



OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Monday, January 10, 2022

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

TOWN HALL, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
175 CENTRAL STREET  
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Charles Seelig, Town Administrator, 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

Administrative Assistant to Building Department, Ellen Mckenzie was present to discuss the proposed Pet Policy. She stated she brings her dog to work at Town Hall every morning and returns him home in the afternoons. She stated she has a petition with fifty-seven resident signatures and seven hundred four online support signatures. Ms. Mckenzie's dog has a heart condition and by bringing him to work she has more time with him which is invaluable. Ms. Mckenzie requested the complaints that were submitted to the Selectmen's office. Ms. Johnson stated those complaints were strictly verbal. She wants the final outcome to be a happy medium and a positive agreement.

Town Clerk, Susan Gillpatrick was present to update residents on the Annual Town Census. She stated for all residents to please provide information whether there are changes or not and return it to Town Clerk's Office. This will give an accurate count of citizens in Town. Any questions or concerns to please contact Town Clerk's Office at (508) 378-1606.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen was present to give a brief department update. He stated the new tower truck has arrived. Training on the truck took place on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Chief Harhen stated a firefighter on extended OJI is back to work. However, another firefighter is out for six to eight weeks. He stated fourteen firefighters contracted COVID-19 since November 2020. He briefly went over CARES ACT funding for overtime pay to cover staff shortages. Since funding has expired he anticipates he will spend over "Sick Leave" line item in his department budget. Chairman Sheedy stated this will be reviewed.

Chief Harhen stated he did not receive the "SAFER Grant" which was discussed at a prior meeting and advised he applied again last week. This grant provides funding for hiring new firefighters. He stated he applied for a 2021 "Assistance to Firefighters Grant" for equipment, totaling \$63,534.00. This will be for fire protective clothing, new multi gas detection meters, four portable radios, three thermal cameras and two battery powered smoke injectors. He stated he has high confidence in receiving the grant. Chief Harhen also applied for a grant for funding on a Brush Truck to replace current 1997 Brush Truck, totaling \$265,000. He has low confidence in receiving grant. Chief Harhen briefly updated the Selectmen on grants awarded since 2010, totaling \$810,277.00.

He gave a brief overview on staffing, emergency responses, calls, transports, and submission of FY23 department budget. He stated he is requesting Selectmen approval on moving forward with FY23 department budget which includes hiring four new firefighters. There was a discussion on hiring four new firefighters. The Selectmen

commended Fire Department for their works and efforts and thanked Chief Harhen for updates and Selectmen support for FY23 budget.

## ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve the request from Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen for the quarterly Ambulance Billing Abatements as of December 2021 in the amount of \$28,910.21. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Sheedy wanted to know why the amount is less than previous requests. Chief Harhen stated he does not know why. The billing company, New England Medical Billing has been sold and there have been changes.

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the December 28, 2021 9:00 am Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to discuss Town Buildings pet policy. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig gave a brief overview and impacts of bringing pets into municipalities. There was a discussion on liability. Mr. Spagone Jr. stated there were some revision made to policy and requested revised policy to be distributed. Ms. Johnson confirmed only changes that were made to policy was to include specific buildings. There was a discussion on "Pet Policy" at the schools and "Service Animal" versus "Pet".

Mr. Sheedy recommended this be passed over and votes until all board members review policy.

*\*Vaccination policy passed over.*

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve to adopt the Buy Recycle Policy commencing July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 recommending that when all departments place an order with a vendor, they ask for product containing recycled contents. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to appoint Charles Seelig, Town Administrator to Personnel Director effective 1/01/2022. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to appoint Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator to Chief Procurement Officer effective 1/10/2022. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Sheedy announced Ms. Rebecca Johnson recently passed her exam and is a certified Chief Procurement Officer.

Ms. Julius made a motion to appoint Sam Malifronte to the Conservation Commission effective 1/10/2022 through 6/30/2023. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a discussion on COVID Test Kits and use of ARPA funds for purchases and distribution logistics. Mr. Seelig suggested to purchase numerous test kits and seek authorization from the Selectmen on expenditure. There was a brief discussion on next upcoming distribution.

There was a discussion on Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for 400,000 sq ft warehouse project at 798 North Bedford Street. Mr. Seelig stated a special permit has been approved by the Planning Board but had some traffic concerns. Mr. Spagone Jr. stated Rhino Capital contacted the Town couple years ago regarding F1 Speedway area. He stated this project is a win-win for the town, bringing jobs and eventually connect to Town sewer.

There was a discussion on One Stop for Growth – Expression of Interest for 2022. Mr. Seelig stated the state streamlined the application process for grants in community and economic developments. He stated the first step in process is "Expression of Interest", where communities can send in (5) five projects to the State.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

### UPCOMING MEETINGS – Subject to change

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

### BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Julius stated the Board of Health unanimously voted that the Board of Selectmen mandate masks for people entering all Town buildings and require employees to wear masks when leaving their workstations.

Ms. Julius made a motion to institute mask mandate for town buildings and employees to wear masks when leaving their workstations. A unanimous vote. 3-0

Mr. Seelig had some concerns. He wanted to know what is considered a town building. Mr. Sheedy stated everything but the school. Mr. Seelig wanted to know if an employee is not at their workstation i.e., walking corridors and shared workspace what will ensue. Mr. Sheedy stated employees are to wear masks. Mr. Sheedy wanted to know how to enforce masks when people enter town buildings. Mr. Seelig, Town Administrator stated to notify him, and a mask will be provided to visitors if they do not have one.

Ms. Johnson stated the Board of Health had a lot of inquires on updated isolation and protocols. She stated information is on Town's website.

Mr. Spagone Jr. stated Mr. Patrick Horgen, East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School teacher reached out to him regarding a project the students have in mind. An email to be sent to all Selectmen and Town Administrator.

Mr. Sheedy wished Sergeant Bill Patterson a great retirement and wished him well.

### ADJOURN

Motion by Julius, second by Spagone Jr. to adjourn. All were in favor, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Board of Selectmen