



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
Monday, January 8, 2024

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.

OPEN FORUM

APPOINTMENTS

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Spagone Jr. read the following. Notice is hereby given that the Select Board of the Town of East Bridgewater acting as the local liquor licensing authority shall hold a hearing to determine whether the liquor license at 14 West Union Street, "The Ideal Club" shall be revoked and/or not renewed due to failed inspection(s) of the fire escape(s) at said establishment and/or non-compliance in bringing said fire escape(s) up to code in order for said fire escape(s) to pass inspection.

The hearing will be held at Town Hall, Main Conference Room, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, 02333 at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 8, 2024. At said hearing, you shall have the opportunity to call witnesses and cross-examine the opposing witnesses, if any, in a reasonable fashion.

Ideal Club was not preset for hearing. Mr. Seelig stated that the fire escape is brought into compliance. Deputy Chief Winsor stated an indoor inspection is required. Mr. Seelig stated that upon further review, the club needs a common victauller and entertainment licenses from the Selects Board's office and a food permit from the Board of Health.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to continue public hearing to January 22, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

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 the fire department and building department had some concerns. Fire department was concerned with tires not on racks. Mr. Ferri stated that he built some racks and paid a company \$2,500 to dispose majority. He stated the building inspector was concerned with indoor aisles. Mr. Ferri stated most of the aisles are twenty-four inches he wants them to be wider. He will spend most of the month to update eight aisles. Mr. Ferri stated he reached out to fire department for reinspection and confirm changes, no callback.

Deputy Chief, Craig Winsor stated during inspection he noticed abundance of parked cars on property and around the building. He stated that access to building or anywhere on most of the property is extremely challenging. Mr. Ferri stated he is in the process of purchasing land to the left and right of property. Mr. Seelig stated that there is nothing

preventing the Select Board and Mr. Ferri to hold a hearing to make changes to the licenses after consultation with appropriate inspectors.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to continue public hearing to January 22, 2024 at 6:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius closed the public hearings.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Holbrook for Dispatch Operations. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that the state is providing fair amount of money both in terms of operations and capital expenditures for communities that belong to regional dispatchers' services in Massachusetts. He stated that the first three years there are no cost to the Town through various state grants. Years four and five the Town will take on the full share of the assessment for services.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve \$50.00 fee for dog bylaw violations. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that the Board never establish a fee for Town by law.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve a higher reclamation \$100 fee if impounded. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve 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, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated Lakeville will assess each Town that Boards with the Lakeville Animal Shelter an annual capital fee of \$250.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve date and schedule for February 12, 2024, Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

January 8, 2024	Board of Selectmen vote on date for STM and open warrant
January 9, 2024	Notification to all departments
January 12, 2024	All articles due

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023, Select Board's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Select Board's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve Common Victualer License for the period of January 8, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mistletoe Acres Tree Farm, LLC
Matthew Krugger
254 Whitman Street

Mr. Matthew And Megan Krugger were present and requesting a common victualler license. Ms. Krugger stated that their premises will start hosting events / weddings. Vendors and caterers will be on premises serving food in their indoor facility, seating 100.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from Country Café and Pizza, 210 Pond Street, East Bridgewater to extend their Common Victualler license through February 5, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve South Brook Auto, 500 Bedford Street Class II License for the period ending January 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request by Council on Aging to increase wage rate for COA van drivers from \$15.00/hour to \$16.50/hour. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that these are non-union employees. He stated Director of Council on Aging is having a difficult time finding drivers. He stated that the pay rate is low compared to towns in the area and that there is no budgetary impact.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve surplus request from IT Director, Ryan McGonigle. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

AT&T phone – Model ML17929 – Quantity 12
Panasonic Phone - Model KX-DT333-B – Quantity 7
RCA Phone – Model 25215 – Quantity 11

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to appoint members to the Master Plan Committee effective January 8, 2024, through no designated term. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Diane Phillips
Jessica Henderson
Eric Norment
Robert Miller
Theresa McNulty

Mr. Seelig stated that you do not have to be a resident to be on the committee. This is ad hoc committee and nothing in town bylaws preventing nonresidents for serving on ad hoc committees.

There was a brief discussion regarding letter of intent to sell property 0 Washington Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333. Mr. Seelig stated that this is vacant land that the owner wants to take out of Chapter 61A sec. 14. He stated current owner is intending to sell to a solar farm developer. Because this is being taken out of chapter land the Town has the right of first refusal. Mr. Seelig recommended the Board to put out a press release for public comment and possibly have further discussions.

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 on January 13, 2024, from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve signage request from Jake Orofino of East Bridgewater Music Parents Association to put up lawn signs with stakes signs on Municipal Property for the 9th Annual Mattress Sale Fundraiser from January 9, 2024 – January 27, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig recommended the Board send a letter stating their full support of this event and that this serves the Town’s aims. He stated that putting banners, flags, or signs on town property has become dicey. In essence, the Town would like to only have official government speech / Select Board’s endorsement for signage requests.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from Angeline Punwani of Angelic Bravery Tinker & Play for the use of Sachem Rock Farm every Wednesdays in 2024 starting January 10th through December 18th from 9:30 am – 11:30 am for “Tinkergarten Based Classes”, nature classes for children ages 1.5 – 8 years. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the request from DPW Director, John Haines to participate in the Medfield joint purchase of Road Salt for 2024 procurement and award contract to Eastern Salt, primary for the types and amount \$ specified in memo dated 11/21/2023. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2024

Monday, January 22	Monday, February 12	Monday, February 26	Monday, March 11
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			

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

IT Grant announcement - \$127,500 GIS efforts – Mr. Seelig commended IT Director, Ryan McGonigle and DPW Department, John Haines and Lynn Lundberg for their works and efforts on grant. This will assist with mapping inventory and infrastructure for Public Water Systems.

Mr. Seelig commended Ms. Rebecca Johnson for being 1 of 25 municipal officials to graduate from MMA Suffolk University Municipal Finance Management Seminar.

Plymouth County Outreach – Future fiscal years – Mr. Seelig stated that Plymouth County Outreach is expanding. He is requesting authorization from the Board to approach Plymouth County to start separating operations and become more self-operating without assistance from Town. The Board agreed.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Discuss use of Opioid Settlement – Mr. Seelig recommended to have a public forum regarding fund disbursements. Mr. Sheedy stated the Town through Police Chiefs have reached out to surrounding towns to combine funds together for PCO resources at one designated area. The Towns did not pursue as some received more funding than others.

Ms. Julius announced Ms. Irena Swartz recent passing and sends condolences to family. She stated Ms. Swartz was the second woman to serve on the Select Board.

ADJOURN

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, 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.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(3) 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, Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Ms. Julius: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm

Clerk
Select Board

Respectfully submitted as approved on January 22, 2024 meeting by Peter Spagone Jr., Clerk

/lmn