



OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Monday, January 24, 2022

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

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

Members Present: David Sheedy, Peter Spagone Jr. and Carole Julius

Members Absent:

Others Present: Charles Seelig, Town Administrator, Rebecca Johnson, Assistant to Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

6:30 pm David Sheedy called the meeting to order.

Mr. Sheedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a Moment of Silence for former Board of Selectmen, Robert McCarthy.

#### OPEN FORUM

Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen was present to discuss department budget. He stated the budget will decrease and briefly went over modifications. Revised budget has been submitted and will be reviewed by finance team. Chief Harhen stated the Town of Bridgewater is down two engines. He would like Selectmen's approval to allow him to loan the 1997 Engine Two to the Town of Bridgewater. There were concerns on liability and insurance. Mr. Seelig stated this will be covered under a mutual aid agreement.

Administrative Assistant to Building Department, Ellen Mckenzie was present to discuss pet policy. She stated she looked into getting her own pet liability insurance. The Selectmen and Town Administrator stressed concerns. Mr. Seelig stated the Town owns no matter what happens or what the circumstances are on Town property. The Selectmen all agreed that the pet policy should be put in place first and then grievances will be discussed.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Interim Treasurer / Collector, Marilyn Thompson was present to discuss staffing, recruitment, timetable, and screening committee. Mr. Seelig stated position for Treasurer / Collector has been posted, application deadline February 11<sup>th</sup>. He recommended to the Selectmen a screening committee to review resumes, start the initial interviews and send finalist to the Selectmen possibly by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Thompson stressed concerns on staffing. She stated there is a need for a senior clerk in the office. Mr. Seelig wanted to know if the Selectmen would consider posting the senior clerk position now or have the new incoming Treasurer / Collector make the hiring decision. There was a brief discussion on present staff certifications.

Ms. Michelle Newcomb and Alexander Bartholomew of Bartholomew & Company were present to update the Selectmen on investment changes. Ms. Newcomb gave a brief background of the company. Mr. Bartholomew explained funds the Town puts away for OPEB (Other Postemployment Benefits) will be invested. Mr. Spagone Jr. thanked the firm for their works and efforts.

*\*Board of Selectmen acted as the Board of Water Commissioners.*

There was a joint meeting with Housing Authority to appoint Noreen Cahill to the Housing Authority for the term January 24, 2022 through May 14, 2022. Executive Director Leslie Lundstrom, Ms. Cahill and Housing Authority members, Sandra Luddy-Ross, Christine Butler, Brenda Kozuch were present for appointment.

Ms. Julius made a motion to appoint Noreen Cahill to the Housing Authority for the term 1/24/2022 through 5/14/22. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Housing Authority members roll call vote. Brenda Kozuch – Aye, Sandra Luddy-Ross - Aye, Christine Butler – Aye

### ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve minutes of the December 20, 2021 6:30 am Board of Selectmen’s Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve minutes of the January 10, 2022 6:30 am Board of Selectmen’s Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the January 10, 2022 5:00 pm Board of Selectmen’s Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a discussion on OCPC (Old Colony Planning Council) Technical Assistance Grant. Mr. Seelig stated the OCPC receives funds each year from the State to provide technical assistance for various projects to municipalities within the region. He stated a possibility of planning and zoning for the Hanson Land Company properties.

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve Charles Seelig to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant through Old Colony Planning Council. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a discussion on One Stop for Growth. Mr. Seelig stated once approved he will submit application, Expression of Interest for preliminary set of ideas. Which could include Brownfields Sites, Precise Engineering, Eastern Steel, and Sewer Connection with Brockton. He stated he can send up to (5) five projects, still awaiting feedback from few departments.

Ms. Julius made a motion to authorize Charles Seelig to apply for a One Stop for Growth funding. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a discussion on Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. Mr. Seelig stated he is working with Director of Public Works, John Haines to begin grant process to fund climate change resiliency and other projects.

There was a discussion on ARPA funds. Mr. Seelig stated the Town has about \$4.3 million dollars available, some coming directly from the State and majority is being funnel through Plymouth County. There was a discussion on use of funds on projects and priorities. The Selectmen all agreed to put a committee together consisting department heads and at large people of the Town that have been involved in finances and Town government. This will give the public some awareness and input. Interested members of the public should submit a letter of interest.

Ms. Julius made a motion to establish a committee to offer advice and solicitation for ARPA fund spending. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

*\*The Selectmen passed over allocation \$371,000 ARPA funds for the replacement of an Ambulance.*

*\*The Selectmen passed over allocation up to \$2,500 of ARPA funds for web conferencing in the Town Administrators office.*

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve Town Buildings pet policy. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a discussion on John Guilfoil public relations services. Mr. Seelig stated the Town used \$10,000 dollars in CARES funding for services. Since there is no more CARES funding, he wanted to know should the Town continue to spend utilizing FY23 Town financial plan. The Selectmen stressed concerns on rates, charges, and utilization. All agreed to look into other options.

Ms. Julius made a motion to accept with regret Animal Inspector resignation. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Police Chief, Paul O'Brien and Deputy Chief, Michael Jenkins were present to thanked Ms. Xavier for all her works and efforts. Her last day will be March 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a discussion on Animal Control Officer, Animal Control Inspector recruitment, position, and duties.

There was a brief discussion on lateral move to replace Sergeant William Patterson retirement. Chief O'Brien to provide more information at a later date.

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve event permit request from Nadia Clancy & Jennifer Horton of Community Coalition for Change for the use of the Town Common for "2nd Annual Celebration of Multiculturalism". A Multi-Cultural event with food vendors, music, speakers, booth merchants and stand out. Highlighting local cultural businesses and making East Bridgewater more inclusive and welcoming. Event will be on June 5, 2022, from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Jennifer Horton was present to answer any questions the Selectmen might have.

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve Fire department to loan Engine Two to the Town of Bridgewater on a temporary basis. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to rescind mask mandate for Town buildings and refer to state guidance for COVID and mask protocols. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS – Subject to change

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

### BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Spagone Jr. stated he had a conversation with Health Agent, Jean Marie on Friday regarding Carriage Crossing septic system. He suggested Anthony and Claudio of Carriage Crossing to contact the Health Agent and Board of Health to let them know their Title V plans.

### ADJOURN

Motion by Julius, second by Spagone Jr. to adjourn. All were in favor, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

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Board of Selectmen Clerk