



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
Monday, March 25, 2024

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

TOWN HALL, 2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: Carole Julius and Peter Spagone Jr.

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

6:00 pm Ms. Julius called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Michelle Newcomb and Ms. Kathleen Glowacki of Bartholomew & Company were present to give an update on current investment market. Ms. Newcomb gave a brief background of the company. Ms. Glowacki explained funds the Town puts away for OPEB (Other Postemployment Benefits) and how assets will be invested. The Board thanked the firm for their works and efforts.

Animal Control Officer / Inspector of Animals Mr. Ed Gannon was present to give a brief update on department. He stated that the department has been dealing with dog / cat issues such as dog bites and trapping feral cats and removing roadkill. He stated collaboration with Boston Animal Rescue League, The Farm in East Bridgewater, Department of Public Works, Mass Wildlife, and other agencies. Mr. Gannon stated that roaming chickens will be added to barn inspections in the fall. There was a brief discussion on East Bridgewater ACO utilizing Halifax Dog Shelter for animal nuisance as opposed to Lakeville. The Board thanked Mr. Gannon for his works and efforts.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to appoint Ed Gannon Jr. and Jacob Edward Gannon as Inspector of Animals for the period May 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

At 6:30 pm Mr. Spagone Jr. read the following, Notice is hereby given that the Select Board of the Town of East Bridgewater shall hold a hearing to determine whether the Class II & Class III license at 300 Thatcher Street, "All Foreign Auto Sales Service, Inc. & All Foreign Auto Salvage, Inc." shall be revoked and/or not renewed due to failed inspection(s) of unsafe working conditions at said establishment. The hearing will be held at Town Hall, Main Conference Room, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, 02333 at 6:45 pm on Monday, January 8, 2024.

Mr. John Ferri of 300 Thatcher Street was present, he stated that all departments did their reinspection and approved working conditions.

Fire Chief, Tim Harhen stated there were a few minor items that need contractors' attention. He commended Mr. Ferri for his works and efforts to make working conditions safe for firefighters and clients. Chief Harhen stated that Mr. Ferri still has a plan for the outside, upcoming meeting with the Planning Board to adjust his license.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to issue Class II and III license to 300 Thatcher Street, All Foreign Auto Sales Service, Inc. & All Foreign Auto Salvage, Inc. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

At 6:45 pm School Superintendent Ms. Elizabeth Legault, School Business Administrator Mr. John Shea and School Committee Chair, Ms. Lauren Foster were present to give a School Department Budget Presentation. Ms. Legault stated that it is a level service budget, East Bridgewater is not the only school district in the Commonwealth that is up against inflation in special ed, transportation costs, salary increases and staffing issues. She stated the needs and supports (social / emotional) that students need today are far greater than they were 2-3 years ago. The school is requesting an increase of 5.39%.

Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Dan Picha had a few questions regarding how the cost share is handled for homeless transportation and getting more information on regulations about the use of the food service revolving fund. Capital Planning Committee Chair, Mr. David Walsh stated given the financial situation that the town is in, the school should prepare impact statements to help

provide a better understanding if funding is not provided. There was a brief discussion on Plymouth County Retirement Assessment and the effects on town budget. Mr. Seelig stated that under state statute every single retirement system in the Commonwealth must be fully funded by 2040. Communities have the option to complete at an earlier date. School Committee Chair, Ms. Lauren Foster stated from her point of view the town will be at a standstill for the next 4-5 years, if not worst and does not see how this will be sustainable for any town department never mind the schools. The Select Board agreed and relies on finance team for their works and efforts to help fund all town departments.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve Side Letter of Agreement between the Town of East Bridgewater and East Bridgewater Firefighters Union, Local 2768. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Seelig stated that the concept is that the Fire Chief will be able to bring in experienced firefighters and EMTs into the department and not start at the base level salary but look at their years of service with other towns and adjust their pay and leave benefits accordingly. Fire Chief, Tim Harhen stated that with 5 years full time experience applicant would not have to go to Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Career Recruit Program.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024, Select Board's Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve but not release the minutes of the March 11, 2024, Select Board Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

