



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, August 15, 2022

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

TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: Selectmen, Peter Spagone Jr., Carole Julius, and David Sheedy
Members Absent:
Others Present: Charles Seelig, Town Administrator; Ly Nguyen, Principal Clerk

6:30 pm Selectman Spagone Jr. called the meeting to order.

Selectman Spagone Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

Town Clerk, Susan Gillpatrick was present with a reminder that Dog Licenses are due September 1, 2022. After this time late fees will be assessed. She stated the State Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at the Jr/Sr High School 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. Ms. Gillpatrick stated early voting is taking place at Town Hall Saturday, August 27th from 9 am – 3 pm and Monday, August 29th through Friday, September 2nd during regular Town Hall business hours in the 1st floor conference room at Town Hall. Deadline for vote by mail applications is 5:00 pm Monday, August 29th and cannot be dropped off at the polling location on Election Day.

APPOINTMENTS

Town Counsel, Rich Massina was present to give an update on Opioid Settlement in Massachusetts. He gave a brief background on litigation which started back in January 2018. He stated this civil action is against drug companies and drug distributors around the United States. A discussion was held regarding settlement amounts and how funds can be spent due to State restrictions. Settlements consist of monetary damages or funding for programs that will help stop opioid epidemic. The Selectmen had a series of questions for Mr. Massina which gave more insight of how funds can be expended.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to approve minutes of the following Board of Selectmen’s Meetings. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

June 23, 2022 June 28, 2022 July 11, 2022 July 19, 2022

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to approve but not release minutes of the July 11, 2022, Board of Selectmen’s Executive Session meeting. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to release minutes of the following Executive Session meetings. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

June 11, 2019	February 8, 2021	May 11, 2021	October 18, 2021
October 7, 2019	March 16, 2021	June 8, 2021	January 24, 2022
September 28, 2020	March 23, 2021	July 19, 2021	March 9, 2022

May 26, 2020

March 31, 2021

October 7, 2021

March 18, 2022

Mr. Seelig thanked Rebecca Johnson for her works and efforts on reviewing and releasing Executive Session meeting minutes per Open Meeting Laws.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to discuss insurance Requirements for the Center at Sachem Rock usage policy. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Seelig recommended insurance requirement be obtained as two million dollars (\$2,000,000) aggregate, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for alcohol served at events and no insurance requirement for non-alcohol events.

Motion by Sheedy to approve liquor liability insurance requirements be obtained at \$1M/\$2M. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to appoint Kathleen Choquette as a member to the East Bridgewater Arts Council effective August 15, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to approve the request from Professional Bartending Services for a One Day Liquor License for The Center at Sachem Rock for a Graduation Reception on August 13, 2022, from 3pm – 7pm pending payment. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

There was a discussion on late submission on permit applications. The Selectmen would approve events after it occurred. The Selectmen all agreed for applicants to submit completed applications 30 days prior to events in Town.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to approve one day alcohol request from the Sangria Lady, for an August 11, 2022 pony town parties event that will take place from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote to sign the State Primary Warrant for the State Primary on September 6, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote to have one police officer at the polling location for all elections and that the Police Department will assign said officer. The new election law is as follows. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Section 72. The select board, board of selectmen, town council or city council of each city and town, in consultation with its election officers and registrars, shall detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for 1 or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote on Street Lighting for Old Oak Street and 1 Chestnut Street. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated Ridder Farm has been paying for streetlights along Old Oak Street, poles 16, 17, 18 and 19. Ridder Farm will continue to pay for pole 15 which is across from their property. He stated checking with public safety / public works, all suggested to add a streetlight at the corner of Old Oak Street and Oak Street. There was a brief discussion on accepted and non-accepted streets, Old Oak Street is not an accepted roadway. Mr. Seelig stated the Town does not pay for streetlights on non-accepted roadways. Mr. Seelig will reach out to

National Grid for an annual cost to add an additional streetlight and to take over 1 Chestnut Street. The Selectmen all agreed to table action.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote to sign Elmwood Court "Acceptance of Easement". Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to discuss and possible vote on meeting space for Boards / Committees, taping of meetings, and compliance with Open Meeting Law. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated that boards and committees are using smaller office spaces for their meetings. He stated the Selectmen cannot order board and committees to meet in various locations but can recommend making use of current meeting space in Town Hall. Utilizing the large conference rooms offers space for committee members / attendees, the ability for EBCAM to record the meetings and offers transparency.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy suggest for Boards / Committees use the 1st Floor and Second Floor Conference Rooms for meetings when available. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote to set the date for Special Town Meeting for November 14, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote to set the date to open and close the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting as printed. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

TIME FRAMES FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

August 15, 2022	Vote to schedule STM & Open Warrant
August 16, 2022	Notification to Departments
September 30, 2022	Deadline to submit articles to Selectmen
October 3, 2022	Articles reviewed by Finance Committee, Treasurer, Town Counsel, Accountant, Town Administrator and Selectmen
October 17, 2022	Meeting with Town Counsel, Accountant, Town Administrator and Selectmen to discuss any problems with Warrant
October 17, 2022	STM Warrant closed and approved by Selectmen
October 18, 2022	Deadline to submit Warrant to Town Clerk
October 28, 2022	Last day to post Warrant
October 29, 2022	Copy of articles available for distribution
November 07, 2022	Meet with Town Clerk, Moderator etc. to go over Warrant
November 14, 2022	Special Town Meeting

