



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, February 14, 2022

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; 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.

APPOINTMENTS

There was a joint meeting with School Committee to appoint Andrew Heath as a member of the Southeastern Regional School Committee. East Bridgewater School committee members Amanda Colligan, Lauren Foster, Ellen Pennington, and Timothy McLaughlin were present for appointment. Mr. Heath gave a brief background of himself. Both committees agreed Mr. Heath would be the best fit.

Ms. Julius made a motion to appoint Andrew Heath as a member of the Southeastern Regional School Committee for the period January 24, 2022, until the next November election. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to appoint Andrew Heath as a member of the Southeastern Regional School Committee for the period January 24, 2022, until the next November election. Roll call vote. Colligan -aye; Foster -aye; Pennington -aye; McLaughlin -aye. 4-0

Plymouth County Commissioners, Ms. Sandra Wright and Mr. Jared Valanzola presented the Selectmen with a check for \$79,178.59. Ms. Wright stated the Town to date received (21) twenty-one checks totaling \$1,985,306.08. The county officials expressed gratitude for the support of state legislators and town officials. The Selectmen expressed gratitude for the funding.

Viking Sports Parent President, Jen Poole was present to discuss the annual road race. She briefly went over event for Sunday April 3, 2022.

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve Viking Sports Parent Annual Road Race for Sunday, April 3, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Rebecca Fidler and Ms. Jennifer Petricig were present to discuss Community Kindness Project. Ms. Fidler briefly went over promoting kindness in the community, #ebkind02333. Ms. Petricig briefly went over how project was inspired by a book called "Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch". The Selectmen commended both for their works and efforts.

OPEN FORUM

Town Clerk, Susan Gillpatrick was present to give an update on the upcoming Annual Town Election, Saturday May 14, 2022. Ms. Gillpatrick stated the positions available and that will be on the ballot are: Selectmen, One / Three year position; Assessor, One / Three year position; School Committee, Two / Three Year positions, East Bridgewater

Housing Authority, One / Five year position; Trustees for the Public Library, Two / Three Year positions; Board of Health, One / Three year position; Constable, Five / Three Year Positions; Planning Board, Two / Three Year positions. The last day to obtain nomination papers will be March 23, 2022 and will need to be returned by March 25, 2022. Please call the Town Clerks Office with any questions at (508) 378-1606. Ms. Gillpatrick reminded residents to please return your census form if you have not already done so.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve minutes of the January 24, 2022, 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the January 24, 2022, 5:45 pm Board of Selectmen's Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve minutes of the January 24, 2022, 7:00 pm Board of Water Commissioners meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve minutes of the January 31, 2022, 4:00 pm Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to appoint DPW Director, John Haines as the Town's alternate delegate/member to OCPC (Old Colony Planning Council). Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to award contract for Fire Department Rescue boats to Advanced Rescue Boats & Equipment, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen was present to discuss rescue boat and contract.

There was a discussion on Non-Union COLA. Mr. Seelig recommends the Selectmen approve 2% increase. Roll call vote for 2% increase recommendation for non-union personnel. Julius -aye; Spagone Jr. -aye; Sheedy -aye. 3-0

Ms. Julius made a motion to approve closures of all Town Buildings due to a weather-related event January 7, 2022 and closure of the Library due to a weather-related event January 29, 2022 and February 4, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig stated these approvals should be on record for payroll purposes.

There was a discussion on Treasurer / Collector position. Mr. Seelig stated the office received (38) thirty-eight applications. He briefly went over timeline on presenting finalist to the Selectmen.

There was a discussion on Animal Control / Inspector position. Ms. Johnson stated the office received (50) fifty applications. All sent to the police chief and deputy chief for review. Mr. Seelig proposed going out for RFP (request for proposal) to utilize a private firm, Police Chief O'brien and Selectmen agreed.

Mr. Seelig stated the Town received (5) five Auditor RFP (request for proposal). The finance team is currently reviewing and possibly present finalist at the February 28th meeting.

There was a discussion on ARPA Committee. The Selectmen will review requests and discuss at the February 28th meeting.

Ms. Julius made a motion to go out to bid for insurance (all lines aside from health/dental/life) for FY2023 and to notify MIIA. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Johnson announced The Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator's Office would like to invite students of East Bridgewater to submit artwork that will be featured on the front cover of the 2021 Annual Town Report. The theme is anything East Bridgewater! Submittals can be brought in person to the Selectmen's office or emailed to Inguyen@eastbridgewaterma.gov no later than 12 pm Friday, March 18, 2022. The Selectmen will announce the winning cover at the March 28, 2022, 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen meeting.

Ms. Johnson announced the Town's Treasurer/Collector's office recently mailed out a large quantity of bills, including motor vehicle excise, water and real estate. The bills were sent out with outdated return envelopes. If any East Bridgewater taxpayer received a bill with a return envelope listing a Reading P.O. Box, they are asked not to use the envelope and use the correct address. The correct return address for town bills is: Town of East Bridgewater, Department 1550, P.O. Box 986500, Boston, MA 02298-6500.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Seelig announced free COVID-19 tests are available to residents of East Bridgewater at the following locations: East Bridgewater Fire Department, 268 Bedford Street, Sunday-Saturday, 7:00am to 8:00pm; East Bridgewater Board of Health, 175 Central Street, Monday from 8:30am to 6:30pm, Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, and Friday from 8:30am until noon; East Bridgewater Council on Aging, 355 Plymouth Street, Monday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Tuesday-Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. There is a limit of two kits (four tests) per household. The Town received these kits from Plymouth County which was able to use CARES Act money to distribute these kits to all municipalities in Plymouth County. The Town appreciates the assistance from the County in making these kits available.

Mr. Seelig briefly went over grant submittals and awaiting award / response from the state. He thanked Assessor Paula Wolfe and Director of Public Works, John Haines for their works and efforts on the One Stop for Growth – Expression of Interest application.

Mr. Seelig briefly went over state aid cherry sheet preliminary estimate with the Selectmen. The Selectmen agreed for Mr. Seelig to reach out to state legislatures regarding an increase in unrestricted governmental local aid.

There was a brief discussion on funding for John Silva's Sports Complex improvements. The Recreation Commission will be meeting next Thursday on timetable.

There was a brief discussion on street acceptance plan. Mr. Seelig stated Town Counsel will be drafting a petition for approval at next town meeting in May to simplify process.

Mr. Seelig stated Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Brockton is currently being reviewed. The issue with MBTA zoning to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Seelig wanted a list of goals and objectives from Selectmen to discuss at a later date.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – Subject to change

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 28th
Selectmen's Meeting Monday, March 14th

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Spagone Jr. thanked Mr. Seelig for all his works and efforts. The Selectmen all agreed.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Board of Selectmen Clerk