



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
Monday, January 22, 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

Mr. Dale Julius of the Bicentennial Committee was present to announce event on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Town Hall from 10am to 2pm to celebrate Scouting in East Bridgewater. Originally this event was scheduled as a camp out at Sachem Rock in late September but unfortunately that was rained out. Displays, demonstrations and short programs will be presented by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts and Venture Scouts. Also, last "Pop-Up" sale of Bicentennial merchandise on Saturday, January 27, 2024 in the 1st floor conference room of the Town Hall, from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

APPOINTMENTS

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:35 pm, 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 continued to Monday, January 22, 2024. At said hearing, you shall have the opportunity to call witnesses and cross-examine the opposing witnesses, if any, in a reasonable fashion.

Mr. Val Masado of the Ideal Club was present. Ms. Julius stated that the Board received an email from Fire Chief stating that fire escape has passed inspection but there were a few indoor exit signs that bulbs need replacing. There was a brief discussion regarding whether or not a common victualler license and an entertainment license was needed for establishment. Mr. Masado stated there is no cooking and/or serving on premise, that members bring in food for a potluck gathering. Entertainment is for members only. A hearing will not be required after tonight's meeting.

Ms. Julius closed the hearing.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve Ideal Club, 14 West Union Street, alcoholic license renewal for the period ending December 31, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

At 6:45 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 continued to Monday, January 22, 2024.

Mr. John Ferri was present and stated that he is requesting a two-month extension. He did most of the clean-up but there is a lot more to be done. He went over what needed to be completed per Town, eight aisles cleaned, electrician to inspect outlets, oil burner/plumber and move cars onto new property. Timetable was briefly discussed, and two months will be

sufficed. There was a brief discussion regarding Special Permit issued by the Planning Board. Mr. Seelig stated that Mr. Ferri is governed by both the special permit and Class II, III licenses and will need to maintain compliance with both Special Permit stipulations and licenses. Mr. Ferri will need to go before the Board to amend licenses.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to continue public hearing to March 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius closed the public hearing.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve agreement with Food Pantries Services between the Town of East Bridgewater for onetime payment \$1,500 for each pantry. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Chuck Horan, Representative of St. Vincent de Pual and St. John Conference Food Pantry was present. He stated pantries work closely with The Greater Boston Food Bank and spend about \$1,000 per month to purchase food to help distribute. Mr. Sheedy stated the Town has unused funds in the Bicentennial Account. The Town will issue \$1,500 check to St. Vincent de Pual Food Pantry and East Bridgewater Emergency Food Pantry out of the Union Congregational Church, further payment TBD. Mr. Horan stated in addition to food, the pantries help pay for rent and heating oil. Residents can call St. John's hotline. He thanked the Town for their donation.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, Select Board'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 January 8, 2024, Select Board Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve date and updated schedule for February 20, 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
January 17, 2024	Finance Committee
January 22, 2024	Articles reviewed by Finance Committee, Treasurer, Town Counsel, Accountant, Town Administrator and Selectmen
January 22, 2024	Meeting of Town Counsel, Accountant, Town Administrator and Selectmen to discuss any problems with article
January 22, 2024	STM Warrant closed and approved by Selectmen
January 23, 2024	Deadline to submit Warrant to Town Clerk
February 6, 2024	Last date to post warrant
February 12, 2024	Copy of articles available for distribution
February 12, 2024	Moderator's Meeting. Meet with Town Clerk, Moderator etc. to go over warrant
February 20, 2024	Special Town Meeting

Mr. Seelig recommended that there be an approximate cost for project in warrant to provide information for townspeople and not be deceptive.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve to close the Warrant for the February 20, 2024, Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that parcels of land located near the corner of Washington Street and Crescent Street that is in Chapter 61. The Town has the "right of first refusal" on it. He stated if the Board wanted to move ahead to purchase the land after receiving comments from the department heads and general public that another Town Meeting will be necessary in early March due to time constraints.