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to declare surplus and approve disposal of 12 desktop computers, one printer, and one monitor. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to discuss Central Street/Bedford Street intersection – possible studies, evaluations, and improvements. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated a resident contacted the Selectmen's office with concerns regarding Central Street/Bedford Street intersection. He stated the Town is currently working with Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) on Route 18 Traffic Study and review the intersection. Mr. Seelig stated this will be a long process.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to discuss right-to-farm complaint – Rooster – 50 Spear Avenue. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated per Right-to-Farm by-law, residents or others have the right to file a complaint with the Board of Selectmen. He stated resident Ms. Mandy Martin of 62 Spear Road filed a complaint regarding a rooster at 50 Spear Avenue crowing during much of the night and early morning. He stated per by-law the complaint goes before the Board of Selectmen, but the Board can ask for any recommendation from the Agricultural Commission. Mr. Seelig stated Ms. Martin has talked to the Agricultural Commission and will have a meeting in the upcoming weeks. Ms. Martin is asking for something to occur at an earlier time.

Ms. Mandy Martin of 62 Spear Road was present to discuss her rooster concerns. She stated this has been an ongoing issue for months. She has been in contact with Animal Control, Police Department, Agricultural Commission and Town Administrator. She briefly went over Town investigation and provided diagram of the property. Ms. Martin provided the Selectmen with Massachusetts Poultry Law, Page 9. The Selectmen agreed to compile information for Agricultural Commission's upcoming meeting on Wednesday and have them report back to the Selectmen to have problem solved sooner rather than later.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote to forward rooster concern to the Agricultural Commission for review. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote on Street Lighting for 18 Hudson Place. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated this is an ornamental streetlight, based on experience these lights are not owned by National Grid but owned by the developer when the sub-division/street gets put in. When the Town accepts roadway it also accepts the ornamental streetlights. Mr. Seelig is recommending the DPW to change the light bulb and if unsuccessful the Town will have to hire an electrical contractor.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to have DPW change the light bulb. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to vote and sign contract with Fire Chief Tim Harhen for FY2023-FY2025. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen was present for his contract signing. The Selectmen commended Mr. Harhen on his dedication to the Town of East Bridgewater and his years of service.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to discuss hazardous mitigation plan approval of memorandum of agreement. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated that this memorandum of agreement is between four towns (Abington, Easton, East Bridgewater and Stoughton). Each town has their own responsibilities for mitigation plans to reduce/prevent disaster loss from hurricanes, fires, flooding, and snowstorms, etc. Funding is provided through the state.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to discuss possible engineering study of Central Street covert. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Seelig stated that Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) will do a truck traffic study on Central Street this fall. A resident contacted the office regarding weight limit on covert on Central Street. Mr. Seelig stated MA DOT do not do weight limits on converts. He recommends funding for engineering firm to determine weight limitations. The Selectmen agreed to add into next fiscal year budget.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to approve the Event Permit Application and one day alcohol request from the Commercial Club of East Bridgewater for a "Motorcycle Run". Event August 13, 2022 from 10 am – 6 pm. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Sheedy to approve the Event Permit Application and one day alcohol request from the Commercial Club of East Bridgewater for a "Run for Jess Road Race". Event will be on September 3, 2022 from 10 am – 2 pm. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Spagone Jr. stated this event was established by "The Thurston(s)" family to honor their daughter, Jessica Thurston and for Breast Cancer Research.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Seelig stated there were bills approved at legislation but unfortunately none for the Town of East Bridgewater were approved. He briefly went over what was not approved. Government bond bill that includes \$50,000 for repairs and upgrades at the Council on Aging facilities. Infrastructure bond bill that provided funding for roads, bridges, railways, transit agencies and environmental infrastructure. Mr. Seelig stated the Town did receive funding approval from state for \$28,000 for infrastructure needs for recreation area at Leeland Farm, \$75,000 for 200th Anniversary of East Bridgewater, \$25,000 to create a classroom for elementary students at the Central School who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and \$20,000 for EB HOPE.

Mr. Seelig briefly discussed CARES Act monies. End of FY22 arrived June 30th, Town is shortfall around \$30,000. He stated administrative staff submitted everything required but Plymouth County required more data and unfortunately Plymouth County closed their books. There was a discussion on options for \$30,000 shortfall. Mr. Seelig stated he does not know if these activities will be eligible under ARPA funding. The Selectmen agreed to reapply shortfall under ARPA funding.

Mr. Seelig announced Discrimination and Harassment Training September 28th and Open Meeting Law Training on October 12th both at Town Hall.

Mr. Seelig briefly stated he will be attending a workshop on September 8th regarding MBTA Communities and Zoning in order to stay eligible for state grants.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Selectman Spagone Jr. had questions about Home Rule Petition concerning civil service elimination. He stated Senator Michael Brady and Senator Michelle Dubois sits on the civil service and scheduling committee. The Selectmen would like a letter sent to both Senators regarding meeting dates and times.

Selectman Julius would like a Facebook Page for the Town Administrator's Office for the purpose of getting information out to the public. Mr. Seelig agreed and will not allow comments.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, September 12, 2022, Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Selectmen were entering into Executive 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 and not return to open session.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to move into Executive Session and not return to open session, Ms. Julius seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Ms. Julius: Aye, Mr. Spagone Jr: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Clerk

Board of Selectmen