



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, January 9, 2023

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

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

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Charles Seelig, Town Administrator and Ly Nguyen, Principal Clerk

6:30 pm Selectman Spagone Jr. called the meeting to order.

Selectman Spagone Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 pm 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, Change of Manager, Pledge of Collateral and Pledge of Inventory - All Alcoholic License, as follows:

From: Robert Lundin dba Joppa Market
Robert Lundin, Mgr.

To: Shyamsundara Corporation dba Joppa Market
Varsha Patel, Mgr.
Premises: 626 Bedford Street

A Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room, 175 Central Street, East Bridgewater on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Attorney John Mooradian was present to represent Shyamsundara dba Joppa Market. He stated this will be a wine & malt license and common victualler license transfer. He briefly went over businesses owned by the Patel family in the area. Ms. Patel, manager on record is TIPS certified.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to close public hearing. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve transfers of wine & malt license from Robert Lundin dba Joppa Market to Shyamsundara Corporation dba Joppa Market. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

APPOINTMENTS

6:45 pm Meet with Roy Gardner, Planning Board regarding T.J. Smith's – Rezone 13 Cross Street

Mr. Gardner of the Planning Board was present to discuss rezoning of T.J. Smith's property. He stated the Town cannot rezone a single parcel of land under current state law. After discussion and review with the TRAC group,

it appears to look more feasible to expand the existing R3 district which is directly abutting T.J. Smith's property. There was a brief discussion on R3 districts and next steps. The Planning Board will propose rezone base on the Smith's request, Planning Board will schedule public hearings and make a recommendation to vote at Town Meeting. The Selectmen support proposal to rezone and bring forth to Town Meeting.

7:00 pm Recreation Commission – Church Street Project

Mr. Peter Furia and John Shea of the Recreation Commission were present to discuss Church Street Project. Mr. Furia stated the Town received \$55,000 grant and additional funding through the Town, totaling just about \$95,000. The courts are deemed disrepair and hazardous. He stated Department of Public Works will take the lead on project. Mr. Haines briefly went over project completion stages and anticipate starting in the spring and ending by July.

ACTION ITEMS

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve minutes of the December 12, 2022, Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the December 12, 2022, Board of Selectmen's Executive Session meeting. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to accept the resignation from Joe Conley to the Finance Committee effective 1/9/2023. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Conley for his time on the committee.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve street lighting for corner of Browns Lane / Cider Mill Drive, Pole #4. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated the location is appropriate for the Town to take over cost per safety department recommendations.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve to surplus one Camera Tripod Manfrotto Model 3274. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated the tripod is from EBCAM, it is 16 years old out of age and ready to be disposed of.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to discuss Center at Sachem Rock – Policies – Use during holidays, specific holidays, pay rates for Sundays/holidays. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated there have been requests to use the center on holidays and current policy states no usage. He stated the person renting the hall actually pays for employees and not through town funds. Per Town Counsel, any function on a Sunday, employees are to be paid time and a half. The Selectmen agreed to take this under advisement for further review.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve and utilize updated Vehicle use policy. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated the only significant change is that any employee driving a Town vehicle and is involved in an accident to take as many photos as possible.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to discuss ARPA request from the School Department for snow throwers. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. John Shea, School Business Administrator stated the school custodians are responsible for maintaining school sidewalks and entrances during and after snowstorms. He stated Department of Public Works is responsible for school parking lots and maintaining snow removal equipment. He briefly went over current equipment usage. Mr. Shea stated he submitted a request for two snowblowers, these were not approved by Capital Planning Committee last year. The school asked for a number of items and this request was low on priority list. He stated he presented a Mammoth stand on snowblower to the ARPA Committee.

Mr. John Haines, Director of Public Works briefly went over snow removal responsibilities and equipment and will continue to help assistance school custodians. There was a discussion on funding and purchase of equipment. Mr. Haines suggested using "snow and ice budget" and ordering in March given the winter season this year. Mr. Spagone Jr. stated to possibly prepare request for Town Meeting.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve request from School Department for Vans. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. John Shea and Ms. Liz Legault, School Superintendent were present to discuss request for department vans. Mr. Shea stated the school received approval at Town Meeting for \$41,500 to purchase two vans. He stated North River Collaborative which the Town is a part of were selling their vans at blue book value, \$13,000 - \$14,000. Mr. Shea briefly went over transportation expenditure. He stated these vans are 7D which requires 7D drivers. Ms. Legault stated teacher assistants were interested and will be offered stipends and training, two are now licensed.