Mr. Roy Gardener was present and stated parcels are a residential 1 district and commercial solar is not allowed. He stated buyer is currently a residential developer. The reasoning for property that size at a relatively low price is the high-water tables and the wetlands impact. He stated it is a tough piece of property for development.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve Special Municipal Employees as listed with designated deletions. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Board of Appeals 1963	Central Plymouth County Water District Commission 1983	Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee 1983
Animal Inspector 1963	Christmas Decorations Committee 1983 (delete?)	Old Colony Planning Council 1983
Assistant Plumbing Inspector 1963	Civil Defense 1983	Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging 1983
Building Inspector 1963	Community Hazardous Waste Coordinator 1983	Old Colony Planning Council Housing Advisory Committee 1983
Committee to Revise Town By Laws & Traffic Laws 1963 (delete?)	Computer Study Committee 1983 (delete?)	Parking Clerk 1983
Dog Officer 1963	Conservation Commission 1983	Personnel Board 1983 (delete?)
Dump Disposal Committee 1963 (delete?)	Council on Aging 1983	Public Weighers for East Bridgewater Associates 1983 (delete?)
Finance Committee 1963	East Bridgewater Housing Authority 1983	Public Weighers for Eastern States Steel 1983 (delete?)
Gas Inspector 1963	Election Workers 1983	Regional District School Committee 1983
Industrial Development Commission 1963 (delete?)	Fence Viewer / Field Driver 1983 (delete?)	School Committee 1983
Library Trustees 1963	Fire Department / Call Firemen 1983 (delete?)	Special Police Officer, Asst. 1983 (delete?)
Park Commissioners 1963	George Washington Bicentennial Forest Committee 1983 (delete?)	Sylvanus Cook Packard Alumni and Citizens Scholarship Fund 1983 (delete?)
Planning Board 1963	Group Insurance Advisory Committee 1983	Town Common Committee 1983 (delete?)
Plumbing Inspector 1963	Health Inspector 1983	Town Director – Trustee for CTY Cooperative Extension Service 1983 (delete?)
Registrar of Voters 1963	High School Addition Building Committee 1983 (delete?)	Town Office Custodian 1983 (delete?)
Sealer of Weights and Measures 1963	Historical Commission 1983	Veterans Agent Consultant 1983 (delete?)
Town Counsel 1963	Industrial Development Financing Authority 1983 (delete?)	COA Van Drivers 2013
Town Office Custodian 1963 (delete?)	Insurance Study Committee 1983 (delete?)	Senior Property Tax Work Off 2013
Veterans' Agent 1963	Local Arts Council 1983	School Crossing Guards 2013
Water Commissioners 1963 (delete?)	Moderator 1983	
Wiring Inspector 1963	Old Colony Elderly Services, Directors 1983	
Board of Assessors 1983		
Board of Health 1983		
Bridgewater's Counselling Center 1983 (delete?)		
Cable TV Study Committee 1983 (delete?)		

Mr. Seelig stated that Special Municipal Employees are sort of tied into the State Ethic Laws. He stated that they are not specific individual people but to various municipal offices.

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

HP Laserjet 4250tn printer
HP Laserjet M601 printer

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the resignation of Rosemary Saccocia from the Council on Aging effective January 22, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to appoint Michele Bernard a member to the East Bridgewater Council on Aging for the period January 22, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve payment policy for Rental of the Center at Sachem Rock. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius stated that she received a message concerning final payment on the day of the event has to be in cash. She suggested Town Administrator to look into matter. It is requested to have "cash only" and at any time a "receipt" shall be given shall be added to policy.

Discuss and possibly vote Town Planner Position. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated that he received a letter from the Planning Board, Chair. That a Town Planner be included in the Town's FY25 Budget. The Select Board agreed to create position and recognized the positive ways in which a Planner could impact

the Town however, due to fiscal challenges this will not be feasible. There was a brief discussion on pass and foresight on this position.

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

Mr. Seelig stated that Turf Field and Track Replacement project, the bidding is ongoing. Bids should be in by February 13th at noon. He stated that the Capital Planning Committee is meeting to discuss the project as a whole but also questioning turf vs grass.

Mr. Seelig gave an update on the Master Plan Project. He stated that he received more than 600 responses for survey. He stated that printed copies of the survey are available at Town Hall, the East Bridgewater Public Library, and the East Bridgewater Council on Aging and completed surveys can be delivered to any of these locations. He announced upcoming workshops. In-person workshop will be held on Thursday, February 22 in the Town Hall at 6:30pm. In addition, there will be an on-line workshop on Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend.

Mr. Seelig stated that Mr. Donald Nelson has contacted the Select Board office and would like to serve on the Master Plan Committee.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to appoint Donald Nelson as member to the Master Plan Committee. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan – Mr. Seelig stated that the Town has a survey to help the process of developing a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to ensure residents and visitors have access to all Town buildings, programs, and services. This process is helps provide opportunities for the public to offer input and voice concerns regarding accessibility of facilities, programs, and services.

Digital Equity Implementation Workshop – Mr. Seelig stated that he will try to get more information on program rather than attend the workshop.

Mr. Seelig stated that he did not submit an article for the cottage removal. He can put a placeholder on warrant and go out to bid for project. The Select Board agreed to delay due to ongoing Central School Improvement / Renovation project.

There was a brief discussion on FY25 budget. Mr. Seelig stated that Governor Healy will be putting in three percent (3%) for Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA). If approved, the Town should receive \$53,000 increase in state aid which does not include Chapter 70. He stated the Town will continue to lower the amount of free cash being used for the operating budget, free cash should be devoted to the capital plan. There was a brief discussion on Town's health insurance. GIC will be voting rates end of February. Plymouth County Retirement increases, 3% to 5% there is a surcharge of another \$88,000. Mr. Seelig briefly discussed the school budget, contractual increases, Town department budgets and went over numbers and implications.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

There was a brief discussion on school payroll issue. The Select Board agreed to contact Town Council to get information on investigation and to discuss further at next Select Board meeting.

Mr. Spagone Jr. wanted an update on traffic lights by Towne Cleaners on West Union Street. Mr. Seelig stated that it will turn from yellow and red blinking to blinking red on both ends with stop signs at all four corners. He will reach out to DPW Director on timeline.

There was a brief discussion regarding resident engagement and transparency. Ms. Julius stated the Town updates their website and Facebook page in an effort to help keep residents better informed. Residents should subscribe via email on Town website for Town updates.

ADJOURN

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to close open meeting and not return to open session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 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, § 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)(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, Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Ms. Julius: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Clerk
Select Board

Respectfully submitted as approved on February 12, 2024 meeting by Peter Spagone Jr., Clerk

/lmn