



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
Monday, July 17, 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

6:30 pm Ms. Julius called the meeting to order.

Ms. Julius led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Richard O'Flaherty of 31 Hobart Street was present to discuss safety concern regarding Hobart Street. He gave the Select Board pictures of depression(s) in road. John Haines, Director of Public Works was present and stated the street is currently under reconstruction and contractor did remove existing catch basin structures. Mr. O'Flaherty wants concern addressed in the interim due to delay in project. Mr. Haines will meet with Mr. O'Flaherty to discuss further.

APPOINTMENTS

Joanne Gramazio of 841 Union Street was present to receive certificate of appreciation. To date, she has picked up 85+ bags of trash in town and taking care of the adopted island on the corner of Walnut Street and Union Street.

Christopher Buckley, Veterans Agent was present to give an update on the Veteran Banners. He stated that banners are individually sponsored by an organization or family. First banners will run through center of Town straight across the intersection and will spiral out. Applications are available online and in the office. He stated banners is for current or former residents of East Bridgewater who served in all branches of the military.

Mr. Buckley and Select Board presented Ms. Rebecca Johnson, Assistant to the Town Administrator / Select Board a certificate of appreciation. Ms. Johnson organized the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) bottle cap drive to help provide wounded soldiers the proper prosthetics.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the agreement between JSC Holdings / Celiberti Company and the Town of East Bridgewater for Sewer Connection agreement. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Rob Celiberti and John Haines, Director of Public Works were present to discuss sewer connection. Mr. Celiberti owns the property on the Whitman / East Bridgewater town line and Route 18. He is proposing a housing development in the area. He gave a brief background of himself and affordable housing project. Mr. Haines supports the project to better the community.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to grant \$146,694.00 to the Recreation Commission for the completion of the Church Street recreational area. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

John Shea of Recreation Commission, John Haines, Director of Public Works, John Margie and Dan Picha of ARPA Committee were present to discuss Recreation Commission funding request. Mr. Shea gave a brief background on basketball courts at Church Street. He stated the committee received one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) in funding through state earmark, capital request, and operating budget. The basketball courts are now restored. Mr. Shea stated the Recreation Commission presented to the ARPA Committee additional work to be done at Church Street. Next to the basketball courts was an old hockey rink, the commission is requesting funding to repair area to turn into four (4) pickleball courts. The request is for one hundred forty-six thousand six hundred ninety-four dollars (\$146,694) to cover sealcoating, painting, netting, lighting, fencing, landscaping, benches, additional chain link fencing, cameras, etc. Mr. Haines stated this funding is to complete Church Street project. Both DPW and ARPA Committee support funding.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to implement a 4-way Stop Sign for intersection of West Union/Union/North Central/Central Street. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius stated she received an email with concerns regarding intersection, currently a two way stop with a through way. John Haines, Director of Public Works stated OCPC (Old Colony Planning Council) did the initial assessment back in 2021 to see if 4-way stop meets criteria to warrant traffic control measures. The town will move forward with the 4-way stop approach. There was a brief discussion on traffic flow. Mr. Haines stated this will be a relatively low-cost alternative to make intersection safer. Funding will be voted at upcoming Fall Town Meeting.

A resident wanted to know if there will be any signage to warn drivers stop ahead. Mr. Haines stated there is a process and will installed east bound side of north central street with a stop ahead sign.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion that if determined thickly settled area to reduce speed limit on Pond Street to 25 mph. Signs are to be put up at the discretion of Director of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mrs. Paula Butts of 575 Pond Street was present to discuss guardrail request. She stated a few years back she requested to put a guardrail along the length of her property due to accidents. She briefly went over recent auto accident (June 10) on her property. She stated she is not only concerned about her family's safety but also others.

Mr. Seelig stated the Select Board received emails from various individuals regarding safety measures on Pond Street. He stated that emails were all different suggestions. Possibility of adding dangerous curve sign, flashing dangerous curve sign, and going the speed limit on certain sections of Pond Street. Mr. Haines stated that a guardrail is not typically something DPW just installs. He recalls the last guardrail installation was along Elm Street at the severe bank. Mr. Haines stated first request was back in 2018 and the Select Board decided not to move forward.

Mr. Sheedy was concerned with the guardrail due to lack of space. He stated there is really no solution for impaired drivers. He agrees with reducing speed limit and adding flashing sign to alert drivers. Mr. Spagone Jr. would like suggestions from other communities that dealt with this kind of situation. He stated this would help provide a better path to take and gives the residents better options. The Select Board agreed to look into other options / possibilities for area. Mr. Haines stated the layout of the road needs to be reviewed. There is a possibility to remove vegetation. The town will have to research documents.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the guardrail request for 788 Bridge Street, add flashing warning signage on both sides of bridge street and to add advance warning when heading west bound of the intersection. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Leon S. Jr. Litchfield of 788 Bridge Street was present to discuss guardrail request. He wanted an update on solution. Marilyn Smollett of 745 Bridge Street was present to discuss her safety concern of intersection and was in favor of guardrail. John Haines, Director of Public Works stated since there is an existing sidewalk in place, a guardrail behind the sidewalk, approximately 54 feet from Mr. Litchfield driveway up to the radius around the backside of sidewalk would be appropriate.

