorney Upton stated that current operations been in place for 24 years, no changes will be made. Ms. Julius closed the public hearing.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve transfer of all alcoholic license, common victualler license and entertainment license for 838 North Bedford Street. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

APPOINTMENTS

EBCAM Director, Russell Hannagan was present to give a department update. He stated their production van is fully inspected and operational thanks to David Walsh assistance. He stated EBCAM Multimedia Club is ongoing and went over upcoming student activities and field trips. Mr. Hannagan went over current and past live streams. He stated department is working on capital project to upgrade master control system. The equipment has arrived, and engineer is liaising with IT support at the high school. Mr. Hannagan thanked Bob Katillus and Scott Salisbury for their works and efforts as volunteer sport announcers. He stated department is working on an internship with Massasoit Community College.

Mr. Spagone Jr. asked if the department was looking into self-funding or other revenue streams. He stated East Bridgewater Community Access Media is currently a town department and not a 501(c)(3) organization. Funding is currently funded by Comcast revenue. Mr. Hannagan stated he spoke with BTV Executive Director, Jeff Fowler and WB Cable Access TV Executive Director, Benjamin Smith neither do any form of underwriting.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Select Board's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve but not release the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Select Board Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to having convened in an open meeting on February 12, 2024, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Select Board of the Town of East Bridgewater, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 2024 for the Gordon W. Mitchell School located at 435 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future replacement, renovation or modernization of Gordan W. Mitchell roof and windows, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs and further extend the useful life of the building.; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of East Bridgewater to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Facilities Manager, Brian Kiely was present and stated the Town is in the process of submitting a Statement of Interest with the MSBA. Their accelerated repairs program has been closed for two years and reopened FY2024. This statement of interest is for the middle school roof and windows and requires a vote from the Select Board and School Committee.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to send waive any right of first refusal letter for property 0 Washington Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333, Map 47, Parcel 10 and Map 37, Parcel 12.

The Select Board received and reviewed public comments and agreed the Town would like to keep as open space but has no funding.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept Land Donation - North Bedford Street - Assessor's Map 119, Lot 2. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. stated that there is no disadvantage to take over land and may potentially have development.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to sign the March 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary Warrant and appoint the workers on list for the Election Staff. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

The Select Board passed over the discussion and compensation for Parking Clerk and Municipal Hearings Officer.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to appoint Rebecca Johnson as Parking Clerk and Municipal Hearings Officer for the period February 12, 2024, through June 30, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from the Southeastern Regional Service Group to award contracts to the bidders listed under SERSG DPW Services IFB for a twelve-month period commencing on March 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to hold a Special Town Election on April 6, 2024, to vote on a Debt Exclusion for the Jr. Sr. High School Turf Field. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Town Accountant, Melanie Dean was present and stated that there is no official cost for the project because the bids are due February 13<sup>th</sup>. She stated that there are a couple of funding options. One being debt exclusion, which will require an additional vote by the Town at a Town Election. This vote will debt exclude the borrowing for this project. The money borrowed will be raise above the levy limit, in addition to the property tax levy limit.

Finance Committee, Vice-Chair, David Walsh was present to update the Board on some alternatives. He stated that the project should be funded through capital stabilization fund using interest earned to pay down debt. Ms. Dean stated currently there is \$4,300,060 in capital stabilization fund.

There was a brief discussion on debt exclusion and how much the taxpayer would spend. Mrs. Dean stated that the Town Administrator estimated that at a ten-year bond for a debt exclusion for a \$500,000 home will cost about \$40/year.

Mr. Walsh commended East Bridgewater Fire Department and other town departments for their quick responses to the recent house fire on Sunday.

The East Bridgewater Selectboard was informed of possible irregularities in payroll that may have occurred during Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion that the Selectboard direct the Town Administrator and Town Counsel to investigate whether any irregularities occurred during this period of time and, if so, to provide information to the Selectboard about these irregularities including but not limited to what transpired, a timeline of events connected with the irregularities, the parties involved, and whether there were any violations of any Town policies, any violations of any State or Federal laws connected with the payment of wages and salaries to employees, any violations of statutes and regulations concerning participation in the Plymouth County Retirement system or limitations for hours worked or wages earned by retirees in the Plymouth County Retirement system. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the Event Permit from Danielle Veneau of East Bridgewater Business Association for the use of the Town Common and Town Hall Parking Lot for EBBA Expo and Family Fun Day. Event will be on September 21, 2024, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Set up September 20, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the Event Permit from South Shore Race Management to hold a “Plymouth County Loss Team 5K” Saturday June 8, 2024 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, set up Friday, June 7 at 6:30 am. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the resignation of Curtis Gluck from the Board of Assessors effective immediately.

Mr. Gluck is no longer a resident. A joint meeting with the Board of Assessors is needed to fill a vacancy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Johnson announced the February Food Drive – February 11 – February 24 Collection bins located at: EB Library, East Bridgewater Insurance Agency, and Union Congregational Church.

In observance of the upcoming state and federal President’s Day holiday, all municipal buildings will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024.

Special Town Meeting, Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7pm in the auditorium of the Junior/Senior High School.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2024

Monday, January 22	Monday, February 12	Monday, February 26	Monday, March 11
Monday, March 25	Monday, April 8	Monday, April 22	Monday, May 6
Monday, May 13 Town Meeting	Monday, June 10	Monday, June 24	Monday, July 15
Monday, August 12	Monday, August 26	Monday, September 9	Monday, September 23
Monday, October 7	Monday, October 21	Monday, November 4	Monday, November 18
Monday, December 9			

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Select Board

Respectfully submitted as approved on February 26, 2024 meeting by Peter Spagone Jr., Clerk

/lmn