



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
Monday, June 21, 2023

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

TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

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

Others Present: Charles Seelig, Town Administrator and Rebecca Johnson, Assist. to the Town Admin./Select Board

8:30 am Ms. Julius called the meeting to order.

Ms. Julius led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

APPOINTMENTS

ACTION ITEMS

DPW Director, John Haines stated that after Seventeen years he has the opportunity to look at the structure of his department. He stated a change that has developed is the operations of Public Works. Mr. Haines stated that the Department needs a Business Manager and would like for this position to be added.

Mr. Haines stated currently the Department has a position Operations Manager, Water Superintendent and Facilities Manager, he would like to restructure these roles. He stated that the Operations Manager would be eliminated, and Facilities Manager, Brian Kiely would take over the ground's maintenance, including building grounds, athletic facilities, and recreational spaces.

Mr. Haines stated that the Water Superintendent, Jason Trepanier will take on the Sewer, Utilities and Stormwater roles.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the DPW reorganization / restructure request from DPW Director, John Haines. Salary rates for the following positions effective July 1, 2023. Facilities and Grounds Manager - \$110,000.00 annual salary, Water and Sewer Superintendent, including, Utilities and Stormwater - \$120,000.00 annual salary, DPW Business Manager - \$80,000.00 annual Salary. These positions will no longer receive additional stipends as they are included in the job description and salary. Employment agreements are currently under review. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Town of Middleboro retiree was present to discuss the request to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 ("the Act"), a local option allowing a one-time increase to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) granted to retirees in FY2023, from 3% to 5% of the Systems \$16,000 COLA base. He stated that this will affect retirees that retired prior to July 1, 2021, is a one time change and will cost about \$320.00 per retiree.

Mr. Sheedy stated that he has no problem approving this and believes that the retirees deserve this.

Mr. Seelig stated that he does not recommend accepting due to the Town running a financial deficit and approving this would put the Town \$88,000 more in deficit. He stated that the Treasurer/Collector does not recommend.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 ("the Act"), a local option allowing a one-time increase to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) granted to retirees in FY 2023, from 3% to 5% of

The Systems \$16,000 COLA base. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the resignation from Sam Malafronte of the Conservation Commission effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve a one-day alcohol and one-day entertainment permit for be; 626 Bedford Street for an open mic event July 22, 2023, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm pending department head approvals. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the reappointment of Michael White as Assistant Building Inspector effective July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the reappointment of Paul L. Connell to the Patriotic Activities Committee effective July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the reappointment of George Jouvin to the Finance Committee effective July 1, 2023- June 30, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the resignation from Jonathan Babcock to the Arts Council effective June 12, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve signage request from Dawn Currier of Union Congregational Church to put up signs on municipal property for meat raffle and 50/50 event that will take place at Adria's Restaurant on July 16, 2023, from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve signage request from Dawn Currier of Union Congregational Church to put up signs on municipal property for a comedy night event that will take place at Union Congregational Church on August 19, 2023, at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that the Town Hall does not own a sign. The DPW, Fire and Police Departments own portable signage but is based on availability and is not meant for the general community messaging. Mr. Seelig stated that eventually the Town Hall will have its own sign and will be easier. He stated that once this happens a policy will be written.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from the EBBA to use the electronic sign to advertise, based on availability. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Seelig stated that the Board had appointed Katie Cavanagh as the Interim Town Clerk July 1, 2023, to May 18, 2024. He spoke with Katie, per the Union Contract she will carry over any vacation, sick leave etc. For the period she is the Interim Town Clerk she will continue to accrue vacation, sick leave etc. based on the non-union personnel policy. Mr. Seelig stated that he will work with the union to set up a temporary position in the Town Clerks office from July 1, 2023, until the end of May 2024. He stated that if Katie Cavanagh is elected her leave benefits, aside from the vacation accrual will disappear on May 18, 2024. He stated that any unused vacation time would be paid out.

Mr. Seelig stated that whether she is elected or not the permanent position (that was the temporary position) would be advertised in late May 2024 and if she is elected, she would make the decision on who to hire. He

stated that if she is not elected and is not hired for the permanent position, she would leave the Towns employment.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2023

BOS - Monday, June 12	BOS - Monday, July 17	BOS - Monday, August 14	BOS - Monday, September 11	BOS - Monday, September 25
BOS - Monday, October 16	BOS - Monday, October 30	BOS - Monday, November 13	BOS - Monday, November 27	BOS – Monday, December 11

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am

Select Board Clerk

/rj