He stated the town does not have the option to partner with the utilities companies to utilize their telephone poles. Mr. Haines stated there is an opportunity to place flashing signage to warn drivers as they approach the intersection, especially the westbound approach. He stated Route 18 is under state jurisdiction and Route 106 is locally owned.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to approve Heavy Commercial Vehicle exclusion for Cottage Street. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that he received messages from residents complaining about trucks using Cottage Street as a bypass off East Street and Bedford Street intersection. He stated a traffic study has been conducted by OCPC (Old Colony Planning Council). The town could add a heavy vehicle exclusion in area but have to provide an alternate route. Alternative route would be East Street.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2023, Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2023, Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve but not release the minutes of the July 5, 2023, Board of Selectmen's Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Passover Item# 8 & 9

There was a brief discussion of reserve fund transfer for the Board of Health to pay for third party / outside inspectors. Mr. Seelig stated the Finance Committee did approve the necessary reserve fund transfer as the Board of Health Agent at this time will not be able to perform in the field duties.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the line item transfers as printed. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Line-item transfers:

Request from Town Administrator:			Amount
1-141-510-5125	Admin Support Salary		\$3,200.00
1-910-520-5175	Health Insurance		\$10,100.00
		Total:	\$13,300.00
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Transfer to:		Reason:	Approved
1-141-520-5381	Mapping Services	Increased mapping costs	\$3,200.00
1-151-520-5304	Legal Services	Increased legal costs	\$10,000.00
1-199-510-5181	Chapter 30B Stipend	Additional week in FY23	\$100.00
		Total:	\$13,300.00
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Request from DPW			
1-191-510-5149	Labor Payroll		\$1,242.13
1-191-520-5731	Dues /Memberships/Conferences		\$2,996.00
1-191-520-5243	Facilities Repairs & Maintenance Equip		\$1,500.00
		Total:	\$5,738.13
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Transfer to:		Reason:	Approved
1-191-300-5411	Heat Oil/Gas	Unanticipated cost/use increases	5,738.13
		Total:	\$5,738.13

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve overtime policy. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated there were some concerns last fiscal year with overtime. There were departments that allowed employees to have compensatory time. The problem was departments did not have funds in their budget to cover overtime for employees. A reserve fund transfer was required. Money will need to be included in department budget requests.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the Acceptance of Quitclaim Deed for Strathmore Road Extension. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from Angie Puwani, EB resident to start a "Rock Snake" to join the community together along the trail, near the bench that looks over the water. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve request from Deana LePine, East Bridgewater Community Gardens to hold their annual Harvest Festival at Sachem Rock Farm on August 26, 2023, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Rain Date August 27, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve to add the use of food trucks to the Event Permit from James Stoffel of East Bridgewater Business Association for the use of the Town Common for EBBA Expo 2023 to highlight East Bridgewater Businesses. Event will be on October 7, 2023, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Set up October 6, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a brief discussion on procedures under Town By-Law – Offenses and Penalties – Section XIV – Act Relative to Granting or Renewing of Certain Licenses and Permits in Cities and Towns. Mr. Seelig stated that the town can decide not to approve a permit, licenses, revocation, non-renewals, etc. if the taxes are not up to date.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to support H. 74 – An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that there is a stream of revenue from the cable company to fund East Bridgewater Cable Access Media. There is a slight decrease in subscribers. This legislation proposes a statewide policy concerning streaming entertainment to help fund community media. The Select Board agreed to send a letter of support to legislation.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the Southeastern Regional Service Group DPW supplies contract award sheet commencing July 1, 2023, for a twelve-month period. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from the Southeastern Regional Service Group to award a contract to W.B. Mason for paper items for a twelve-month period commencing on July 1, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from the Southeastern Regional Service Group to award a contract to W.B. Mason for paper items for a twenty-four-month period commencing on July 1, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from Professional Bartending Services for a One Day Liquor License for The Center at Sachem Rock for a Wedding Reception on August 5, 2023, from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm, pending Acting Police Chief approval. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Seelig briefly discussed Massachusetts Statewide Digital Equity Survey. To help understand the needs of Massachusetts residents when it comes to internet access and digital equity. A workshop will be held on August 15th at the Council on Aging for further discussion.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Sheedy announced upcoming Bicentennial events. The East Bridgewater YMCA (635 Plymouth Street) on Sunday, July 30th for a Red Sox watch party. At 2 pm the World Series Trophies on display for photos followed by a viewing party of the Red Sox versus San Francisco Giants game at 4 pm. Also, the YMCA will be holding a Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 12 from 11 am to 1 pm.

Mr. Spagone Jr. wanted an update on Central School MSBA project. He wanted a list of committee members. Mr. Seelig will provide to him. Mr. Seelig confirmed the school has been providing information to MSBA in a timely manner.

Mr. Seelig stated Plymouth County Outreach will be at the Town Hall on Wednesday, July 19th from 10:30 am – 1 pm for “Day of Deflection”. To help individuals not go down the path of getting addicted to drugs and provide resources to get someone out. Counselors will be on site.

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

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to close open meeting and move into Executive Session and not return to open session, Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations and conducting collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with Firefighters, Superior Officers, Clerical, DPW, Dispatchers, Patrol Officers, Police Chief, Deputy Police Chief, negotiations of compensation and benefits for Chris Buckley, Megan Crosby, Rebecca Johnson, and Alex Welch if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Mr. Sheedy seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Spagone Jr.: Aye, Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Ms. Julius: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm

Select Board Clerk

/lmn