



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, November 1, 2021

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

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

Members Present: David Sheedy and Carole Julius

Members Absent: Peter Spagone Jr.

Others Present: 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.

OPEN FORUM

APPOINTMENTS

TAX HEARING - The Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors held a public hearing on property tax classifications on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the first-floor conference room at the Town Hall. This hearing, which is required by law, determines whether the Town will have one classification or will differentiate among several classes when setting the tax rate. The Director of Assessor, Paula Wolfe with member of the Board of Assessors, Steve Solari reviewed the presentation. Ms. Wolfe stated the recommendation of the Board of Assessors is to not split the tax rate and keep it at a single rate.

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to not split the tax rate, and to keep it at a single rate for the fiscal year 2022. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 2-0

Mr. Sheedy closed the hearing.

Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen, Police Chief, Paul O'Brien and Director of Public Works, John Haines were present to give an update on last week's Nor'easter. Chief Harhen stated there were 135 calls for service including chimney fires followed by a house fire. He stated about 94 percent of the town was without power. He indicated a warming center/charging center maintained by the CERT Team was open at the Community Center, 355 Plymouth St. Director of Public Works, John Haines stated many roads were closed throughout town due to downed trees, limbs, utility poles and wires. He stated DPW crew alongside National Grid cleared roadways to get them reopened as quickly as possible. Police Chief Paul O'Brien stated they responded to 338 calls including reports of B&E during the storm. His department had a hard time finding dinner for the prisoners because everything was closed.

Mr. Haines stated residents should keep in mind crews are actively working to remove obstructions and repair downed power lines and utility poles, by interacting with them will only delay the process. He stated most are outside contractors and are not from around this area. Chief Harhen stated those without power (non-emergency) should report their outages to National Grid via 1 (800) 322-3223 for a record in their system. The department heads including the Selectmen commended everyone involved in the response and effort in town.

Veterans Service Officer, Christopher Buckley was present to give an update. He commended Chuck Horan and the Kiwanis Club of East Bridgewater for their works in efforts organizing the "Field of Flags" event. He stated the "Veterans Day Parade" will be held in the Town of Bridgewater on Thursday, November 11th. The East Bridgewater staging area will be at the corner of Dean Street and Summer Street in Bridgewater at 9:15 am. Mr. Buckley stated due to the storm, the Patriotic Activities Committee along with Mr. Buckley have coordinated teams to fix and replace

flags in town cemeteries. He stated tomorrow there will be a "Community Service Project" in coordination with the Brockton Vets Court to help clean up Hobart and Church Fields. He announced the department will be participating in the "Coats4Vets" again this year. Mr. Buckley stated between now and next year he will be reaching out to eligible veterans in town regarding benefits. The Selectmen commended Mr. Buckley for his works and efforts.

IT Director, Ryan McGonigle was present to announce that the town has been recognized 1 out of 34 municipalities a leader in cybersecurity awareness in the state. He briefly went over employee cybersecurity training and was very pleased with outcome. The Selectmen commended Mr. McGonigle for his works and efforts.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve minutes of the October 18, 2021 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 2-0

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Johnson announced Kiwanis Club of East Bridgewater Christmas Tree Sale, Town Hall Parking Lot, November 12th – December 20th, Weekdays 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm and Weekends 9:00 am – 8:00 pm. She stated the town put out press releases regarding the hiring of several new Town employees Town Administrator, Charlie Seelig starting November 22nd, Jeanmarie Kent Joyce, Health Agent, Alexander Welch, Conservation Agent starting November 1st and Melanie Dean, Town Accountant, started September 9th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Selectmen's meeting Monday, November 15th
Special Town Meeting Monday, November 22nd


BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Sheedy requested Ms. Johnson to send out an email to department heads to reschedule any meetings on 11/22/21 to a different date so they are able to attend Special Town Meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion by Julius, second by Mr. Sheedy. to adjourn. All were in favor, 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm



Clerk
Board of Selectmen