There was a discussion on the remaining monies once vans are purchased. Ms. Legault would like the remainder to purchase new brakes, new tires and buy new software. Mr. Seelig stated based on reading of article it states just vans. He stated going forward working with the Capital Planning Committee on future purchases to add, "associated equipment".

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve to renew the contract with the Town of Lakeville for the Town to utilize the Lakeville Animal Shelter for housing stray and surrendered dogs. This agreement will expire on December 31, 2023. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated this is similar to previous agreements. Only main point on agreement, in case Lakeville is full that there is a process in place to be able to house one or more dogs. Town Counsel reviewed and approved agreement.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve signage request from Jake Orofino of East Bridgewater Music Parents Association to put up four (4) signs on the Town Common for the 8th Annual Mattress Sale Fundraiser

from January 10, 2023 – January 29, 2023. Event will be on January 28th from 10 am – 4 pm at the Jr/Sr High School, 11 Plymouth Street. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Nguyen announced that 2023 Annual Census have been mailed to all households. Please return to the Town Clerk's Office within 10 days. Drop boxes are located at the Town Hall, Council on Aging, and the Public Library. Please call the Town Clerk's office if you have any questions 508-378-1606

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

H4972- "An Act to the procedure for municipal acceptance of subdivision roads in the Town of East Bridgewater" – Mr. Seelig stated Governor Baker signed two legislations for East Bridgewater on his last day. He stated number of streets will be reviewed and if all goes well be brought to Town Meeting in May.

H4971- "An Act establishing the North Bedford Street sewer district in the Town of East Bridgewater" – Mr. Seelig stated this gives the Town legal basis for the operation.

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness program update – Mr. Seelig stated that the Town did well in the beginning and fell into the average for the rest of the year. He stated for 2023 there will be a six-month program and sometime in the spring Town Administrator and IT Director will request the Selectmen for support to expand program.

Central Street – Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion – Mr. Seelig stated the Town received traffic data from Old Colony Planning Council. He stated Central Street is a good example for a truck exclusion, but if you divert traffic it means putting traffic on roads that are not well designed for heavy traffic. Unfortunately, there is no place to divert, it will worsen the situation and will result in grievances from those roads. Mr. Seelig stated he received another grievance today for Elm Street and that the alternatives are generally worse for the Town. Letters of acknowledgement will be sent to residents.

Letter by Commuter Rail Communities Coalition – Mr. Seelig stated a letter of support from the Selectmen is necessary. The Selectmen all agreed and support commuter rail in Town.

Streetlight request for 760 Elm Street -

Emergency closing/severe weather policy – Current policy states Town building close, employee gets the day with pay. Mr. Seelig brought up, working from home as employees currently have laptops due to pandemic. The Selectmen all agreed to keep policy the way it is.

Motor vehicle "backing up" policy – Mr. Seelig stated this policy is just an adjunct to current vehicle policy. Having these policies in place provides a minimal discount on premiums.

ARPA – Mr. Seelig stated Plymouth County is allowing some of the third allocation of funds to be used for revenue replacement, the "anything goes" category. The Selectmen will need to notify Plymouth County by the 31st and vote by the 23rd the intent usage of town's allocation of funds for revenue replacement.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Selectman Sheedy announced 200th Anniversary Bicentennial Kick-off, Grace Bible Church at 6:00 pm. Reception

and pop-up store to follow at Town Hall. Please follow East Bridgewater Bicentennial Facebook page for more information and upcoming events.

Selectman Spagone Jr. was under the impression school custodians worked under DPW and was informed they report to superintendent. He would like to review previous and current contracts.

Mr. Jason Goncalves of 109 Willow Avenue stated he presented a letter to the Planning Board a few months about consistent rezone for Willow Avenue. He stated majority of Willow Avenue is zone R3 with the exception of the three homes at the end of the street, zone R1. There was a discussion on petition and possible article for Town Meeting. Selectman Spagone Jr. suggested he attend department TRAC meeting held at Town Hall at 9 am, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, January 23, 2023, Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm
Monday, February 13, 2023, Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

Board of Selectmen Clerk

/lmn

*For a detailed recording please see the Town of East Bridgewater Community Access Media website.
<https://eb-cam.org/channel-9/>*