The Select Board passed over surplus request from Library Director, Jessica Henderson to surplus furniture from the Historical Room at the Library. Mr. Seelig stated that the Board needs to change the policy on surplus property under \$5,000. It does not allow right now for donations be given non-profits. He recommends continuing to April 8th meeting to get a policy in place and be able to surplus property.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept land donation located on Washington Street, Map 37 Parcel 2. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Seelig stated that he recommends the Board accept the parcel otherwise the town will end up going into tax title which is always more expensive to go through.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from East Bridgewater Garden Club for the use of electronic sign from May 17, 2024, through May 25 to advertise "Garden Club Plant Sale" contingent upon availability. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from Veterans Agent for the use of the Town Common and Town Hall Parking Lot on May 27, 2024, for "Memorial Day Services" from 9am – 12pm; Rain date May 26th. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion that the Select Board Chair of the Town of East Bridgewater is authorized to execute and deliver the Feasibility Study Agreement for the Central Elementary School Project with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Town and to bind the Town to its terms and conditions and to make final, binding decisions on behalf of the Town with respect to the Proposed Project described in the Feasibility Study Agreement, and any amendments thereto. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Seelig stated that this will allow the chair at that point in time to approve amendments.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the transfer of Class II License at 68 Old Bedford Road. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

From: Marquis Motorcars, Inc.
To: Purple Lady Sales and Services

Restriction: 1. Sixty-four (64) spaces allotted for cars for sale.
2. Ten spaces, including 2 handicapped spaces to be designated for customer and employee parking.
3. No storage of junk cars or junk car parts.
Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 am - 4 pm; Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

Ms. Ingried Alphonse was present for transfer. She stated she is the new owner as previous owner will be retiring.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to request the Planning Board hold a public hearing on Town Meeting Articles submitted by the Planning Board. Seconded by Ms. Julius. All were in favor. 2-0

Planning Board Chair, Mr. Kevin Reilly was present to discuss the four Town Meeting Articles submitted by the Planning Board. He stated that two articles have to do with amendments to the Zoning By-Laws, site plan approval section 13. The purpose will be to better define what is expected of an applicant when they are filing in terms of submissions and maps, to better define and set out the standards that the Planning Board will use to evaluate applications, and to eliminate some language. The second article is to change section 7 Enforcement. The purpose will be to add and clarify that the Building Commissioner has authority over enforcement of post approval decision permit matters. Mr. Reilly stated that Planning Board member Mr. Roy Gardner, is currently working on a ARPUD (Adult Retirement Unit Development) by-law, which allows that within a water shed protection district a development can occur, provided that there is a fully approved and permitted wastewater processing plant in place onsite. Mr. Reilly stated that the last article would be a proposed overlay for the Thatcher Street area down by the Brockton line. He briefly went over future use.

There was a discussion on future road acceptances and road repair.

Mr. Spagone Jr. stated that he requested this to be on agenda this evening is because he wanted some clarification on older extension roads, specifically Bennett Lane as they are missing certain aspects. Mr. Reilly stated that current situation is that you have subdivisions that were developed, the final plans were never pursued and/or developer dissolved or went bankrupted. He stated that the town is in a much better position where these things are being tracked and required of the developers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Johnson announced that the EB Gymnastics Team Will Be Going To The New England's For the First Time in Program History. At the end of February, the Brockton/East Bridgewater/Spellman Gymnastics team placed 4th at the MIAA South Sectionals tournament, qualifying the team for States. This marks the first time in the program's history that the team advanced to the States tournament. Following the State tournament, Viking Sports Parents shared the news that they will now compete in the New England's for the first time in history.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

FY25 Budget Updates – Mr. Seelig stated that this will be challenging year for the town. The finance team will be hearing budget presentations tomorrow which will finish their segment of work. His hope in early April to come up with budget recommendations to bring to Town Meeting and departments so if there is a need for discussions, it will not be at the last minute.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2024

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			

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Peter Spagone Jr. wanted some clarification on fencing at the Bridge Street landfill. Mr. Seelig stated that he is currently working on bid packets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to close open meeting and not return to open session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer, Director of Assessing, IT Director, Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector, Town Administrator.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Firefighters, Superior Officers, Clerical, DPW, Dispatchers, Superior Officers, Patrol Officers, Library and Schools.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(9) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as the Chair has determined that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position in a matter involving Town of East Bridgewater v. Ridder Farm.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Spagone Jr.: Aye and Ms. Julius: Aye. All were in favor, 2-0.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Clerk
Select Board

Respectfully submitted as approved on April 8, 2024 meeting by Peter Spagone Jr., Clerk

/lmn